

# Dhammapada Day

An afternoon symposium and launch of Valerie Roebuck's long-awaited new translation of the *Dhammapada* for Penguin Classics.



**14<sup>th</sup> September 2010, 3-7pm**  
**Room 0.85 Glamorgan Building, Cardiff University**

## **Part 1: Symposium**

- 3.00 Welcome, introductions
- 3.15 Dr. Valerie Roebuck: 'Translating the *Dhammapada*: Problems and Pleasures'
- 3.45 Dr. Elizabeth Harris (Liverpool Hope University): 'Daniel Gogerly, Nineteenth Century Missionary Translator of the *Dhammapada*'
- 4.15 Coffee break
- 4.45 Dr. Mahinda Deegalle (Bath Spa University): 'The *Dhammapada* in the Lives of Sri Lankan Buddhists'
- 5.15 Dr. Naomi Appleton (Cardiff University): 'The Stories of the Verses: The Role of the *Dhammapada*-commentary'
- 5.45 Close

## **Part 2: Book launch, 6-7pm**

Introduction and welcome to Valerie Roebuck by Dr. James Hegarty (CHRA).  
Introduction to the text and some readings by the translator.  
Official launch of the book, with book stall and refreshments.

This event is free of charge and open to all.  
If you would like to attend either or both parts please contact Naomi Appleton (AppletonN1@cf.ac.uk) in order to reserve a place and to ensure that we order enough refreshments.

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### Further Information

#### About the Book: *The Dhammapada*, trans. Valerie Roebuck (Penguin Classics, 2010)

One of the best-known and best-loved works of Buddhist literature, the *Dhammapada* forms part of the oldest surviving body of Buddhist writings, and is traditionally regarded as the authentic teachings of the Buddha himself, spoken by him in his lifetime, and memorized and handed on by his followers after his death. A collection of simple verses gathered in themes such as 'awareness', 'fools' and 'old age', the *Dhammapada* is accessible, instructional and mind-clearing, with lessons in each verse to give ethical advice and to remind the listener of the transience of life.

Valerie Roebuck's new translation is accompanied by an introduction examining the language of the *Dhammapada*, its status as literature and the school of Buddhist teaching from which it comes. This edition also includes extracts from related texts from other early Buddhist schools, notes, suggested further reading, and a glossary.

#### About the Translator:

Valerie Roebuck studied at the University of Cambridge where she was awarded a B.A. (Hons) in Oriental Studies, and a Ph.D. for a thesis on South Indian Bronzes. She is a freelance scholar and lecturer, an Honorary Research Fellow of the University of Manchester, and an Associate Member of the Centre for the History of Religion in Asia at Cardiff University. Dr Roebuck has a broad interest in Indian language, culture and religion, and her previous publications include a translation of *The Upaniṣads* (Penguin India, 2000; Penguin Classics, 2003). She practises and teaches meditation in the Samatha tradition of Buddhism.

#### About the Speakers:

**Dr Elizabeth Harris** is Senior Lecturer in the Comparative Study of Religions at Liverpool Hope University. Her numerous publications include *Theravāda Buddhism and the British Encounter: Religious, Missionary and Colonial Experience in Nineteenth Century Sri Lanka* (Routledge, 2009) and *What Buddhists Believe* (Oneworld, 1999). She serves on the board of the UK Association for Buddhist Studies and is President of the European Network of Buddhist Christian Studies.

**Dr Mahinda Deegalle** is Senior Lecturer in the Study of Religions at Bath Spa University. He is the author of *Popularizing Buddhism: Preaching As Performance in Sri Lanka* (State University of New York Press, 2006), editor of *Buddhism, Conflict and Violence in Modern Sri Lanka* (Routledge, 2009), and co-editor of *Pāli Buddhism* (Routledge, 1996). He serves on the boards of numerous academic journals and organisations.

**Dr Naomi Appleton** holds a British Academy Post-doctoral Research Fellowship in the Religious Studies Department at Cardiff University. She is the author of *Jātaka Stories in Theravāda Buddhism: Narrating the Bodhisatta Path* (Ashgate, forthcoming) and is currently undertaking research into multi-birth stories in early Buddhism and Jainism. She is the Treasurer and Membership Secretary for the UK Association for Buddhist Studies.

#### About the Centre:

The event is hosted by the Centre for the History of Religion in Asia (CHRA), which is a new interdisciplinary research centre that has been set up at Cardiff University to explore the historical development and social and political functions of religious ideologies in Asia. The centre brings together a team of Asia-focused historians and linguists from across the university as part of this endeavour. The centre organises a biennial distinguished guest lecture in honour of the noted Orientalist of Welsh descent, William Jones, as well as a variety of other research-focused events for academic and public audiences. For more information please see the centre's website (with a link to our blog): [www.cf.ac.uk/share/research/centres/chra/index1.html](http://www.cf.ac.uk/share/research/centres/chra/index1.html)