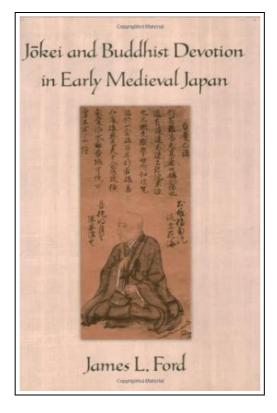
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Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2006. Hardback. Condition: New. New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. This is the first book-length study in any language of J? kei (1155-1213), a prominent Buddhist cleric of the Hoss? (Yog=ac=ara) school, whose life bridged the momentous transition from Heian (794-1185) to Kamakura (1185-1333) Japan. Kamakura Buddhism has drawn notable scholarly attention, largely because it marks the emergence of new schools-Pure Land, Nichiren, and Zen-that came to dominate the Buddhist landscape of Japan. Although J?kei is invariably cited as one of the leading representatives of established Buddhism during the Kamakura period, he has been seriously neglected by Western scholars. In this book, James L. Ford aims to shed light on this pivotal and long-overlooked figure. Ford argues convincingly that J?kei is an ideal personage through which to peer anew into the socio-religious dynamics of early medieval Japan. Indeed, J?kei is uniquely linked to a number of decisive trends and issues of dispute including: the conflict between the established schools and H?nen s exclusive nenbutsu movement; the precept-revival movement; doctrinal reform efforts; the proliferation of prominent reclusive monks (tonseis?); the escalation of fundraising (kanjin) campaigns and popular propagation; and the conspicuous revival of devotion toward Sakyamuni and Maitreya. J?kei represents a paradigm within established Buddhism that recognized the necessity of accessing other powers through esoteric practices, ritual performances, and objects of devotion. While J?kei is best known as a leading critic of H?nen s exclusive nenbutsu movement and a conservative defender of normative Buddhist principles, he was also a progressive reformer in his own right. Far from defending the status quo, J?kei envisioned a more accessible, harmonious, and monastically upright form of Buddhism. Through a detailed examination of J?kei s extensive writings and activities, Ford challenges many receiv



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