



Tibetan Yoga and Secret Doctrines: Or Seven Books of Wisdom of the Great Path, According to the Late Lama Kazi Dawa-Samdup's English Rendering

W.Y. Evans-Wentz

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Books, audiotapes, and classes about yoga are today as familiar as they are widespread, but we in the West have only recently become engaged in the meditative doctrines of the East--only in the last 70 or 80 years, in fact. In the early part of the 20th century, it was the pioneering efforts of keen scholars like W. Y. Evans-Wentz, the late editor of this volume, that triggered our ongoing occidental fascination with such phenomena as yoga, Zen, and meditation. Tibetan Yoga and Secret Doctrines--a companion to the popular Tibetan Book of the Dead, which is also published by Oxford in an authoritative Evans-Wentz edition--is a collection of seven authentic Tibetan yoga texts that first appeared in English in 1935.

In these pages, amid useful photographs and reproductions of yoga paintings and manuscripts, readers will encounter some of the principal meditations used by Hindu and Tibetan gurus and philosophers throughout the ages in the attainment of Right Knowledge and Enlightenment. Special commentaries precede each translated text, and a comprehensive introduction contrasts the tenets of Buddhism with European notions of religion, philosophy, and science. Evans-Wentz has also included a body of orally transmitted traditions and teachings that he received firsthand during his fifteen-plus years of study in the Orient, findings that will interest any student of anthropology, psychology, comparative religion, or applied Mahayana Yoga. These seven distinct but intimately related texts will grant any reader a full and complete view of the spiritual teachings that still inform the life and culture of the East. As with Evans-Wentz's other three Oxford titles on Tibetan religion, which are also appearing in new editions, this third edition of Tibetan Yoga and Secret Doctrines features a new foreword by Donald S. Lopez, author of the recent Prisoners of Shangri-La: Tibetan Buddhism and the West.

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From Reader Review Tibetan Yoga and Secret Doctrines: Or Seven Books of Wisdom of the Great Path, According to the Late Lama Kazi Dawa-Samdup's English Rendering for online ebook

Dhatt?ra says

This book is excellent. A little confusing if you don't have background knowledge of Tibetan Buddhism (which I had little) so I plan on re-reading this one in the future so I may better understand what they are talking about.

The review above was written ten years ago according to goodreads date! WOW! In ten years, I will say, that this book has been a companion of mine. I take it everywhere I go and review it. It has lead me to many other questions, books, people, and states of mind I never anticipated. Keep it near.

Tétons says

« L'esprit est le grand assassin du réel. Que le disciple tue l'assassin.

La compassion parle et dit : Peut-il y avoir de la joie quand toute vie doit souffrir? Serez-vous sauvé en entendant le monde entier pleurer?

Que le fier soleil ne sèche pas une larme de souffrance avant que vous-même ne l'ayez essuyée de l'œil de celui qui souffre.

L'élève doit retrouver l'état d'enfant qu'il a perdu avant que le premier son puisse vibrer à son oreille.

Détruis en toi le souvenir des expériences passées.

Ne regarde pas en arrière ou tu es perdu.

Hélas, hélas, que tout homme possédant ?laya (L'Impérissable) et n'étant qu'un avec la grande âme, cette possession d'?laya soit de si peu de poids pour lui.

L'action et l'inaction peuvent trouver place en toi; ton corps agité, ton esprit tranquille, ton âme aussi claire qu'un lac de montagne.

Vivre pour être bienfaisant pour l'humanité est le premier pas. Pratiquer les six vertus glorieuses est le second.

Si tu ne peux être le soleil, alors sois l'humble planète.

Le sentier est unique pour tous, les moyens d'atteindre le but varient avec chaque pèlerin.

Ne laisse pas tes sens faire de ton esprit un terrain de jeux.

As-tu mis ton être au diapason de la grande souffrance de l'humanité, ô candidat à la lumière?

Et sache que l'Éternel ne connaît pas le changement. »

Greg says

This is a classic translation and part of a series of translations of Tibetan Buddhist texts published by W.Y. Evans-Wentz. The selection of texts present a coherent body of theoretical and practical aspects of religious praxis, especially the last third of the book which collects a number of tantric ritual texts.

Lance says

Secret doctrines in this case means "oral tradition". Things that were not traditionally written down, but were passed on from teacher to student verbally.

This is a collection of some of the most insightful writings that I have ever come across. It draws heavily from pre-buddhist bon tradition and contains extensive and explicit instructions and details on techniques of lucid dreaming among other things. This is the real deal. I would say about half of it is translations of true, but run of the mill type stuff. The rest though, is some of the most densely packed pearls of philosophical insight one is likely to come across.

Michael says

If ever you feel satisfied with your progress in yoga, a read-through of this book will set you straight. The techniques described here are, at present, quite thoroughly beyond my ability, and I am grateful for the reminder of how much of a novice I really am.

Michael says

Very engrossing and well written. A must for anyone interested in the more esoteric side of yoga-consciousness.

kate says

Mind expanding information about the Chod/Aghora/short path. Read in conjunction with "Aghora I" by Svoboda. Great and terrifying.
