



The Great Treatise On The Stages Of The Path To Enlightenment Vol 3: Volume Three

By Tsong-Kha-Pa

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The Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment (Lam rim chen mo) is one of the brightest jewels in the world's treasury of sacred literature. The author Tsong-kha-pa (1357–1419) completed this masterpiece in 1402 and it soon became one of the most renowned works of spiritual practice and philosophy in the world of Tibetan Buddhism. Tsong-kha-pa took great pains to base his incisive insights on the classical Indian Buddhist literature, illustrating his points with classical citations as well as with sayings of the masters of the earlier Kadampa tradition. In this way, the text demonstrates clearly how Tibetan Buddhism carefully preserved and developed the Indian Buddhist traditions. Volume One covers all practices that are prerequisite for developing the spirit of enlightenment (bodhicitta). Volume Two explains how to train in the six perfections in order to develop the heart of compassion indispensable for any student who wants to put the Dharma into practice. Volume Three contains a presentation of the two most important topics to be found in the Great Treatise: meditative serenity (shamatha) and supramundane insight into the nature of reality (vipasyana).

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Volume 3 of this central work of Mahayana Buddhism by Tibetan Master Tsong-kha-pa covers, in great detail, the topics of meditative serenity and insight into the nature of reality. It is appearing in translation before Volume 2 because the translation committee believed that currently there is a strong interest in these topics. The release of Volume 2 next fall will conclude the translation (Volume 1 was reviewed in LJ 10/15/00) and mark the first complete appearance in English of this important text. The appearance of Volume 3 is indeed timely, but only the most serious students of Buddhism will have the patience for its complexities. Still, the style of logical argument will be familiar to readers of Western philosophy, and readers with some experience of meditation will welcome the great attention given to the explication of pitfalls, nuance, and misunderstanding that attend serious Buddhist practice. Ultimately, this is a classic of religious thought and is essential for libraries with a demonstrated interest in Buddhism or comparative religion. It should also be considered for all larger research collections and public libraries.

Mark Woodhouse, Elmira Coll., NY

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Review

"Of the many works of the Tibetan master Tsong-kha-pa, none compare in terms of popularity and breadth of influence with his Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment (Lamrim Chenmo), which has been treasured by practitioners and scholars alike for centuries. What distinguishes it as one of the principal texts of Mahayana Buddhism is its scope and clarity. It expounds the entire path from the way one should rely on a spiritual teacher, which is the very root, right up to the attainment of Buddhahood, which is the final fruit. The various stages of the path are presented so clearly and systematically that they can be easily understood and are inspiring to put into practice."—H.H. the Dalai Lama

"Ultimately, this is a classic of religious thought and is essential for libraries with a demonstrated interest in Buddhism or comparative religion. It should also be considered for all larger research collections and public libraries."—*Library Journal*

"One of the greatest religious or secular works in the library of our human heritage."—Robert A. F. Thurman

"A must-read for anyone seeking to better understand the principles of Buddhism as well as an effective manual for spiritual self-improvement."—*Bookwatch Review*

"The present translation in three volumes is a remarkable accomplishment and a great gift to all students and practitioners of Vajrayana. The teachings, given open-handedly in this key text, are essential for anyone hoping to enter into or attain success in the higher (Tantric) stages of the path. The wisdom found in the nearly 1200 pages of this work is truly astonishing and liberating. As Robert Thurman mentions in his Foreword, Je Tsongkhapa's treatise can cause a 'paradigm shift' in the reader from a self-centered individual concerned with his own happiness to a bodhisattva for whom the happiness of others has become an ultimate concern. May it be so!"—Georg Feuerstein, author of *The Encyclopedia of Yoga and Tantra*

"As timely and radiant as ever . . . an indispensable work for Buddhists of all stripes."—*Tricycle: The Buddhist Review*

From the Inside Flap

The Great Treatise on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment (Llam rim chen mo) is one of the brightest jewels in the world's treasury of sacred literature. The author, Tsong-kha-pa (1357-1419), completed this masterpiece in 1402 and it soon became one of the most renowned works of spiritual practice and philosophy in the world of Tibetan Buddhism. Tsong-kha-pa took great pains to base his incisive insights on the classical Indian Buddhist literature, illustrating his points with classical citations as well as with sayings of the masters of the earlier Kadampa tradition. In this way the text demonstrates clearly how Tibetan Buddhism carefully preserved and developed the Indian Buddhist traditions. Tsong-kha-pa's text has continued to be essential for any student of Buddhist thought who wants to put the teachings into practice. Because it condenses all the exoteric sutra scriptures into a meditation manual that is easy to understand, scholars and practitioners have for centuries relied on its authoritative presentation as a gateway leading to full understanding of the Buddha's teachings.

Users Review

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