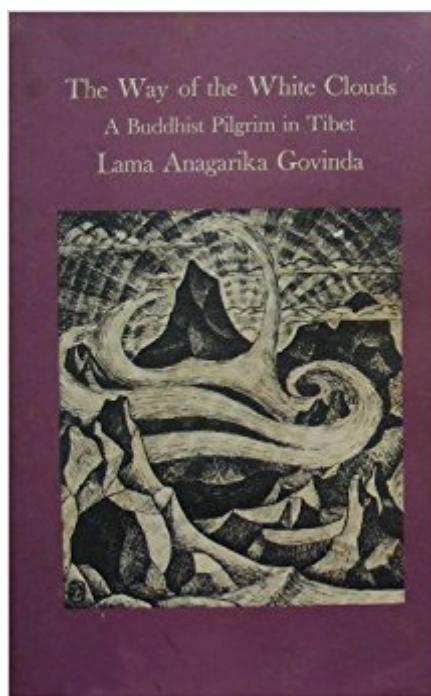


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The Way Of White Clouds: A Buddhist Pilgrim In Tibet (Shambhala Dragon Editions)



Synopsis

Book by Govinda, Lama Anagarika

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book by Govinda, Lama Anagarika

If you want to know what Tibet was like in the 1930s before the Chinese invasion, this book will give you an intelligent and detailed account of travel, nature and the meditative spiritual practices of that time. Anagarika Govinda has the highly educated mind of a German scholar and the depth of Buddhism from 20 years of Sri Lankan monastic education. This book leads you on a journey into a world that has been lived for thousands of years in Tibet but is totally hidden from the world now. I believe that there still exists this intense life of prayer and compassion some where in Tibet. It could not be exported into other countries and he explains why. What this book made very clear to me is that religious practices are the same all over the world, just with different degrees of sincerity. I found information in Tibetan practices that I had learned already from Carlos Castaneda. This book is a rare jewel. Andreya von Waldenfels

The author described in details a series of unbelievable experience he witnessed in Tibet. Those were incredible and amazing. I strongly recommend this book to those who are interested in research of Buddhism. Henry

A wonderful travelogue and introduction to Buddhism.

The book is a classic, and this printing has a lovely cover design and matte style (that's why I picked this printing rather than the newer one). I took off a star, though, for the print, which is very small. I would recommend getting the newer edition, which hopefully has been printed in a more standard, readable way.

This book captures some of the essence of Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism. For me, it was an introduction to a culture so very different than ours that I did not have some of the author's experiences and insights. For example, while we are aware that Buddhist Rinpoches guide the process of their next reincarnation, he focuses on continuity of consciousness, building from the last life thru this life to the next, perspective that was new to me. His description of the Tibetan lands is breathtaking, and extraordinary. His description of the oracles is one of many things that offers insight into this remarkable culture. I have been read about four books about the practice of Tibetan Buddhism, as well as autobiographies of revered Tibetan Buddhists. This book is written by a westerner, much as Tenzin Palmo's biography is, and it helps to explain facets that go missing when Tibetans write, simply because it is the water that they swim in. This particular book does not focus on the inner path of meditative practices, but more on the way of life that was Tibet in the 1940's. It was Govinda's life mission to preserve the sacred art of Tibetan monasteries. And this book adds a living record of the Tibet way of life, which is now gone.

I love this book it has such great descriptions, I could close my eyes and picture it. To me it is very uplifting and inspiring.

This is a wonderful book by a sensitive contemporary practitioner, a German who became a Buddhist monk in a SE Asia monastery and traveled through Tibet with his wife Li Gotami (who published a book of fascinating photographs). The author is probably best known for his "Foundations of Tibetan Buddhism" which is probably a modern classic. This book is, perhaps, more personal in nature, however. But, as I've heard Lama Govinda (Anangavajra Khamsum Wangchuk) quoted (but I don't know the source), "A religion whose ideal is only a matter of the past or the distant future has no living value for the present day." He has considerable insight into the human condition and its relation to religion and spirituality as demonstrated in some quotes from this book: "Seriousness and a sense of humor do not exclude each other; on the contrary, they constitute

and indicate the fullness and completeness of human experience and the capacity to see the relativity of all things and all 'truths' and especially of our own position. The Buddha's sense of humor--which is so evident in many of his discourses--is closely bound up with his sense of compassion: both are born from an understanding of greater connections from an insight into the interrelatedness of all things and all beings and the chain reactions of cause and effect. His smile is the expression of one who can see the wondrous play of ignorance and knowledge against the universal background and its deeper meaning. Only thus is it possible not to be overpowered by the misery of the world or by our own sense of righteousness that judges and condemns what is not in accordance with our own understanding and divides the world into good and bad. A man with a sense of humour cannot but be compassionate in his heart, because his sense of proportion allows him to see things in their proper perspective. pp. 176-7."Events and facts become meaningful only if seen against the back- ground of inner experience." 1970 p. xiv"Personality consists in the power to influence others, and this power is due to consistency, harmony, and one-pointedness of character. If these qualities are present in an individual, in their highest perfection, then this individual is a fit leader of humanity, either as a ruler, a thinker, or a saint, and we recognize him as a vessel of divine power." p.297

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