



# **Metaphor and Literalism in Buddhism: The Doctrinal History of Nirvana (Routledge Critical Studies in Buddhism)**

*Soonil Hwang*

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Soonil Hwang studies the doctrinal development of nirvana in the Pali *Nikaaya* and subsequent tradition and compares it with the Chinese *aagama* and its traditional interpretation. He clarifies early doctrinal developments of *Nirvana* and traces the word and related terms back to their original metaphorical contexts, elucidating diverse interpretations and doctrinal and philosophical developments in the *abhidharma* exegeses and treatises of Southern and Northern Buddhist schools. The book finally examines which school, if any, kept the original meaning and reference of *Nirvana*.

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