

Contents

Note on Orthography	xi
Acknowledgments	xiii
Prologue: Invitation to a Journey <i>The Prospects of Buddhist-Christian Dialogue</i>	xv

I THE BUDDHA AND THE CHRIST

Introduction	3
1. The Life and Teaching of Shakyamuni Buddha	5
Shakyamuni Buddha	5
The Buddhacarita	6
The Four Noble Truths	19
The Eightfold Path	22
Later Interpretations of the Buddha	24
2. Jesus the Christ and Shakyamuni Buddha	28
Journeys of Initiation	29
Birth of the Messiah and the Buddha	30
Temptations: The Forest and the Desert	33
Illusion and Sin	35
Dharma and the Reign of God	36
The Dhammapada and the Sermon on the Mount	38
Separation and Death	47
Cosmic Buddha and Cosmic Christ	53

II CLASSICAL PATHS OF TRANSFORMATION

Introduction	59
3. Ascending and Descending	61
<i>The Structure of Mahayana Buddhist Experience and the Zen Tradition</i>	
Ascent and Descent	62

Ascent and Descent in the Life of the Buddha	66
The Bodhisattva	67
Ch'an and Zen Buddhism	67
Lin-chi Ch'an and Rinzai Zen	72
Ts'ao-tung Ch'an and Soto Zen	75
4. Dionysius the Areopagite and Mahayana Perspectives	82
Ascent and Descent	83
Strategies of Transformation	93
5. Pure Land Buddhism	102
Early Pure Land Sutras	102
Themes and Practice of Pure Land Buddhism	105
Shinran	109
6. Augustine and Mahayana Buddhism	115
The Interpretation of Signs	116
The <i>Confessions</i>	126
Grace and Freedom	137
III	
CONTEMPORARY PATHS	
Engaged Buddhism and Theology of Liberation	
Introduction	143
7. The Engaged Buddhism of Thich Nhat Hanh	145
Life of Thich Nhat Hanh	145
Stories of Suffering and Seeing	147
Meditation: Breathing and Seeing Clearly	156
The Wisdom of Interbeing: The Heart Sutra	158
Engagement in the World	162
Structuring the Life of Compassion: Fourteen Precepts	163
8. Gustavo Gutiérrez and Thich Nhat Hanh	167
<i>The Theology of Liberation in Relation to Engaged Buddhism</i>	
Life of Gustavo Gutiérrez	167
Transformation of Consciousness	168
<i>On Job</i>	175
Creation and Interbeing	183
Strategies of Resistance	186
A Flower Smiles—All Is Grace	189
Epilogue	193

Glossary	197
Notes	201
Select Bibliography	223
Index	233