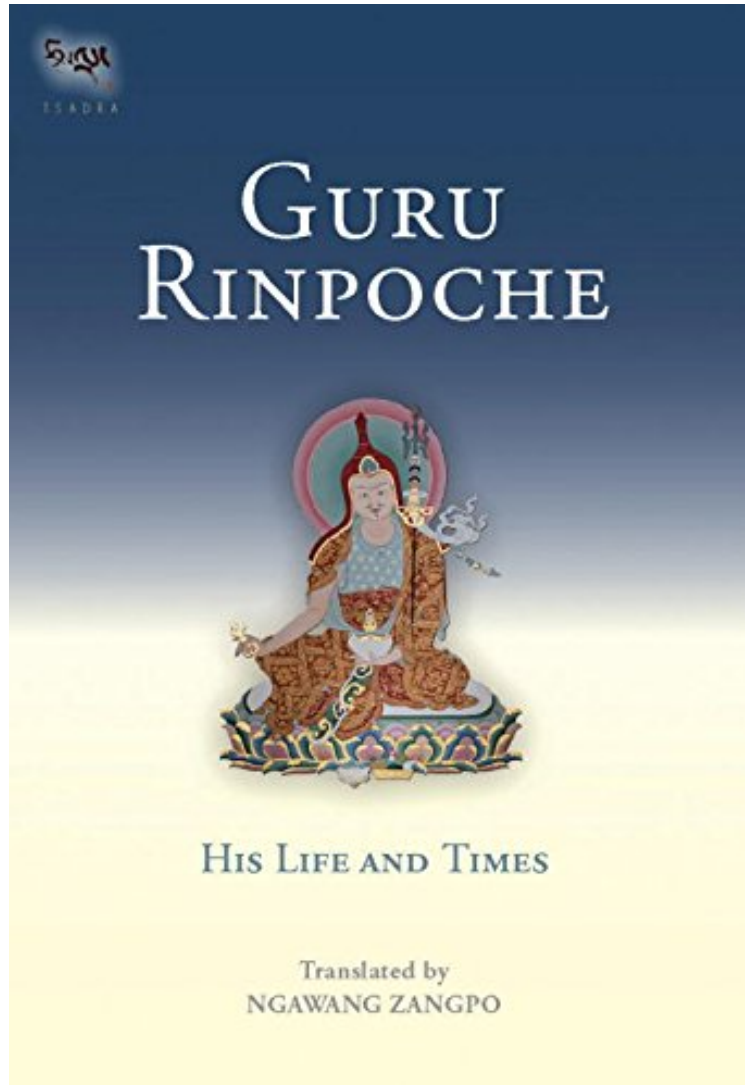


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Guru Rinpoche: His Life and Times (Tsadra)

Ngawang Zangpo

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Ngawang Zangpo : Guru Rinpoche: His Life and Times (Tsadra) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Guru Rinpoche: His Life and Times (Tsadra):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Many observers, many Gurus - An academic work about the lives of the Lotus Born Buddhist from South Because there is already a quite good review explaining in detail the structure and content of the book, I'd just like to add that these nam thars (Complete Liberation) are not an amusing reading. They are more like teachings in the form of fairy tales, not to be taken literally, although there are common elements in the different life stories of Guru Rinpoche. In these particular Nam Thars there is a mix of historical accounts with elements out our common frame of time and space, so it could be difficult to us. I'm grateful with the

humble and devoted translator Ngawang Zangpo, for his work in this book, his introductory chapter was actually the most important, enjoyable and informative for me. Besides I was particularly interested on his discussion about translation issues; he shows the key points in a high standard translation. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A well written modern interpretation of the Life and practices of Padmasambhava. By CustomerWell written, though, for those of us who began our study of Vajrayana (Tibetan/Esoteric) Buddhism in the late 70's and early 80's there is not a lot of new material here but it still belongs in your library. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By William Lima The hardcover leaves blue paint on fingers.

To Tibetan Buddhists, Guru Rinpoche is a Buddha. This book recounts Guru Rinpoche's historic visit to Tibet and explains his continuing significance to Buddhists. In doing so, it illustrates how a country whose powerful armies overran the capital of China and installed a puppet emperor came to abandon its aggressive military campaigns: this transformation was due to Guru Rinpoche, who tamed and converted Tibet to Buddhism and thereby changed the course of Asian history. Four very different Tibetan accounts of his story are presented: one by Jamgon Kongtrul; one according to the pre-Buddhist Tibetan religion Bn, by Jamyang Kyentse Wongpo; one based on Indian and early Tibetan historical documents, by Taranata; and one by Dorje Tso. In addition, there are supplications by Guru Rinpoche and visualizations to accompany them by Jamgon Kongtrul. Guru Rinpoche is part of The Tsadra Foundation series published by Snow Lion Publications. The Tsadra Foundation takes its inspiration from the nineteenth-century nonsectarian Tibetan scholar and meditation master Jamgon Kongtrul Lodro Taye, and is named after his hermitage in eastern Tibet, Tsadra Rinchen Drak. The Foundation's programs reflect his values of excellence in both scholarship and contemplative practice, and a recognition of their mutual complementarity.

From Library Journal A selection of translations and commentary by Zangpo (the Tibetan name of Hugh Leslie Thompson), the translator of other key Buddhist texts, this book attempts to afford Westerners some glimpse of the importance of Guru Rinpoche to Tibetan Buddhist practitioners. Guru Rinpoche is revered by many as a Buddha and is credited with bringing from India the form of Buddhism that flourished and became Tibetan Buddhism as it is known today. The core of the book is a translation of four separate historical works dealing with the life of Guru Rinpoche. Zangpo outlines the historical context in which Guru Rinpoche's Buddhism was functioning and prepares the Western reader for the nature of the writings, which move freely between the concrete and the fantastic. The book also offers translations of supplications, a series of visualizations, and useful appendixes. Readers expecting a straightforward biography will be puzzled by the various texts, but the book will find an enthusiastic audience in those with some background and a demonstrated interest in Tibetan Buddhism. An important contribution to the understanding of a central figure, this volume is recommended primarily for academic libraries supporting the study of religion and Asian studies and for larger public libraries. Mark Woodhouse, Elmira Coll. Lib., NY Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. "The presence of Guru Rinpoche, a figure so important to Tibetan Buddhists he is called simply 'The Precious Master,' can be felt still in each of these liberating stories translated here. Read side-by-side, they reveal an even wider picture, deftly highlighted by Ngawang Zangpo's introduction of how history and culture interact with the inner spirituality that is beyond time and place." Sarah Harding, author of *Creation and Completion* "With a thought-provoking introduction and stimulating cultural, religious, and literary insights, . . . this new work will certainly be enjoyed by everyone interested in the vast spiritual legacy of the 'Second Buddha' in Tibet." Cyrus Stearns From the Publisher Soon after I encountered Tibetan Buddhism, I became convinced that my teacher Kalu Rinpoche', was Guru Rinpoche' incarnate. This did not represent a thoughtful conclusion on my part; it was an emotional response to what I perceived to be his character and impact on my life. Such impressions are entirely personal as others felt his presence more evocative of bodhisattvas such as Great Compassion or Tara, whose meditations he taught worldwide; or of the great yogis Milarepa or Tang-Tong Gyalpo, whose lives he emulated. There is no right or wrong in these perceptions; they inform and enliven our faith. My appreciation of my teacher as Guru Rinpoche', while an entirely personal and perhaps unreasonable conclusion, has stayed with me to the present day and explains much of this book. During periods of retreat, I searched for prayers to Guru Rinpoche' and found the text of Sup plications to Guru Rinpoche' in Seven Chapters, which quickly became a treasured companion, as have many diverse versions of Guru Rinpoche's life story. My discovery that Tibetan accounts of their first major Buddhist master are not free from contradictions has not dampened my enjoyment of them. If nothing else, my life with Tibetan lamas has proved to be a rich education in de-structuring and widening my imagination of enlightenment or enlightened beings, beginning with Guru Rinpoche'. I am pleased to have the opportunity to share with non-Tibetan readers these stories and supplications. To them I have added some information concerning the Buddhist view of history, and a few relevant details of India, China, and Tibet's life during that era. I have lived in India for five years and in Taiwan for three, and I am always immersed in the Tibetan world, which no longer has borders to restrict it. I deeply appreciate all three cultures and hope to show how they intersected in surprising ways before and during Guru Rinpoche's fateful visit to Tibet. Finally, I observe with immense happiness the coming of Guru Rinpoche' to new lands, particularly the wild West, my birthplace. Buddhism is still in its infancy outside Asia, yet it has already had a major impact on many people's lives. We cannot

measure Buddhism's development in new environments by its acquisition of land, bricks, and mortar, but by changes in our minds, lifestyle, and deathstyle. Such changes take time. Yet where once Guru Rinpoche' seemed an impossibly inscrutable foreigner, he is now coming into clear focus. I hope that this book will contribute to this process.