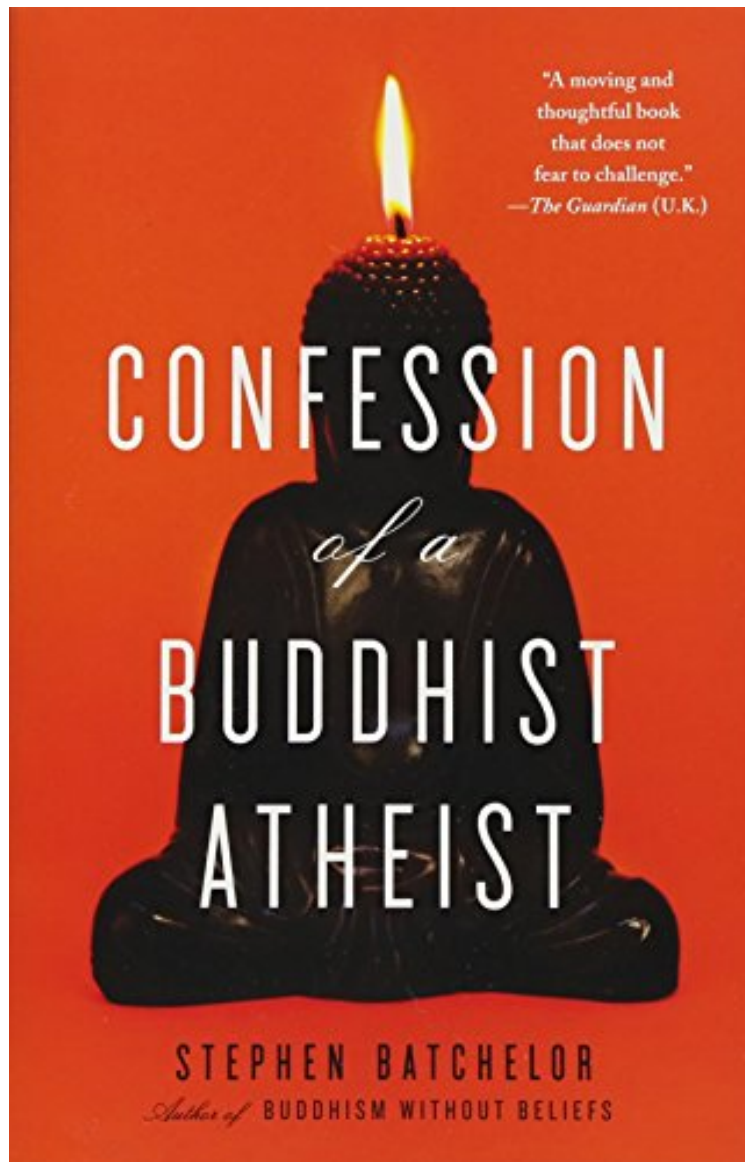


(Download) Confession of a Buddhist Atheist

## Confession of a Buddhist Atheist

Stephen Batchelor

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#77766 in Books Stephen Batchelor 2011-03-08 2011-03-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.20l, .50 #File Name: 0385527071320 pages Confession of a Buddhist Atheist | File size: 29.Mb

**Stephen Batchelor : Confession of a Buddhist Atheist** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Confession of a Buddhist Atheist:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Interesting ReadBy Gadget GuruVery interesting read. This was actually recommended by James Altucher (on one of his podcasts) so I was curious to read it. It had a great deal of detail and historical facts that were well recounted. It was a very deep look at the journey of the author and in the end,

I found his conclusion to be one that I aligned with as well. It was a great account of how he found his way into (and somewhat out of) Buddhism. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Reasoning and logic displayed throughout the book is a joy to read. By Customer An interesting documentation on why a highly respected Buddhist monk became an atheist. The knowledge, reasoning and logic displayed throughout the book is a joy to read. Stephen Batchelor provides convincing arguments that there is no need for adding supernatural beliefs and religious propositions to the basic teaching of S. Gautama. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A good history of Buddhism and its politics. By Sandra Jane Todd I think the author had a unique qualification to write a book detailing the story of Buddha and the evolution of Buddhism. He experienced the politics of the religion first hand and read widely to be able to make his own interpretation of what the Buddha taught. This book took me to an era that I know little about and takes the mysticism out of Buddhism. I did get confused by the contemporary Buddhist teachers and bored by their naivety.

Does Buddhism require faith? Can an atheist or agnostic follow the Buddha's teachings without believing in reincarnation or organized religion? This is one man's confession. In his classic *Buddhism Without Beliefs*, Stephen Batchelor offered a profound, secular approach to the teachings of the Buddha that struck an emotional chord with Western readers. Now, with the same brilliance and boldness of thought, he paints a groundbreaking portrait of the historical Buddha told from the author's unique perspective as a former Buddhist monk and modern seeker. Drawing from the original Pali Canon, the seminal collection of Buddhist discourses compiled after the Buddha's death by his followers, Batchelor shows us the Buddha as a flesh-and-blood man who looked at life in a radically new way. Batchelor also reveals the everyday challenges and doubts of his own devotional journey from meeting the Dalai Lama in India, to training as a Zen monk in Korea, to finding his path as a lay teacher of Buddhism living in France. Both controversial and deeply personal, Stephen Batchelor's refreshingly doctrine-free, life-informed account is essential reading for anyone interested in Buddhism.

From Publishers Weekly: Batchelor's *Buddhism Without Beliefs* (1997) described a secular approach to the Eastern philosophy stripped of doctrines such as karma and rebirth; how a young British monk ordained in the Tibetan tradition turned into a Buddhist atheist is revealed in this new book. On the dharma trail in India and Korea, and later as a lay resident at the nonsectarian Sharpham community in England, Batchelor was beset by doubts about traditional Buddhist teachings. Finally convinced that present-day forms of Buddhism have moved far beyond what founder Gotama had intended, Batchelor embarked on a study of the Pali canon (very early Buddhist texts) to find out what the Buddha's original message might have been. Batchelor's own story of conversion is woven effortlessly with his analysis of Buddhist teachings and a 2003 pilgrimage to Indian sites important in the Buddha's life. He is candid about his disillusionments with institutionalized Buddhism without engaging in another new atheist broadside against religion. While Batchelor may exaggerate the novelty of his Buddhism without beliefs stance, this multifaceted account of one Buddhist's search for enlightenment is richly absorbing. (Mar. 2) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist: Former Tibetan and Zen monk Batchelor approaches Buddhism idiosyncratically. He sketches the historical Buddha to clear up numerous misconceptions, discover who the man Siddhattha Gotama was, and learn what is distinctive and original in his teachings, especially the Pali Canon attributed to him. But Batchelor also offers his own story: his decision to become a monk when he was still a teenaged London hippie during the countercultural 1960s, and his return to the secular world a decade later. Although the historical background is important and crucial to the book, the personal story really shines out, entraining the reader in Batchelor's often complicated life as a seeker who never stops searching, as he discusses his long fascination with Buddhism and his struggle to accept, or at least come to terms with, some doctrines, such as reincarnation, that were alien to his former belief system. He concludes with his reflections as a 56-year-old secular, nondenominational, lay Buddhist now living in rural France. --June Sawyers A moving and thoughtful book that does not fear to challenge. *The Guardian* (U.K.) In this honest and serious book of self-examination and critical scrutiny, Stephen Batchelor adds the universe of Buddhism to the many fields in which received truth and blind faith are now giving way to ethical and scientific humanism, in which lies our only real hope. Christopher Hitchens [Batchelor] taps his committed thirty-eight-year personal Buddhist practice to inform the book's sense of wisdom, clarity and insight. . . . An emotionally detailed and compelling account. *The Huffington Post*