into Sri Lanka. Wherever Buddhism went, civilization surged upward, learning increased, the arts flourished, and people became gentler and more compassionate. India's counterpart in ancient culture in Asia, China, adopted Buddhism, and under its tutelage were produced some of the world's most beautiful objects of art. The oldest printed book is the Buddhist *Diamond Sutra*, in Chinese, dated according to our reckoning as 11 May 868, which was almost six hundred years before Gutenberg printed the first Bible. Through Buddhism, the fierce barbarians in the rugged uplands of Tibet became one of the most temperate of nations. Judging by its remains, the most magnificent capital created by man was that of Angkor in Cambodia. Its definitive form was achieved under the eleventh-century king Jayavarman VII, like Asoka a Buddhist convert, who promoted equivalent institutions beneficial to man and beast. Korea and Japan and other Far Eastern countries enjoyed long eras of peace and gracious living when motivated by the same adherence to intrinsic values.

One justifiably may ask what has become of the amenities of the Great Awakening. Some still exist. The population of southern Asia, after more than two-dozen centuries, remains largely vegetarian. But much, if not most, of this civilization has changed drastically, to a great extent due to centuries of Western imperialism and exploitation. The illicit traffic in liquor, opium and drugs in Asia, by which English, European and American traders enriched themselves, now has become more of a problem at home than there. The West tempted the East into the worship of the Almighty Dollar by offering the luxuries, conveyances, gadgetry, and mechanical diversions and amusements that can be purchased by it. The East abandoned its indigenous tranquillity for the confused aggressiveness of the West. Enlightenment has become obscured by the litter and pollution that emanate from the materialism that descended from the anthropocentric restrictions of Classical antiquity, and egocentric suppressions of the Dark Ages; but it is inextinguishable, and it continues to illuminate, somewhat, a bewildered and brutal world.

Dian Fossey

*With gentle gestures
and understanding word-sounds
she reached
for those near-human creatures
of the Virunga Mountains
to touch all who see
and all who wonder.*

*Those eager gentle giants
torn from molds
of passion and pity
have become the symbols
of worlds
that cannot be counted
only as beings heard or seen
tutored or touched,
but a living design
we cannot explain
by a complex all-powerful wisdom
but finally yielding
only to the penetrating light
of her understanding smile.*

—Leo Kartman
Sunnyvale, California