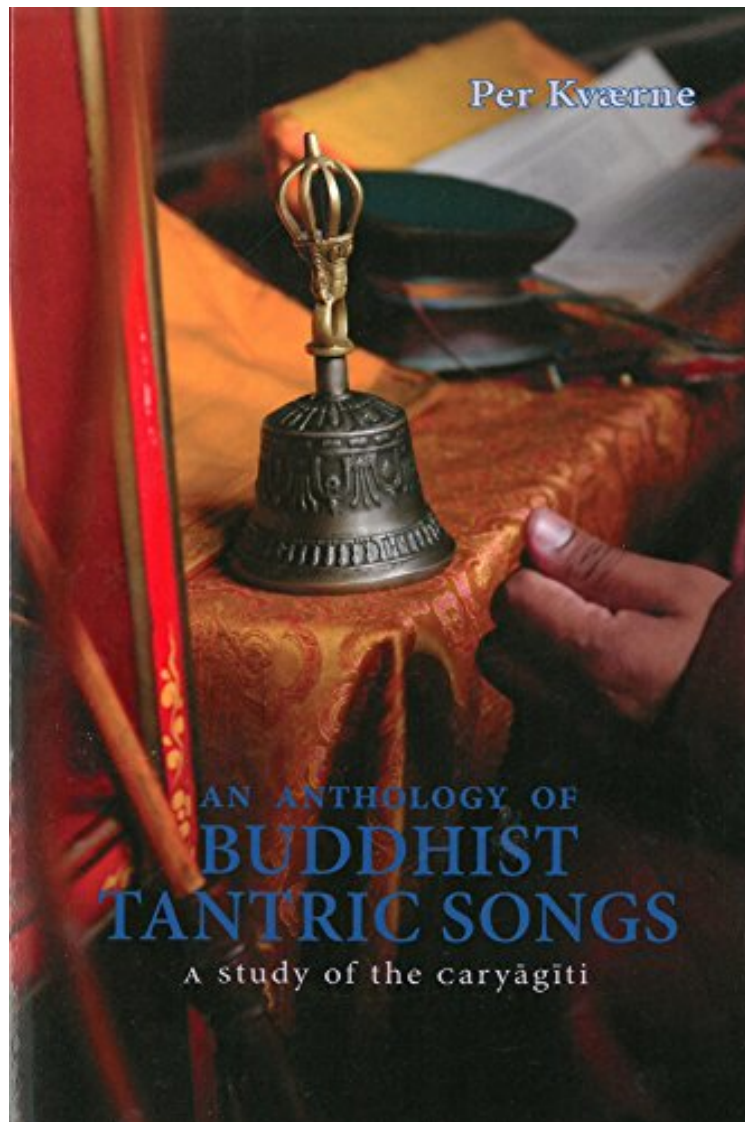


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Translation and scholarly commentary on a seminal Indian Buddhist text.

About the Author Per Kvaerne is a prominent Tibetologist and art historian. Born 1945, he received his first degree in Sanskrit in 1970 (Univ. Oslo), gaining his doctorate there in 1973. His doctoral dissertation forms the essence of this book. From 1975 to 2007 he was professor of the history of religion at the University of Oslo, and is currently professor emeritus. In 1976 Dr. Kvaerne became an elected member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. From 1992 he served as chairman of the board of the Institute for Comparative Research in Human Culture, Oslo. He has published a number of books, mainly focused on Buddhism and the Bon religion of Tibet.