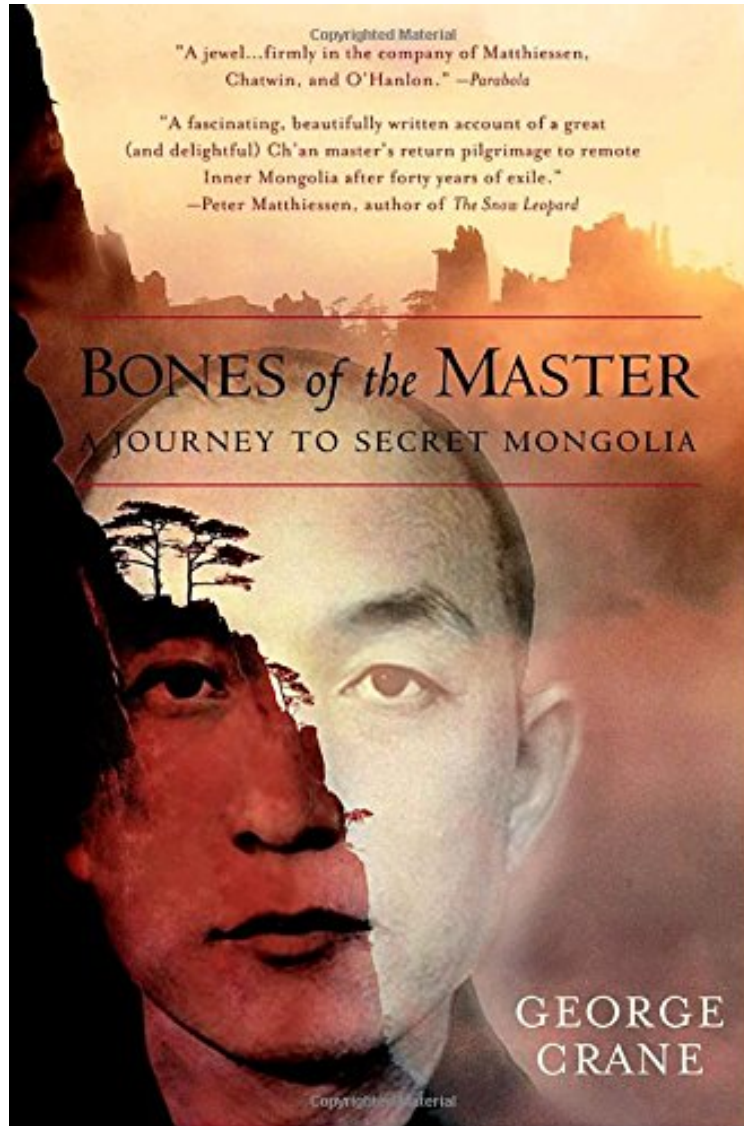


(Download ebook) Bones of the Master: A Journey to Secret Mongolia

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George Crane

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#257618 in Books Unknown 2001-05-29 2001-05-29Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.30 x .70 x 6.101, .84 #File Name: 0553379089324 pagesBones of the Master: A Journey to Secret Mongolia | File size: 78.Mb

George Crane : Bones of the Master: A Journey to Secret Mongolia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bones of the Master: A Journey to Secret Mongolia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I laughed, I cried, I offered incense, I bowed.By A CustomerThis book will have an honored place on my bookshelf next to Lama Govinda's 'The Way of the White Clouds', Lama David-Neel's 'Magic and Mystery in Tibet', John Blofeld's 'The Wheel of Life', and Peter Matthiessen's 'Nine Headed Dragon River'.It is a valuable record of the power and value of the Buddha Dharma for human life and endurance in this ocean-of-suffering world.But as much as I loved the book and felt it to be perfect as it is, I was left wishing for

more insight into the teachings of Tsung Tsai's teacher. I surely hope that the omission of details about actual teachings is an indication of another book yet to come to complete this Dharma record. The chapter on the wayward ex-student of Tsung Tsai's is quite unique, very powerful and disturbing. Such an archetypal encounter seems lifted straight out of a Tolkien fantasy, yet it actually happened, amazing. The seductive temptations of the tantric/kundalini power are so graphically depicted. As well as the perennial worldly rewards of wealth and status to those infatuated with the charismatic aspects of spiritual power, in contrast to the poverty and renunciation of the true bhikku and their ministrations of healing power. Finally, I pay homage to the monks of Puuh Jih, 108 bows! May their tree of Dharma grow strong and provide comfort and shade for many suffering in this world of samsara! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable Read By Debbie An enjoyable read for one who enjoys good writing, poetry, Buddhism, and learning about Mongolian/Chinese geography and culture. I, too, found that Tsung Tsai's broken English was an effective way of communicating Buddhist concepts. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Really an interesting book! By taichiguy No one will ever mistake George Crane for Hemingway, but he has a simple readable style that accurately describes situations and events in Reverend Tsung Tsai's journey from Woodstock, NY to Inner Mongolia. Lots of interesting history is elucidated regarding Mao's "Great Leap Forward" and the "Cultural Revolution." If you're interested in things oriental, you'll find this story intriguing.

In 1959 a young monk named Tsung Tsai (Ancestor Wisdom) escapes the Red Army troops that destroy his monastery, and flees alone three thousand miles across a China swept by chaos and famine. Knowing his fellow monks are dead, himself starving and hunted, he is sustained by his mission: to carry on the teachings of his Buddhist meditation master, who was too old to leave with his disciple. Nearly forty years later Tsung Tsai now an old master himself persuades his American neighbor, maverick poet George Crane, to travel with him back to his birthplace at the edge of the Gobi Desert. They are unlikely companions. Crane seeks freedom, adventure, sensation. Tsung Tsai is determined to find his master's grave and plant the seeds of a spiritual renewal in China. As their search culminates in a torturous climb to a remote mountain cave, it becomes clear that this seemingly quixotic quest may cost both men's lives.

.com In the steady hands of poet George Crane, previously unknown Zen master Tsung Tsai comes off as truly extraordinary. A "poet, philosopher, house builder, scientist, doctor, and when necessary, kung fu ass-kicker," Tsung Tsai would still be wandering about anonymously if it were not, Crane says, for the need of financing provided by an advance on this book. The last of the monks from his Chinese monastery, Tsung Tsai felt he had to return one last time to find and honor his master's bones and rekindle his tradition. Crane recounts their joint adventure, opening with Tsung Tsai's harrowing decades-earlier escape from newly communist China, walking from Inner Mongolia to Hong Kong through a war-torn, famine-struck, psychotic land, nearly starving along the way. Crane, a self-styled hedonist ne'er-do-well, who says that meditation makes him nauseous, sets the stage for an entrancing buddy story back to China with this highly disciplined but carefree Zen master. As their mutual affection grows, Crane absorbs Tsung Tsai's spare but demanding philosophy, which sustains them through the base poverty of northern China, a life-threatening 18-hour climb up and down a treacherous mountain, and a confrontation with a master of black magic. A page-turner and an eye-opener, *Bones of the Master* is worth every penny of that advance. --Brian Bruya From Publishers Weekly Though not as widely discussed as the Cultural Revolution, China's Great Leap Forward (1957-1963) also inspired an internal struggle among Chinese Communist Party leaders. As they argued about the pace and type of development best suited for China, famine settled upon the land, killing tens of thousands and affecting millions. In 1959, the monks of Puu Jih Monastery knew they had to leave in order "to keep Buddha's true mind alive." Tsung Tsai, the youngest, journeyed alone through the heart of China to Hong Kong, eventually settling in Woodstock, N.Y. The story unfolds in an engaging way as author Crane befriends his quirky new neighbor, Tsung Tsai. When Tsung Tsai proposes to return to China to find the bones of his master and build a shrine, Crane follows to record the event. Despite their abbreviated poetic nature, Crane's impressions of Chinese life are some of the richest and most vivid readers will encounter. His words float like silk prayer flags at a Buddhist temple, enticing readers to explore their own spirituality. This book is the best reflection on Ch'an Buddhism to appear in quite some time. Written on multiple levels, it will appeal to readers looking for a good story, armchair travelers who want to understand more about China and spiritual seekers with an interest in Buddhism. (Mar.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal In 1959, after the Red Army had decimated his monastery and killed his fellow monks, Tsung (Ancestor Wisdom) fled across China and eventually made his way to the United States. There he became a meditation teacher, doctor of traditional Chinese medicine, martial artist, poet, and calligrapher. Forty years after his emigration, Tsung convinced his neighbor Crane, a poet and former journalist, to return with him to his old home near the Gobi Desert, where Tsung hoped to plant and nurture the seeds of spirituality. Although reluctant to leave his wife and daughter, Crane joined Tsung in his quest, which led them to an isolated mountain cave where they encountered unexpected physical danger and realized that faith isn't for the faint-hearted. This story of faith, friendship, and determination is fascinating, but, unfortunately, it is told in a passionless voice that can leave

readers uninvolved. Only for large academic libraries with Asian or Buddhist studies collections.-Pam Kingsbury,
Florence, AL Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.