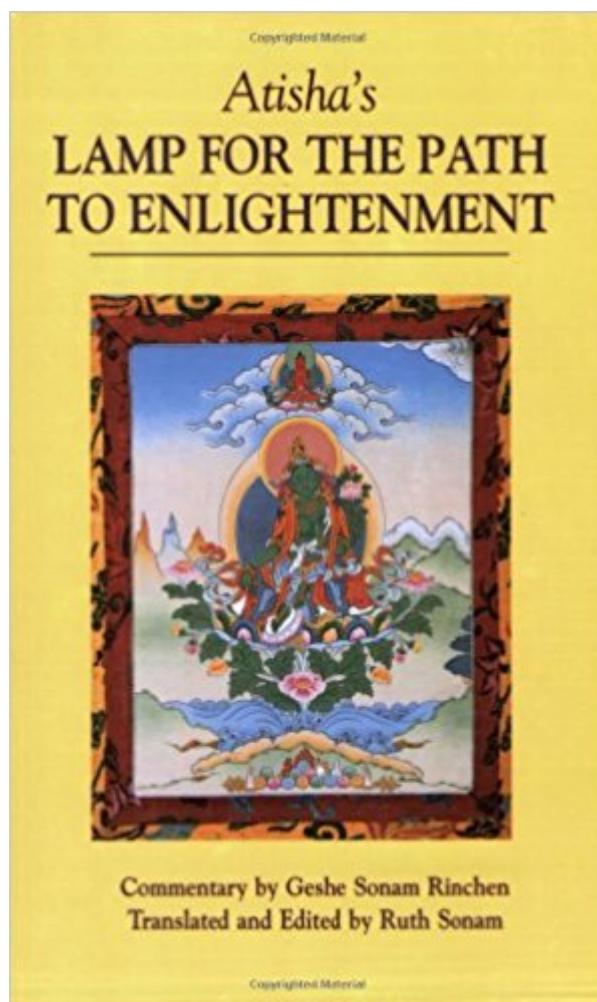


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Atisha's Lamp For The Path To Enlightenment



Synopsis

Atisha, the eleventh-century Indian Buddhist scholar and saint, came to Tibet at the invitation of the king of Western Tibet, Lha Lama Yeshe Wo, and his nephew, Jangchub Wo. His coming initiated the period of the second transmission of Buddhism to Tibet, formative for the Sakya Kagyu and Gelug traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. Atisha's most celebrated text, Lamp for the Path to Enlightenment, sets forth the entire Buddhist path within the framework of three levels of motivation on the part of the practitioner. Atisha's text thus became the source of the lamrim tradition, or graduated stages of the path to enlightenment, an approach to spiritual practice incorporated within all schools of Tibetan Buddhism.

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Customer Reviews

i had to write a reply to the comment that this is not a well written or inspiring book. geshe sonam rinchen was hand picked by the dalai lama to teach bhuddism in his adopted home dhramsala. when i met him theyre i decided to stay and studied this text for about a month, it is the reason i now practice budhissm and found him to be the most funny, wise ,compassionate teacher one could hope for. i dont think you need personal expereince of him to understand from this book the immense wisdom contained within, this is one of he most important books on tibeten bhuddhism ever written, the commentary brings it to life and the translation by ruth sonam is exteriodanry as they have been working together for 25 years, i cant recomend this text enough. read it on the tube today and it instantley inspired me

This book is a classic and does not need an endorsement. It is a series of instructions that need practice. I do not just read this kind of text, I read it and incorporate it, sentence by sentence, into my practice. My problem is my tendency to collect texts and that is dumb. I need to practice one text until I accomplish all of its instructions. This book can last a lifetime. This book all by itself could serve me as a guide and I could practice its instructions for the rest of my life. I would not need any other practice. But dumb me, I just keep flitting around. It is easy to talk about the practice of Buddhism, and it is nearly impossible to live up to the obligations of Buddhism.

This book by Atisha, or commentary, is the prototype of all other forthcoming Tibetan lam.rim (stages of the path to enlightenment) literature by Je Tsongkhapa (Lamrim chenmo), Pabonka Rinpoche, and others. Actually, Je Tsongkhapa requested for blessings from Atisha to compose his Lamrim Chenmo. Maybe the translation or the style is not applicable for some readers, but it's important to notice that without Atisha's text, the whole lam.rim literature from Tibet would most likely not have happened in the big scale as it did. --Kent

The most basic texts of the Tibetan Buddhist Tradition, "lamrim" texts, cover all the stages of the path to enlightenment. They all trace their origin to this text by Atisha. I have long been attracted to the lamrim tradition, and have read a number of modern renditions. I purchased and read this book hoping to glean something extra or some special insight from a translation and commentary on the original source text of this whole tradition. I was disappointed. I doubt it is Atisha's lack of clarity that makes this book, and even his own verses, so uninspiring, so humdrum actually. Perhaps later exponents like Je Tsongkhapa and Je Pabongkhapa really did improve upon the original, and having read their works this one seems superfluous, but that has not typically been my experience in this field. I think that the authors, while they have done a great service in bringing this work to the English language, have not translated nor commented upon this work in a way that makes for compelling or even interesting reading. By its very history alone, this should be a book I refer to frequently, but I have never looked again at it even once since I read it a year ago, and that seems sad to me.

Reading AtishaA lazy student forgot to lift the bookmark covering a passage on page 67where the commentary goes like this:"he will experience joy and feel healthy...This is quite logical"The student was at risk of loosing a fundamental teaching on the effects of developing Bodhicitta, the Mind of

Enlightenment. So he went back on his footsteps and read it again. This Book is to be read over and over, many times; It is full of important instructions to understand this life, it's precedents and it's results. I keep his book on the shrine

There are many teachings and traditions for Buddhists, I am a believer on developing from the foundations. Very unique teachings for students that want to learn on one of the greatest buddhist teachers.

This is a incredible book about the foundational path to Awkening or Enlightenment. I would recommend it to anyone interested in Tibetan Buddhism or Lamrim in particular.

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