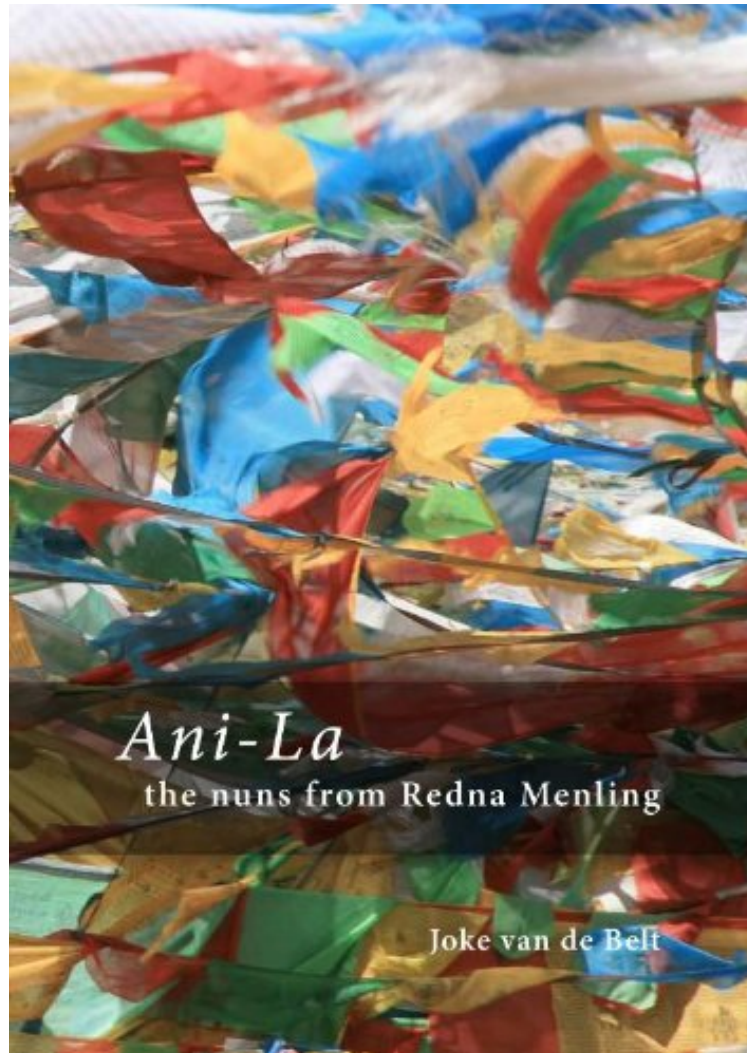


Ani-La: The Nuns from Redna Menling

J. Van de Belt

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J. Van de Belt : Ani-La: The Nuns from Redna Menling before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ani-La: The Nuns from Redna Menling:

'No, but we are different. Tonpa Sherab treated men and women in the same way, he passed on his teachings to both men and women and that is why we nuns are on equal footing with the monks, quite unlike the Buddhists.' The Bn religion is often seen as a part of Tibetan Buddhism but its bond is actually far more complex and has its own origin in the history of Tibet. The role of women worshipping in Bn and in Tibetan Buddhism is quite different. And although there are studies on Buddhist nuns, there is hardly any research available on nuns in the Bn tradition. This pioneering

study vividly portrays the nuns of the Redna Menling monastery in Dolanji (India), the headquarters of the Bn religion, in exile. It focuses on the developments of the Bn in exile, the specific context in which Bn nuns live and how the monastic tradition takes shape. It provides interesting insights into the monastic community in exile, the historic context of the Bn religion as well as the personal motives to become a nun. Joke van de Belt (1961) completed her Master's Degree in Religious Studies at the Radboud University Nijmegen (The Netherlands) in 2008. With her fieldwork among the nuns of the Redna Menling Monastery, she strikes new paths in researching the women of the Bn religion. Van de Belt is now preparing a dissertation on the same subject and is working as a psychotherapist.