

The book narrates the interwovenness of culture between India, Nepal, Tibet, Mongolia, China and Japan. It begins with Nepal with its history alive on the waysides and homes, its rich preservation of Buddhist sutras in Sanskrit, esp. the Tattvasaṅgraha which lives in the Shingon denomination in Japan, in the icons of Alchi and in the grandeur of the Borobudur. The second chapter deals with Tibetan studies, edition of the Vinayavastu, the anachronism of Jesus Christ being in the Hemis monastery which was founded as late as the 17th century, the total destruction of Tibetan culture in a long letter of Prof. A.W. Macdonald, saving the Derge monastery and printery by seven encirclements of devotees under the supervision of Ven. Pekar Tulku at the risk of his life, and the Sven Hedin collection in Stockholm. The fourth chapter concerns Mongolian studies: Emperor Ch'ien-lung's edition of the Mongolian Kanjur, and dialogues with Prof. Rinchen on the total cultural genocide in Mongolia. The fifth chapter on China has observations on Chinese poems on ahimsā, Tun-huang, Li-yen's Sanskrit Chinese lexicon and the complexities of the evolution of Kuan-yin. The sixth chapter on Japan narrates discussions with professors like Suenaga, Chikyo Yamamoto and Hajime Nakamura on the Mahābhārata, Buddhist art of India, Siddham script, and the reproduction of 60 Sanskrit opuscles from the Kokiji monastery. The development of the Kana alphabet reflects the sequence of the Tamil alphabet. Japan is unique in preserving the calligraphy of Siddham and Sanskrit music in the notation of the 8th century. Basho's poem on the shadows of a dream among 'these' stones lived in the will of Prof. Hajime Nakamura that his ashes be flown in the sacred waters of the Gaṅgā.

This book is a communication with cultural developments over centuries in the lands of northern and eastern Asia.