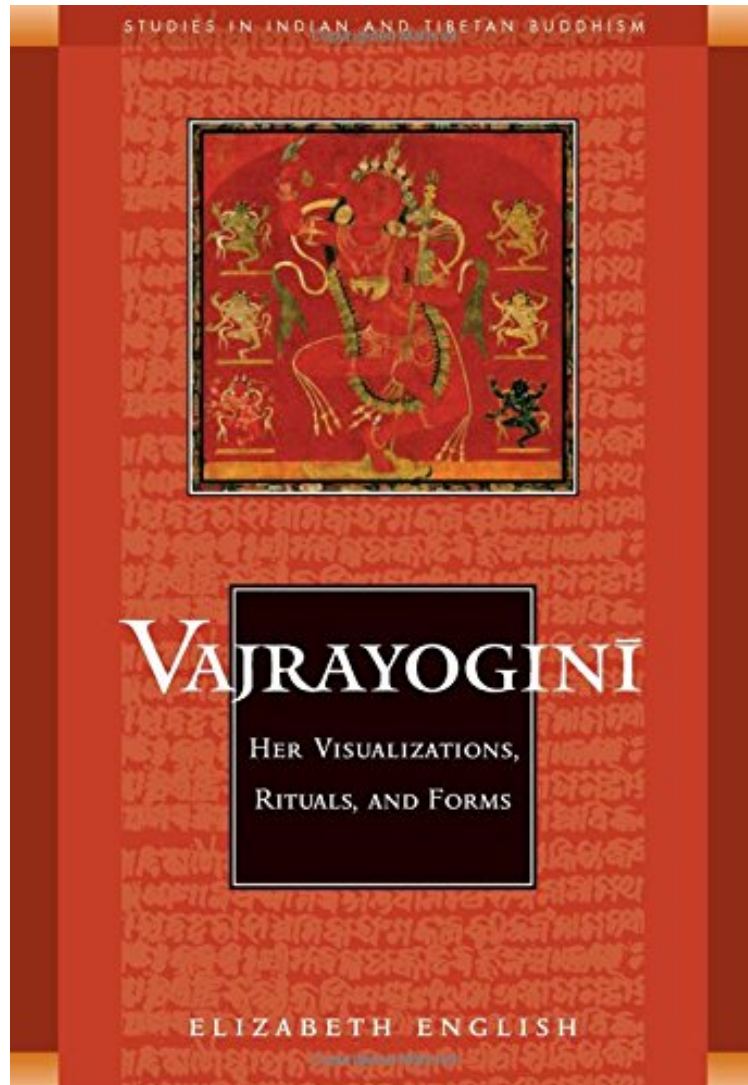


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## Vajrayogini: Her Visualization, Rituals, and Forms (Studies in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism)

*Elizabeth English*

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**Elizabeth English : Vajrayogini: Her Visualization, Rituals, and Forms (Studies in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Vajrayogini: Her Visualization, Rituals, and Forms (Studies in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism):

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Buddhist powermongers and fearmongers tell you; 'Bow down to the master, or achieve nothing'. They tell you that only by succumbing to an authoritarian fear-based lineage out of warring Tibet, can you hope to become enlightened. What utter nonsense! Lin Ji and Hakuin and Nan chuan would laugh uproariously at such presumption, at Tibetan powermongers putting the dharma up for sale, and scaring practitioners who would seek their enlightenment on their own, by peddling fear. You must find your own light, and be, as Shakyamuni Buddha himself proclaimed: "a light unto yourself". What most masters of this lineage teach nowadays is nothing valuable. There are no real masters in the USA for certain, and few in the Dharamsala "Enlightenment for Money" crowd, either. Consider the case of Trungpa, a drunk who appointed as his successor an HIV-positive predator who knowingly infected his own students with AIDS. Or Kalu Rinpoche, who subjected his translator June Campbell, a former Kagyu nun, to an abusive sexual relationship which he told her was tantric spiritual practice. Please embrace this book and enter it with all your Heart. And please ignore the fearmongers that tell you that you will require the services of "a qualified vajra master, i.e. lama" to guide you in a reading of these holy practices. There is only One Holy Practice, and one qualified Vajra Master or Mistress, and they reside in your Heart, and are always available for guidance and counsel. Read this book, live this practice, and trust to the guidance of the Vajra Mistress/Master within you open the Gates of your Heart. Follow your heart, and never fear, or feel compelled to seek the guidance of those who would seek to control you. 30 of 32 people found the following review helpful. Great Book! - A must have for Tantric Practice ! By Vajracharya I was initiated into Vajrayogini by Sakya Trizen. I recommend anyone that has been initiated into the "Yogini" systems -- Chakrasamvara, Vajrayogini, Hevajra, etc, obtain this book. It is better than any of the other Vajrayogini books that have been printed so far (not mentioning names) -- most of which just re-iterate the Tibetan monastic tradition. Because this book dissects and discusses the original Sanskrit texts -- It is essential reading to understand the background of the practices, the nuances of the ritual, and the overall scheme of Buddhist tantra. Whether you believe that Buddhism took over "Saivite rituals" as Ms. English and her Prof Sanderson at Oxford believe, the book goes well beyond the historical backdrop to discuss in detail the ritual "moments". Many well put together graphs and tables break down the deities, correspondences, and practice elements in a helpful and explicative way. She also discusses the elements of sexual yoga in a frank, honest and accurate way throughout the book, something which few Tibetan monastics dare to do. In short, this is not a book that can be missing from your shelf !

Vajrayogini is a tantric goddess from the highest class of Buddhist tantras who manifests the ultimate development of wisdom and compassion. Her practice is prevalent today among practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. This groundbreaking book delves into the origins of Vajrayogini, charting her evolution in India and examining her roots in the Cakrasamvara tantra and in Indian tradition relating to siva. The focus of this work is the Guhyasamayasadhanamala, a collection of forty-six sadhanas, or practice texts. Written on palm leaves in Sanskrit and preserved since the twelfth century, this diverse collection, composed by various authors, reveals a multitude of forms of the goddess, each of which is described and illustrated here. One of the sadhanas, the Vajravahni Sadhana by Umapatideva, depicts Vajrayogini at the center of a mandala of thirty-seven different goddesses, and is here presented in full translation alongside a Sanskrit edition. Elizabeth English provides extensive explanation and annotation of this representative text. Sixteen pages of stunning color plates not only enhance the study but bring the goddess to life.

About the Author Elizabeth English (Locana) received her MA and PhD in Classical Indian Religion from Oxford University and is a member of the Western Buddhist Order. She is the founder and director of Life at Work, a right-livelihood business that provides consultancy and training for supporting people, teams, and organizations through communication skills and conflict resolution.