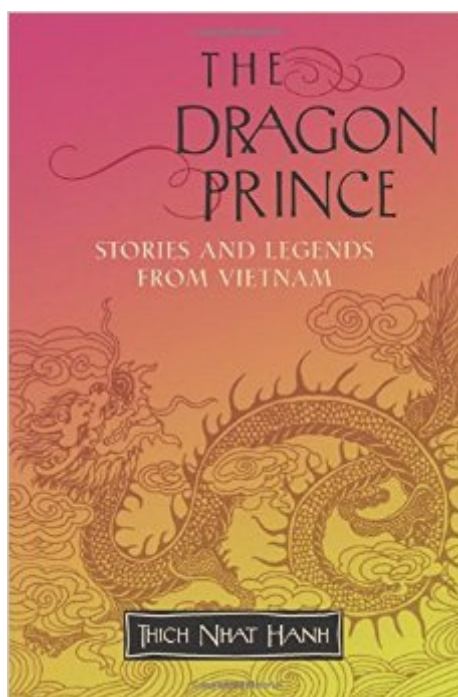


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The Dragon Prince: Stories And Legends From Vietnam



Synopsis

The Dragon Prince is a collection of 15 stories and legends from Vietnam retold by Zen master poet and peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh. As in many of his teachings, Nhat Hanh emphasizes themes of cooperation and reconciliation, while providing a rich introduction to the mythical elements of Vietnamese culture. The stories range from creation myths to tales of wars and food and custom myths, all aiming at the notion of "mindfulness," of become aware of what is happening in the moment. Imaginary characters weave through the lives of actual persons and events, blending fiction and non-fiction, magic and fantasy, into the profound realization of the interconnectedness of all beings. The tales highlight the importance of "true seeing" and focuses on transcendence rather than anguish. Above all The Dragon Prince simply contains well-told stories with clear and lyrical writing, once again giving testament to Thich Nhat Hanh's immense skill as a writer. This book is a must for every collection. From the afterword by translator Mobi Warren: "The heroes and heroines of these stories celebrate closeness to the Earth, the importance of assuming personal responsibility for one's conduct, and the possibility of resolving conflict through understanding rather than violence". B/W Illustrations throughout.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Parallax Press (August 9, 2003)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #536,860 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #124 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Middle East](#) #3841 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Mythology & Folk Tales](#) #5545 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 2 - 7

Customer Reviews

I bought this book for our daughter, whom we adopted from Vietnam, so that when she grew up she could get sense of her country of origin, but since she is still very little I decided to read it myself,

and I am enjoying it very much. There is much in the book that gives you a sense of life in Vietnam and of the Vietnamese people's thought, even though the tales are in an age far removed from the present and the morale of the stories apply to all, as in all fairy tales. I will enjoy reading it again to my daughter when she is a little older.

Buddhist monk, Zen master, human rights activist, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Thich Nhat Hanh takes the reader to Vietnam's age of myths and folklore in *The Dragon Prince: Stories and Legends from Vietnam*. The fifteen stories within include traditional and historical legends as well as brand new folktales inspired by Vietnam's recent past. Key themes within the tales extol the virtues of cooperation, reconciliation, mindfulness, and the importance of understanding that all beings are truly interconnected. A handful of simple, stylized black-and-white illustrations enhance this wonderful collection, highly recommended especially for community library collections and non-specialist general readers with an interest in mythology and folklore from around the world.

It's a fine book, well written, and nicely paced. I'm giving it 4 stars because I was really expecting the original Vietnamese stories (which I'm certain a handful of prospective buyers are also expecting) and not altered versions to emphasize religious aspects, which is fine and all, but many are not true to the original tales. Understandably, this was retold from a Zen master's perspective but if you're looking for original folktales/stories to a T, this isn't it. Overall, it's still a good read.

I bought this for friends of mine - a young Vietnamese couple with two children. The woman was thrilled when she saw it. The book was in perfect condition, and when my friends saw it, she was so excited. She recognized the author as a famous writer (or person) in Vietnam.

I am a Vietnamese American, but I know very little about my ethnic heritage. I bought this book with the intention of learning about my ancestral culture, and was pleased with the outcome. This book is written by an actual Vietnamese person (a Buddhist monk, in fact), so I believe it to be accurate. The stories are very interesting and informative while maintaining an entertaining writing style. Now I have greater knowledge of Vietnamese culture and am even prouder of being Vietnamese. Regardless of your ethnicity, though, I firmly believe that this is a great book for anyone interested in Vietnam. Truthfully, it is a short book, but it is well worth the money. This book has the high recommendation of a Vietnamese person.

This is a beautifully written book. The tales are the most important legends and tales in the Vietnamese culture. I knew all these stories since childhood but was still fascinated by them all and could not put the book down. The author presents these stories with depth, elegance, and style.

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