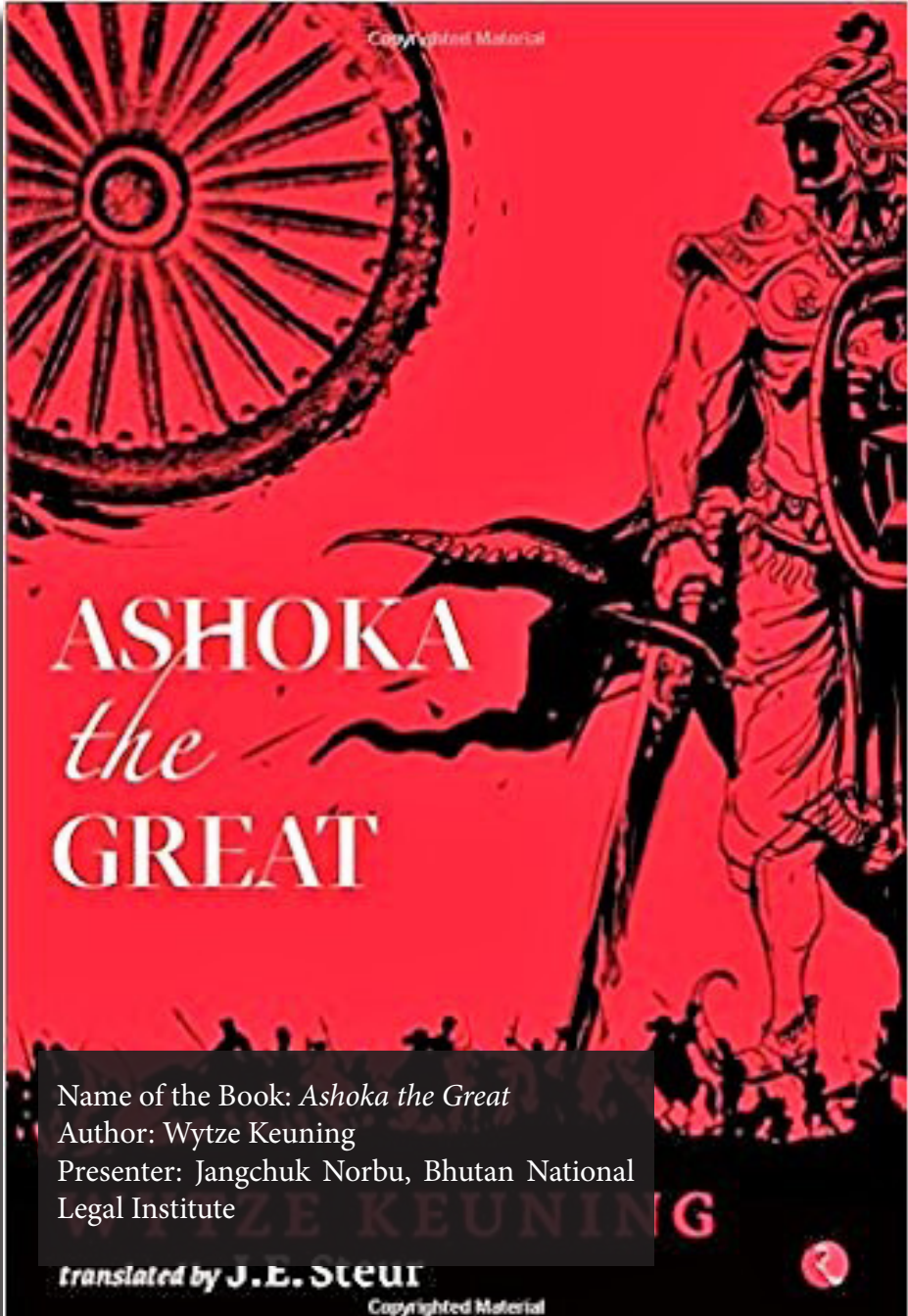


51th Session (27 July 2018)



Synopsis of the Book

'*Ashoka the Great*' by Wytze Keuning presents an extra ordinary account of legendary Indian emperor's incredible and controversial life. This is a fictional biography that describes Ashoka's quest and moral dilemmas and studies him as a great king and as a spiritual seeker. Wytze wrote the book in 1937 and 1947. The book presents a plausible vision of the past balanced by captivating story that recreated life during the Mauryan times. The book is among the series recommended by Her Majesty Gyalyum Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck.



Profile of the Author

Wytze Keuning worked as a school teacher and head master of a primary school in the Netherlands. In 1937, he decided to dedicate to writing historical biography of Ashoka. He also wrote school books on various topics aimed at the pupils of a primary school. He dedicated the book to 'his wife'.



Profile of the Presenter

Janghuck Norbu studied at Nangkor Higher Secondary School. He received his BSL, LL.B. from the Deccan Education Society (DES) Law College, University of Pune. He completed the Post-Graduate Diploma in National Law (PGDNL) in 2012. He began his career as Legal Officer at the Bhutan National Legal Institute in 2013.

Discourse

Mr. Jangchuk Norbu, Sr. Legal Officer of the Institute reviewed and presented on the book on '*Ashoka the Great*' by Wytze Keuning, which was translated into English by Elizabeth Steur. This is a product of ten-year research work.

The book chronicles the life of emperor Ashoka. It is a historical fiction. It was an exhilarating, spiritually edifying and deeply moving story of one of India's greatest emperors. It recreates the life and times of the Mauryas with a remarkable authenticity. He presented that the author perfectly fuses the facts and thoughts, Mauryan customs and mores, life and reflection on the meaning of life as seen through the vision of Ashoka's gurus. This also illustrates the personal influence Ashoka has made. The main take away from the book is the connection to and contribution of emperor Ashoka to the spread of Buddhism few hundred years after the death of the Buddha. This session of the Book Club was graced by the presence of High Court Justice Pema Wangchuk and Justice Kinley Dorji in addition to the officials of the Institute.

