



# **Taming the Ox: Buddhist Stories and Reflections on Politics, Race, Culture, and Spiritual Practice**

*Charles R. Johnson*

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**Buddhism-influenced essays, stories, and reviews by National Book Award winner Charles R. Johnson.**

This wide and varied collection of essays, reviews, and short stories by the renowned author Charles Johnson offers incisive views on politics, race, and Buddhism. Johnson notes that in his life the two activities that have anchored him and reinforce each other are creative production and spiritual practice. This book is a crystallization of what he has learned during his passage through American literature, the visual arts, and the Buddhadharma.

Essays include:

- "And if Peace Is Their Goal . . ." on the principles of enlightened politics
- "The King We Need" on the deep and sophisticated moral philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and why King's teachings and example are important to all Americans
- "Why Buddhists Should Vote"--Johnson posits that voting can be seen as a way to reduce suffering
- "The Meaning of Barack Obama"--an appreciation of the man who became one of the most historic US presidents, even before his first 100 days were through
- "Why Buddhism for Black America Now?"--what Buddhism can offer the African-American community in the post-MLK era

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