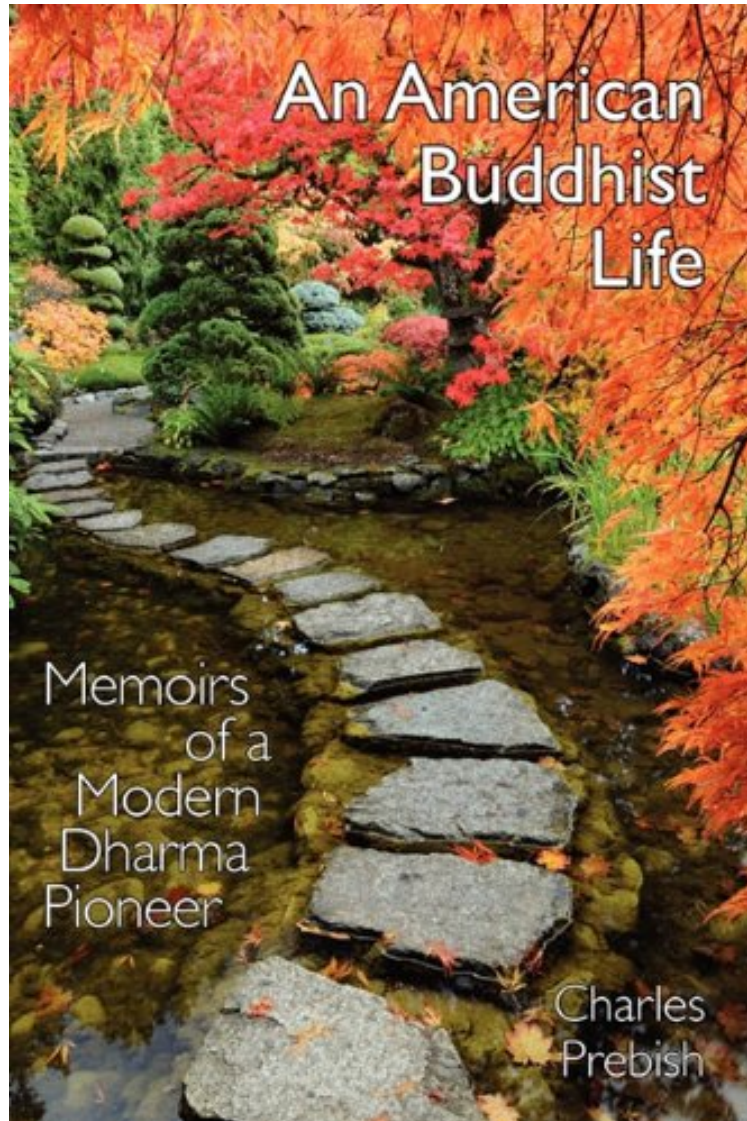


An American Buddhist Life: Memoirs of a Modern Dharma Pioneer

Charles Stuart Prebish

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Charles Stuart Prebish : An American Buddhist Life: Memoirs of a Modern Dharma Pioneer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An American Buddhist Life: Memoirs of a Modern Dharma Pioneer:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. could be betterBy TCM MomAs a practicing Buddhist, I have seen Dr. Prebish's name from afar and admired the many ways he has made Buddhist material available, especially online. I came to the book open minded, not expecting a primer on Buddhist teachings, so I have not been disappointed in that respect. There are a few insights into Dr. Prebish's own journey, incidents that he clearly found helpful and I did too. It

also contains insights into the world of academia that I was not aware of. At the same time, I share the criticisms of many other reviewers, that parts desperately need editing with syntax and grammar errors I would not expect from Dr. Prebish. Other parts are repetitions, as if the copy/paste mechanism were employed without checking. There is a lot of 'I met' and 'I spent time with' that is really not reflective or revealing of Dr. Prebish's life or work. I got to the point that I was no longer carefully reading and just skimmed because I just didn't care. That's a sad reflection on a life of good work. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. More autobiography than reflections on American Buddhist life

By Lakeforests

The author is clearly an impressive academic with a large number of distinguished publications. The book is more an autobiography of the author, his issues with the academic life (getting tenure and full professorship), reflections on his pets/family, and general reflections on the structural growth of the American Buddhist community. The book has very little personal reflection on Buddhism - the author was in a community where he viewed himself as the only Buddhist, so he was not apparently involved in any local community. The book does constitute an impressive catalog of all the author's publications but little insight into the progression of publications, their relationship to each other. The book seems targeted at the Buddhist community members who are knowledgeable about the author.

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Not Helpful for Spiritual Training

By Customer

This book is strictly the memoir of Prebish, and contains little to nothing of value for someone looking to learn about Buddhism. The story isn't even useful as a biography of a Buddhist. Though Prebish repeatedly claims to have been a practicing Buddhist throughout his academic career, nothing of his spiritual path is elucidated in this book. Any wisdom he gained from his practice is not brought forth to help the reader along his/her path. Overall the book feels like a defense of his own admitted 'prickly' and difficult personality. Not much of value here for the seeker. The book has a small value for those interested in the academic side of Western Buddhism, and how Buddhist scholarship is performed, thus a second star.

Charles Prebish is world-renowned as a leading Buddhist scholar, with more than 20 books and 100 academic articles to his credit. Since his involvement with Buddhism began in 1965, he has had the privilege and honor to meet all of America's distinguished and visiting Buddhist teachers, to work with Buddhist scholars around the world, and to deepen the academic study of Buddhism. While his specialization is in monastic discipline, he is most widely known as the first scholar to seriously examine Buddhism in America as a distinct field of study. His pioneering efforts in this regard have had a profound impact on the study of Buddhism's history in North America, which is now one of the most active areas of global Buddhist research. Dr Prebish was Founding Co-Chair of the Buddhism Section of the American Academy of Religion in 1981, Founding Co-Publisher of the first online peer-reviewed journal in the field of religious studies - "The Journal of Buddhist Ethics," and five years later another online journal - "The Journal of Global Buddhism." He recently retired as Professor Emeritus from Utah State University, after a 35-year career teaching at Pennsylvania State University. "An American Buddhist Life" is his story, with reflection on where Buddhism in America has been and where it's going.