



### 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.

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.

### 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

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### 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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