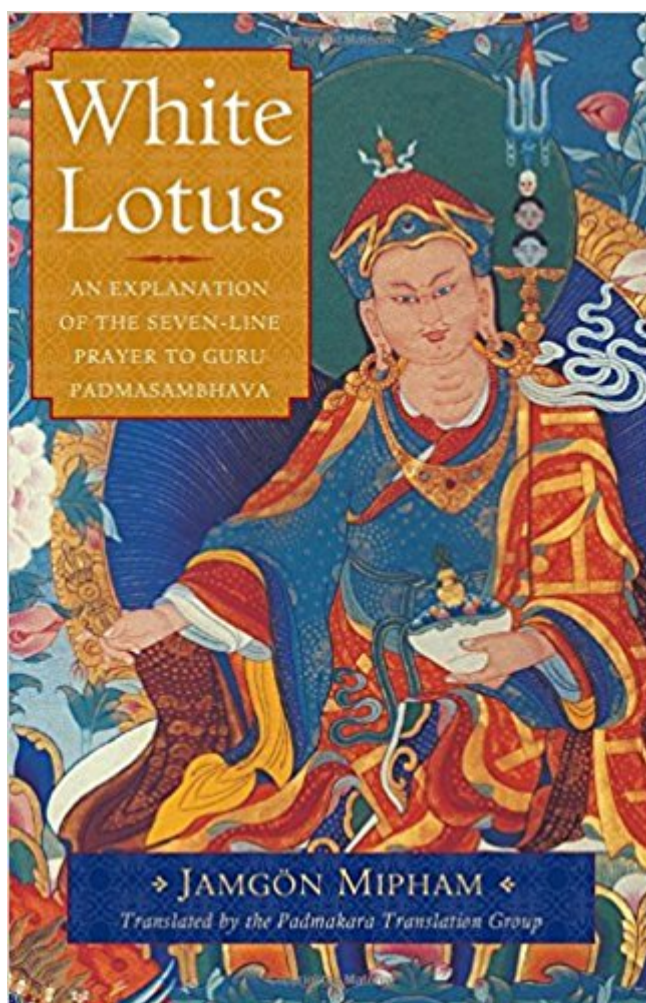


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White Lotus: An Explanation Of The Seven-Line Prayer To Guru Padmasambhava



Synopsis

The commentary translated in these pages is unusual and rare. But if the commentary is a rarity, its subject matter—the seven-line invocation of Padmasambhava—is one of the best-known prayers in the Tibetan Buddhist world. The overall significance of the Seven-Line Prayer is perhaps best appreciated in relation to a practice called guru-yoga, or "union with the nature of the guru." The purpose of guru-yoga is to purify and deepen the student's relationship with his or her teacher. It is introduced as one of the preliminary practices, and it remains crucial—in fact, its importance increases—as one progresses through the more advanced levels of the tantric path. The cultivation of devotion to the guru and the blending of one's mind with his or her enlightened mind is, in the words of Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche, "the most vital and necessary of all practices and is in itself the surest and fastest way to reach the goal of enlightenment." Regarding the origin of this commentary, Mipham refers in the colophon to an event that triggered the abrupt appearance in his mind of the hidden meaning of the prayer. It is interesting to note that the language Mipham uses suggests that the commentary itself is not an ordinary composition but perhaps a treasure teaching, specifically a "mind-treasure" or gongter.

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Customer Reviews

“Enshrining the most sacred prayer to Guru Padmasambhava, the Vajra Seven-Line Prayer, White Lotus elucidates its five layers of meaning as revealed by the eminent scholar Mipham the Great. This commentary now makes this treasure, which has been kept secret among the great

masters of Tibet for generations, available as a source of blessings and learning for all. •Tulku Thondup, author of Peaceful Death, Joyful Rebirth "The Seven-Line Prayer is the most majestic of all prayers to Guru Padmasambhava •the buddha for our time. It has been cherished over the centuries as the most powerful way to invoke his blessings. How wonderful that we have this commentary, one of Mipham Rinpoche's most inspiring works, to elucidate these sacred verses and reveal their profound meaning." •Sogyal Rinpoche, author of The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying "Jamgön Mipham Rinpoche's Pema Karpo is a beautiful and essential text describing the outer, inner, and secret ways that the wisdom in Vajrayana manifests as Padmasambhava. This new translation will be of great benefit to those traveling on the path of tantra." •The Sakyong, Jamgön Mipham Rinpoche, author of Turning the Mind into an Ally and Ruling Your World

Jamgön Mipham (1846–1912), one of the great luminaries of Tibetan Buddhism in modern times, has had a dominant and vitalizing influence on the Nyingma School and beyond. He was an important member of the Rimé, or nonsectarian movement, which did much to strengthen and preserve the entire tradition. A scholar of outstanding brilliance and versatility, his translated works are eagerly anticipated by English-language readers.

This may appear to be a simple explanation of the common Tibetan "Seven-Line Prayer", but it is in fact sublime and complete in its simplicity. It is one of those handful of books I'd want to keep on me if I had to leave home suddenly (say at the start of a 100,000 mile migration or pilgrimage...). And like the other books in this select group (Enlightened Courage: An Explanation of the Seven-Point Mind Training, Longchenpa's Advice from the Heart, Spaciousness: The Radical Dzogchen of the Vajra-Heart: Longchenpa's Treasury of the Dharmadhatu, Maya Yoga: Longchenpa's Finding Comfort and Ease in Enchantment, Vajra Speech: A Commentary on The Quintessence of Spiritual Practice, The Direct Instructions of the Great Compassionate One, Tao Te Ching: Text Only Edition) it is fortunately a slim one. Among the quality books the Padmakara Translation Group have produced this is my favorite, a work of art - both in the wording and the presentation. My only complaint is that while the prayer is printed in Tibetan with a translation in English it is not presented with a transliteration of the Tibetan which is probably the form most English readers would chant in practice. But this is a small quibble since most readers will have access to this transliteration from other sources in material specific to their practice. For those who don't, here is a version (by translator Richard Barron): Hung or gyan yul gyi nub jang tsampad ma ge sar dhong po laya tsan

chhog gi ngo drub nyeypad ma jung nay zhey su dragkhor du kha dro mang po korkhyed kyi jey su dag drub kiyijin gyiy lab khyir sheg su solguru pad ma siddhi hung

Mipham's inspired 19th century text guides us through the various layers of meaning of this short prayer - from outer to inner to hidden. He does this with an abundance of quotes from the sacred texts of the Nyingma tradition interspersed with his own brief commentary. And reading this is like taking a magical journey or following a vivid dream to the moment of lucidity, as he takes us layer by layer from the literal to the most sublime. It is by no means merely a preliminary practice commentary - more like a Cliffsnotes on the essence of the enlightened experience (as the prayer itself embodies the non-intellectual core of the Dzogchen lineage transmission). And the last 28 or so pages (more than a third of the main text) is given over to explaining the Dzogchen way of viewing and practicing this prayer. As Namakhi Norbu has made abundantly clear in his writings, Guru Yoga is THE most direct way for realization - seeing the mind of oneself, one's guru and the Dharmakaya as one (see "Longchenpa's Advice from the Heart"), so really this is the only "practice" we need to rely upon. I first read this when it came out years ago but was inspired to come back again to compare it to a new 7 line prayer commentary by Thinley Norbu (Btw, I like this "White Lotus" so much more!). The beauty of Mipham's short text is that it just keeps getting better and better, and leaves us with a strong encouragement to 'just do it.' And keep it simple...

If you are either practicing advanced Tibetan Buddhism, or if you are just a beginner who has a sincere desire to understand what this tradition is about, this small book is excellent. The teachings are very subtle, perhaps not really written for beginners, but you have to start somewhere. If you are more advanced in this tradition, you will love this book for the powerful confirmation and support it offers. The Seven Line Supplication is one of the most fundamental texts of the Nyingma School, and Lama Mipham is extremely learned and spiritually brilliant, so you can't really go wrong studying this marvelous short book.

I've read a lot of texts over the years. This one is among the most remarkable. The 1st Mipam Rnpoché takes as his theme an explanation of the famous Seven Line Prayer to Padmasmbhava, and does so beginning with the literal, plain meaning and then proceeds to elucidate it in terms of the 9 Yanas of the Nyingma/Dzogchen system, all the way up through Trekcho and Togyal in breathtakingly clear descriptive language. Finally Mipam's elucidation goes beyond the 9 Yanas, beyond Buddhism, beyond religion and philosophy to the experience itself. To really comprehend what is being said, one should read this short text aloud many times. The cover of the book is a

detail from a thangka painted by the extraordinary polymathic Dzogchen master Gonpo Tseten Rinpoche, which he gave to Thinley Norbu Rinpoche. A photo of the entire painting and a biography of Gonpo Tseten Rinpoche can be found on the Rigpa Wiki site.

This is an explanation of one of the most popular prayers/chant in Tibetan Buddhism. For those readers who are familiar with it or recite it, this is required reading. Otherwise, its a strange novelty to those just exploring Buddhism. Many people think that Buddhism is just about silent meditation. For beginners through intermediate students, it should be. Therefore, this is an advanced book for initiates to various Tibetan schools. I was inspired early on to explore this school, yet is not for everyone. Handle it with care.

This book is treasure for the serious/would-be serious Dharma practitioner. Amazing, such profound teachings have come to the West at this time. Unwittingly, such was the benefit China's Communists delivered to the world when they illegally stole and destroyed Tibet and replaced its population and culture.

Except for the Seven Line Prayer mysteriously absent in the Tibetan; excellent.

Greaet explanation

Absolutely love this book...could read it multiple times! It is simply a must have for any devotee of Guru Rinpoche.

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