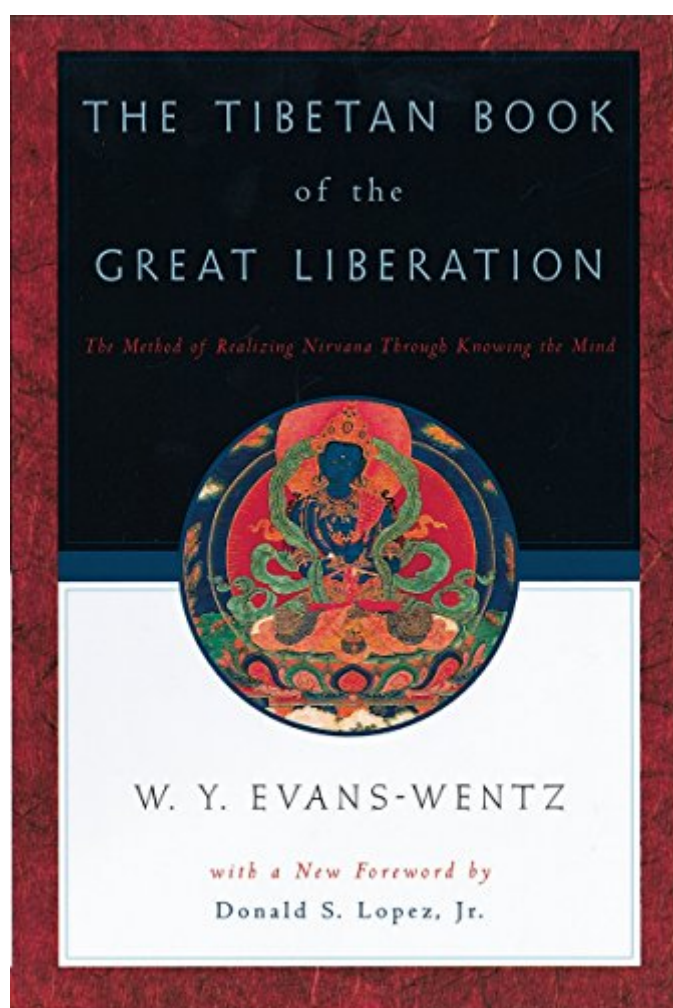


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The Tibetan Book Of The Great Liberation: Or The Method Of Realizing Nirv=ana Through Knowing The Mind



Synopsis

The Tibetan Book of the Great Liberation, which was unknown to the Western world until its first publication in 1954, speaks to the quintessence of the Supreme Path, or Mah=ay=ana, and fully reveals the yogic method of attaining Enlightenment. Such attainment can happen, as shown here, by means of knowing the One Mind, the cosmic All-Consciousness, without recourse to the postures, breathings, and other techniques associated with the lower yogas. The original text for this volume belongs to the Bardo ThÃ¶dol series of treatises concerning various ways of achieving transcendence, a series that figures into the Tantric school of the Mah=ay=ana. Authorship of this particular volume is attributed to the legendary Padma-Sambhava, who journeyed from India to Tibet in the 8th century, as the story goes, at the invitation of a Tibetan king. Padma-Sambhava's text per se is preceded by an account of the great guru's own life and secret doctrines. It is followed by the testamentary teachings of the Guru Phadampa Sangay, which are meant to augment the thought of the other gurus discussed herein. Still more useful supplementary material will be found in the book's introductory remarks, by its editor Evans-Wentz and by the eminent psychoanalyst C. G. Jung. The former presents a 100-page General Introduction that explains several key names and notions (such as Nirv=ana, for starters) with the lucidity, ease, and sagacity that are this scholar's hallmark; the latter offers a Psychological Commentary that weighs the differences between Eastern and Western modes of thought before equating the "collective unconscious" with the Enlightened Mind of the Buddhist. As with the other three volumes in the late Evans-Wentz's critically acclaimed Tibetan series, all four of which are being published by Oxford in new editions, this book also features a new Foreword by Donald S. Lopez.

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Customer Reviews

this is one of the premier "books" ever put on paper. It is a powerful guidebook for the way to reach deep down into the primordial "oneness" from which all comes, stays, and goes, all of which is an illusion we fall into. This ancient text, along with the Tibetan Book of the Dead (Bardo Thosdrol) will very quickly tell one "what is happening". These texts along with "right living", show the way Home. We can all do with these books, available at .com at great prices! Get them Now... it is never too late to shine. Tibetan Buddhism will literally open your eyes. "To the Divine Body of Truth, the incomprehensible Boundless Light."

I have always enjoyed reading Evans Wentz publications, and this one did not disappoint. Plenty of psychological commentary by Jung keeps the esoteric interpretation well to the fore, something which I feel makes it easier for Westerners to cope with the devotional aspects of such texts. There are probably many paths to the truth. The offerings in "The Great Liberation" contain a path which is rich in the wealth of imagery and symbolism yet somehow free from the spiritual materialism which often taints "Best Practice" teachings. If you liked "Monkey Magic", you will adore the multiplicity of yarns about the life of Padma Sambhava. The Chinese appropriation of Tibet has caused much much misery and suffering. It seems somehow criminal that we in the West may now benefit from the scattering of Tibetan refugees by having access to such wonderful teachings, even as laymen (and in English too). For anyone with even a smattering of interest in Tibetan Buddhist teachings and mythology, I believe ownership of this book will enrich his or her life tremendously.

By the time you read the forward you will wish you didn't buy it. The forward is an accurate exposition of why the author and the translation ruined the texts the book was supposed to elaborate. I even wondered why they put the forward in since anybody, having read it, would not put money down on the book. Do yourself a favor and seek out a scholarly translation of the texts in their

pure form without all of the personal overlay and footnotes.

The meat of this book is the large print that floats above the footnotes from pages 202 to 240. It's more than worth its price for the small bit of text on those 38 pages. Forget the rest.

This book is the best I have ever read on Buddhism. The Psychological Commentary, by Dr. C.G.Jung is outstanding.P.S If you haven't tried reading your books on Kindle as yet give it a go with this one. I just tried it and I'm hooked.SH

MY "BIBLE" FOR THE LAST 45 YEARS...BUT I KEEP GIFTING THEM TO OTHERS, SO I HAVE TO CONTINUE BUYING THEM...A TERUE "BOOK OF ENLIGHTENMENT"...ONE OF A KIND!!!

An excellent book - should be part of your Buddhist library!

I have just finished reading "The Tibetan Book of the Great Liberation" for the third time. The first time I read it, about forty years ago, it was over my head; the second time I read it, about eight years ago, I loved it. And this time, I particularly realized its limitations, especially in light of John Reynold's book, "Self-Liberation Through Seeing with Naked Awareness," which, like "The Tibetan Book of the Great Liberation," is a translation of/ commentary on the same teaching, "The Yoga of Knowing of the Mind (The Seeing of Reality)," by the legendary Dzogchen master Padmasambhava.I still dig this book because I love Evans-Wentz's writing. He not only is an affecting, mystically inspiring writer, but also a spiritually astute one, able to expertly blend Vedanta, Buddhism, and Plotinus. He makes some errors in his Theosophical-like attempt to synthesize the Great Traditions, but overall, especially thanks to his exposure to the great Hindu Guru Ramana Maharshi, he does a fine job explaining and promoting The Perennial Philosophy in his General Introduction, which spans a hundred pages. Likewise, he provides some marvelous insights (along with some mistakes) in his extensive commentary on Padmasambhava's "The Yoga of Knowing the Mind (The Seeing of Reality)."About thirty-five pages of the text are devoted to a Psychological Commentary on the teaching by renowned C.G, Jung. I personally don't care for Jung's commentary, which I see as an attempt to reduce the spiritual to the psychological. About eighty-five pages of the text are devoted to the mythological story of The Life and Teachings of Tibet's Great Guru Padmasambhava. I have no affinity for magical-mystical tales like this one, and I have never felt motivated to read more than short bits of it. But if you enjoy creative hagiographical fiction, then

you'll probably find it entertaining, and maybe even enlightening. My version of the text does not include Donald Lopez's Foreword, so I'm not qualified to comment on it. The essence of the text--Padmasambhava's Teachings on The Yoga of Knowing the Mind (The Seeing of Reality) and Evans-Wentz's commentary is a forty-page mixed bag. Padmasambhava's Teachings themselves are poorly translated, which makes them less than fully clear and descriptive. This is especially evident when one compares this translation to John Reynold's in his book on these Teachings. But again, Evans-Wentz's commentary adds interesting spice, and the Teachings themselves are still mystically profound and enlightening. In summary, despite its flaws, I recommend this text. But I also think anyone serious about Tibetan Buddhism/Dzogchen will benefit the most by comparing/contrasting this text with Reynolds' "Self-Liberation Through Seeing with Naked Awareness," which is not without its own flaws; hence the need to compare both texts.

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