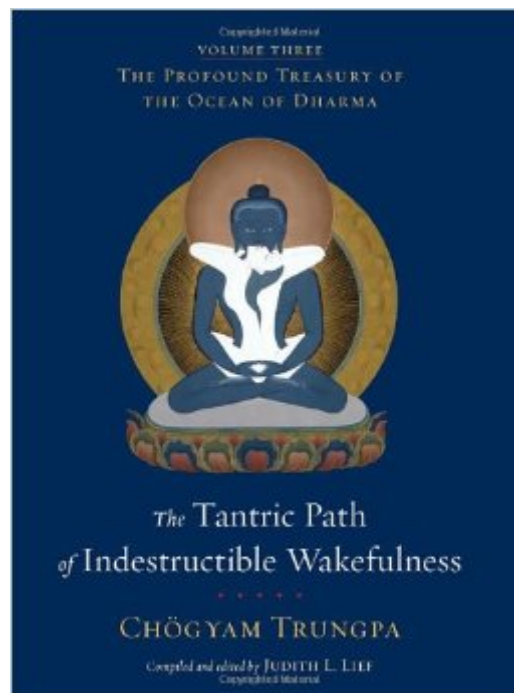


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The Tantric Path Of Indestructible Wakefulness: The Profound Treasury Of The Ocean Of Dharma, Volume Three



Synopsis

The third volume of this landmark series presents the vajrayana teachings of the tantric path. The vajrayana, or "diamond vehicle," also referred to as tantra, draws upon and extends the teachings of the hinayana and mahayana. As with the hinayana and the mahayana, the formal acceptance into the vajrayana is marked by a vow, in this case the samaya vow. There is an emphasis at this stage on the student-teacher relationship and on the quality of devotion. Generally, students must complete preliminary practices, called ngöndro, to prepare themselves for initiation into the vajrayana path before going further. Having done so, they then receive the appropriate empowerments to begin tantric practices. There are empowerment ceremonies of many kinds, called abhishekas. The vajrayana includes both form practices, such as visualizations and sadhanas (ritual liturgies), and formless practices based on allowing the mind to rest naturally in its inherent clarity and emptiness. Although on the surface, there is much greater complexity in tantric practices, the principles of mindfulness and awareness and the cultivation of compassion and skillful action continue to be of central importance. The tantric path requires complete engagement and fierce dedication. It is said to be a more rapid path, but it is also more dangerous. There is a quality of directness, abruptness, and wholeheartedness. Tantrikas, or vajrayana practitioners, recognize that the most challenging aspects of life, the energies and play of confused emotions and frightening obstacles, can be worked with as gateways to freedom and realization. Other topics covered in detail in this volume include the four reminders, the mandala principle, mahamudra, atiyoga, and more. The Profound Treasury of the Ocean of Dharma represents meditation master Chögyam Trungpa's greatest contribution to Western Buddhism. This three-volume collection presents in lively, relevant language the comprehensive teachings of the Tibetan Buddhist path of the hinayana, mahayana, and vajrayana. This work will resonate with new students of Buddhism as well as the most senior students.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This along with the two preceding volumes are what I would consider essential reading and study material. Judy Lief deserves an award for presenting this material in such a comprehensive and pragmatic way. Truthfully one of the best dharma books available.

The best book on Vajrayana I have ever read. I read many books on this topic. I don't read Tibetan but we're talking English language here. I love Chogyam Trungpa's books and videos of his talks they are often just amazing. I am not a Shambhalla-ite but follow and practice a lot of Kagyu, Nyingma lineage. But this book takes the cake. I have so many problems with my practice it is not even funny and no one, not even my teachers are particularly interested in talking to me about them. Senior practitioners just smirk, mark a notch in their I'm-One-Up on this clown register and suggest that perhaps I am just on drugs or something, lamas seem to not understand my English and just kind of say something unrelated to my questions or just chuckle and change the topic. But reading this book cleared up so many obstacles and misunderstanding about the Vajrayana process. It's like having another real teacher. I don't care what they say about books being little to no good, in the case of this one its clearly not the case, or not for me anyway. I don't want to buy the other books because there is no way they could be this good. I don't want to be let down again at this point. I read it cover to cover in a week, I couldn't do anything else. The best book I have read in my life. Really.

I basically got this to clarify some things I never heard about Vajrayana. I am a practitioner myself. I basically took refuge blindly and that pretty much got me in trouble. I am glad for the clarifications about abhiseka and about things that I would experience. I wish I bought this sooner.

This huge book is somewhat ill-conceived in the sense that it's an agglomeration of Trungpa's oral teachings, cobbled together posthumously in an attempt to preserve his knowledge and legacy (and

perhaps make some money for Shambhala). Tibetan Buddhist tantra is already a profound, esoteric, and convoluted field, so in a sense this book is a quintessential volume - obtuse enough to thwart any straightforward attempts at understanding. Tantra itself is an altered state of consciousness. I think the list price is outrageous for this being basically an archival book (I paid \$90 for it at the boulder bookstore!) and it's also tough to discredit something that contains such precious information. This is a book that resists simple description. From one perspective, it's almost a thousand pages of rambling words which may be better spent in meditation - I think Trungpa himself might agree to this. From another perspective, it's a rare treasure of discourses by a man whose life mission was to bring the tremendous blessing of Tibetan Buddhism to the west. I highly suggest going into an actual bookstore and leafing through this before purchasing.

I have just started to dip into this extraordinary work - it is awesome in its depth, authenticity and the beautiful editing and production. I now have two copies - hardback and electronic (for searching & highlighting)

Trungpa Rinpoche's Brilliant wisdom and incredible creativity to convey the Buddhist path in a unique language that connects with western mindsets, and the power that comes from his experiential instructions rather than purely theoretical teachings is priceless and captured on this sacred book. One of the most eloquent and basic points I find in this book is the idea and emphasis on approaching the tantric path with a stable understanding and practice of the Hinayana and Mahayana paths, never abandoning them, but practicing all the yanas as a unitive whole. I am gratefull to everyone who made this project possible!

Excellent book, I learned so much.

Simply amazing work and teachings - thank you to Judith Leif for taking this on it is a wonderful treasure. I am committed to progressing down this road.

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