

The Seven Instruction Lineages Taranathas Bka Babs Bdun Ldan

born in a d 1575 lama taranatha wrote this book in 1608 v vasil ev of st petersburg translated it from tibetan into russian in april 1869 followed by the german translation of the text by schiefner also published from st peterburg in october of the same year in view of the profound importance of the work for understanding indian history in general and of the history of buddhism in particular modern scholars have extensively using specially schiefner s german translation of the history for decades and this for varied purposes

an entrée into the world of tantric buddhism a unique collection of texts concepts and meditation practices presented by tibetan masters teaching in the west the vajra world vajradhatu in sanskrit is a realm of indestructibility the level of reality beyond all thought and imagination all impermanence and change which a fully realized person knows and inhabits used metaphorically vajra world refers to the traditional culture of tibet and the unique spirituality that is its secret strength secret of the vajra world is the companion volume to the author s earlier book indestructible truth the living spirituality of tibetan buddhism while that book focuses on the history cosmology philosophy and practice of the more public exoteric side of tibetan buddhism this work treats its more hidden and esoteric aspects as they take shape in vajrayana together the two volumes provide a broad introduction to the major traditions of tibetan buddhism topics include the tantric view of human nature and the external world the special role of the guru or tantric mentor the preliminary practices that

prepare the student for full initiation the major dimensions of vajrayana practice including visualizations liturgies and inner yogas the tradition of the tulku or incarnate lama the lore surrounding the death of ordinary people and of saints the practice of solitary retreat the epitome of traditional tibetan buddhism

tathagatagarbha buddha nature is a central concept of mahayana buddhism crucial to all the living practice traditions of tibetan and zen buddhism its relationship to the concept of emptiness has been a subject of controversy for seven hundred years dr hookam s work investigates the divergent interpretations of these concepts and the way the tibetan tradition is resolving them in particular she does this with reference to the only surviving indian commentary on the tathagatagarbha doctrine the ratnagotravibhaga this text addresses itself directly to the issue of how to relate the doctrine of emptiness the illusory nature of the world to that of the truly existing changeless absolute the buddha nature this is the first work by a western writer to present an analysis of the shentong tradition based on previously untranslated sources the shentong view rests on meditative experience that is inaccessible to the conceptualizing mind it is deeply rooted in the sutra tradition of indian buddhism and is central to an understanding of the mahamudra and dzogchen traditions and tantric practice among kagyupas and hyingmapas

tsongkhapa s commentary entitled a book of three inspirations a treatise on the stages of training in the profound path of naro s six dharmas is commonly referred to as the three inspirations anyone who has read more than a few books on tibetan buddhism will have encountered references to the six yogas of naropa a preeminent yogic technology system the six practices inner heat illusory body clear light consciousness transference forceful projection and bardo yoga gradually came to pervade thousands of monasteries nunneries and hermitages throughout central asia over the past five and a half centuries

this publication is issued in conjunction with the exhibition the circle of bliss buddhist meditational art co organized by the columbus museum of art and the los angeles county museum of art los angeles county museum of art october 5 january 11 2003 columbus museum of art february 6 may 9 2004

in the present work taranatha paints a miraculous picture of the great siddhas of india their lives and the lineages which sprang from their teachings in all the lives of some 59 siddhas are related some well known others more obscure but all linked by their various lineages and by the instructions handed down from siddha to disciple taranatha s account of these remarkable lives is especially valuable as he had as his gurus and as the sources of these accounts three indians from the very traditions about which he wrote with such conviction the lineage accounts are very important for a clear understanding of the tantric upadesas themselves in several places taranatha makes quite sure that his own lineage is irrefutably established so that there is no doubt that he is a participant in the upadesas themselves not merely a hander down of legends the accounts were evidently passed on and due to the special factors involved in the tantric oral tradition we cannot but understand them as being accurate and reliable

revised edition of readings on the six yogas of naropa 1997

deities of tibetan buddhism

must buy for anyone interested in the tantric dimensions of buddhism

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