



### Early Buddhism as Philosophy of Existence

Freedom and Death

By Susan E. Babbitt

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#### Makes the connection between early Buddhism and nature.

This book makes the connection between early Buddhism and nature. Early Buddhism was a system of thinking which applied the universal laws of nature to human beings. It was a comprehensive worldview. But after the first 400 to 500 years, it was mostly lost.

The Buddha was what today is called an empirical philosopher, taking his philosophy from careful study of the empirical world, and rejecting “high flown” philosophies. As philosophy of existence, his view overlaps with Marx in his most interesting form, which is not the way Marx is typically understood. Marx was reduced to economics while the Buddha was reduced to religion. Many shared his view, including Dostoevsky, Proust, and Victor Hugo. Death is present in such views. But they are not recognized as philosophy.

#### Readership

Scholars and those interested in Buddhism and philosophy.

#### Key selling points

- Explains Vipassana meditation as a way of living one’s life.
- Explains that death and life are not opposites and that living with death is more significant than surviving it.
- Emphasises that truth matters more than goodness; it is how to know it.

#### Contents

Acknowledgements; Introduction; 1. Why Philosophy of Existence?; 2. The Art of Dying is the Art of Living: Rationality; 3. Relational Philosophy and the Law of Dead Ends; 4. Living Philosophy, and Philosophy Must be Lived; Conclusion; Bibliography; Index.

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Susan E. Babbitt is author of four books in philosophy and one edited collection. She has practised Vipassana meditation for 16 years.

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