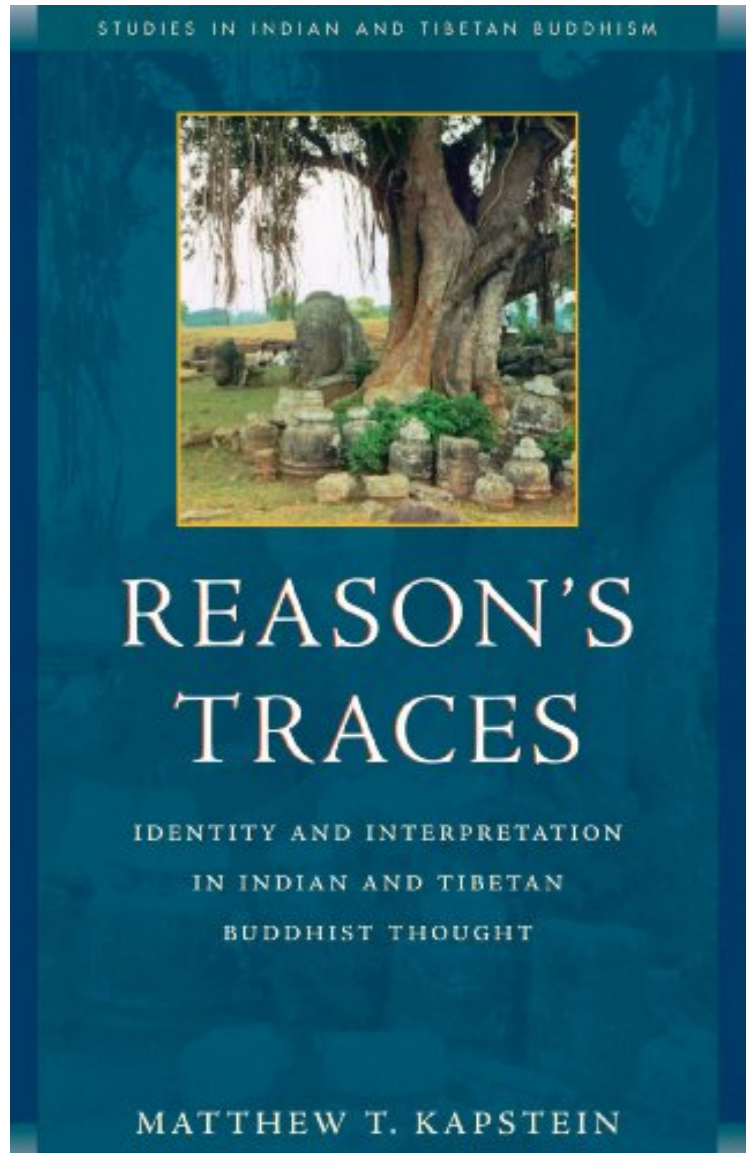


(Free) Reason's Traces: Identity and Interpretation in Indian and Tibetan Buddhist Thought

# Reason's Traces: Identity and Interpretation in Indian and Tibetan Buddhist Thought

Matthew Kapstein

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**Matthew Kapstein : Reason's Traces: Identity and Interpretation in Indian and Tibetan Buddhist Thought** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reason's Traces: Identity and Interpretation in Indian and Tibetan Buddhist Thought:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. useful volume By Gregory A. Hillis Matt Kapstein is perhaps the

world's most accomplished and diverse scholar of Tibetan history, culture and religion. In this book of essays, he examines the intersection between various strands of Indian Buddhist philosophy and their cognates in Tibetan Buddhism. In so doing, he provides a fascinating glimpse into the underlying philosophical questions that were hotly debated during the the period of transition from India to Tibet, as well as into the ways in which the terms of the discourse necessarily shifted as a result of significantly different historical, cultural, geographical, and linguistic influences. Kapstein writes with precision and clarity, which is not to say that all of this material is easy to penetrate. Still, as with virtually all of his books, this volume will be enormously useful for students and scholars of Indian and Tibetan Buddhism.

Reason's Traces addresses some of the key questions in the study of Indian and Buddhist thought: the analysis of personal identity and of ultimate reality, the interpretation of Tantric texts and traditions, and Tibetan approaches to the interpretation of Indian sources. Drawing on a wide range of scholarship, Reason's Traces reflects current work in philosophical analysis and hermeneutics, inviting readers to explore in a Buddhist context the relationship between philosophy and traditions of spiritual exercise.

"Only Matthew Kapstein could present such a collection of essays. He brings to his exploration of Buddhist philosophy and hermeneutics an unmatched range of scholarly skills. He is an insightful and acutely analytic philosopher with a sure command of the Western philosophical canon and method; he has an encyclopedic knowledge of the Indian and Tibetan philosophical literature; his Sanskrit and Tibetan philology is superb; he is a lucid translator; he is completely at home in the living tradition of Tibetan Buddhism and has close working relationships with many eminent Tibetan scholars and access to a wealth of oral textual material and rarely-studied texts. He has also thought deeply about the enterprise of Buddhist Studies and cross-cultural scholarship. Kapstein brings his unique set of abilities to bear in this set of linked essays that together explore with great precision, insight and masterful scholarship a range of important issues in Indian and Tibetan philosophy, drawing on Western philosophical ideas, texts and techniques where appropriate, and shedding light not only on these philosophical traditions and the problems they address, but also on the study of Buddhist philosophy itself, and the place of this project philosophy as a whole." (Jay L Garfield, Professor of Philosophy, Smith College, Director, Five Colleges Tibetan Studies in India Program)"Matthew Kapstein's Reason's Traces is a collection of essays which centers around the themes of personal identity and the work of philosophical interpretation. Each of the essays manages to balance weighty and often dense subject matter with lucid and enjoyable elaboration; they are uniformly excellent... One could easily conclude that the book is a (much-appreciated and long-overdue) attempt to situate different philosophies (Buddhist and 'Western') in conversation with each other. Kapstein identifies the need to explore the development and multiple paths of a reason that, while not Western, nevertheless shares with Western philosophy many central concerns, and follows similar forms of reasoning. These similarities are as important as the differences... Reason's Traces is an excellent book: lucid, well written, and enjoyable to read." (Chicago South Asia Newsletter)"The range of essays in this collection is extraordinary. There is something for everyone, from translations of important Buddhist philosophical texts to learned speculation on Tantric rituals. Matthew Kapstein has that rare gift of being able to make even the most arcane philosophical arguments seem both easily understandable and startlingly relevant." (Phyllis Granoff, Professor of Religious Studies at McMaster University and editor of the Journal of Indian Philosophy)About the AuthorMatthew Kapstein is Numata Professor of Buddhist Studies at the University of Chicago. His previous publications include the Tibetan Assimilation of Buddhism: Conversion, Contestation, and Memory and, with the anthropologist Melvyn C. Goldstein, Buddhism in Contemporary Tibet: Religious Revival and Cultural Identity. He is co-translator of the late H.H. Dujom Rinpoche's The Nyingma School of Tibetan Buddhism. Since 2002 he has also served as director of Tibetan Studies at the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris.