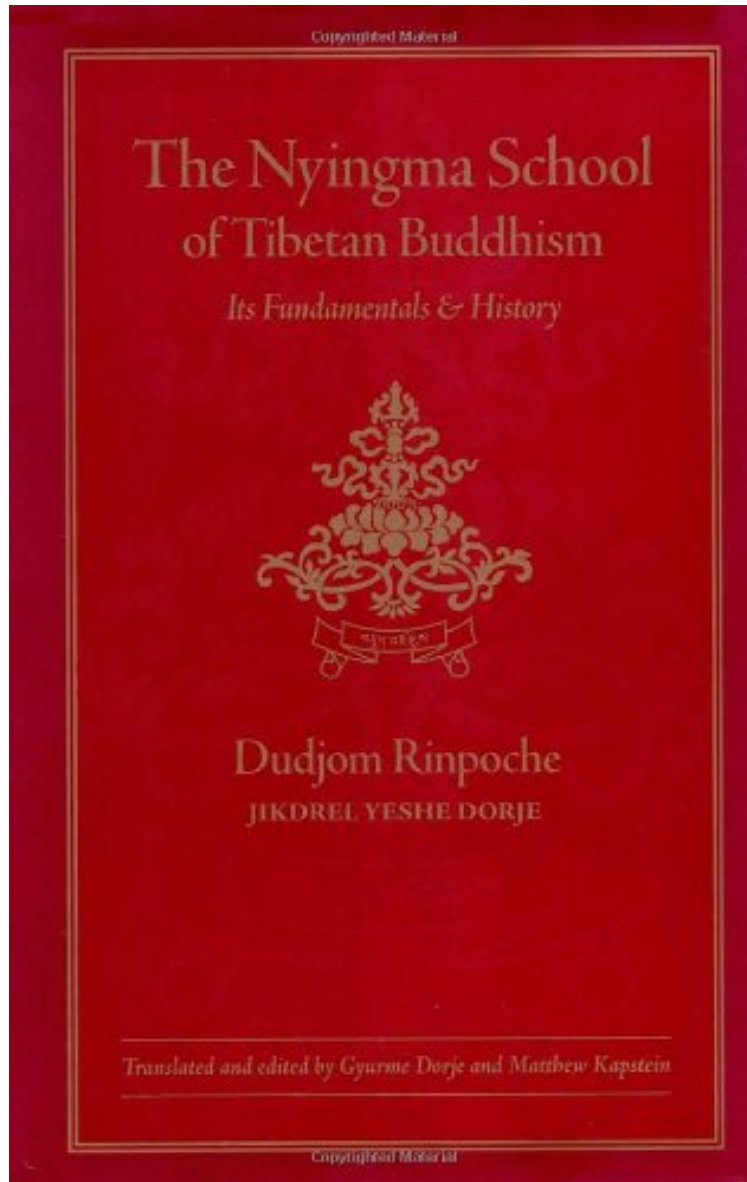


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The Nyingma School of Tibetan Buddhism: Its Fundamentals and History

Dudjom Rinpoche

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Dudjom Rinpoche : The Nyingma School of Tibetan Buddhism: Its Fundamentals and History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Nyingma School of Tibetan Buddhism: Its Fundamentals and History:

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Written by a great modern Nyingma master, Dudjom Rinpoche's *The Nyingma School of Tibetan Buddhism* covers in detail and depth both the fundamental teachings and the history of Tibetan Buddhism's oldest school. This, the first English translation of His Holiness' masterwork, constitutes the most complete work of its type in the West. An absolute treasure for students of the tradition, it is also an indispensable reference for anyone with an interest in Buddhism. The book includes chronologies and glossaries that elucidate Buddhist doctrine, and it provides fascinating insights into the Buddhist history of Tibet. Two treatises form the present volume, namely the *Fundamentals of the Nyingma School* and the *History of the Nyingma School*. Among the most widely read of all His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche's works, these treatises were composed during the years immediately following his arrival in India as a refugee. His intention in writing them was to preserve the precise structure of the Nyingma philosophical view within its own historical and cultural context. This is the first time this text has been available in a trade edition. Beautifully presented, this single-volume edition represents a truly wonderful gift, and features illustrations in black and white and in color, plus maps, bibliographic information, and useful annotations.

"For its breadth of vision and attention to detail, *The Nyingma School of Tibetan Buddhism* has become a standard and classic in its field. The translators and editors of these volumes studied and consulted with the author, Dudjom Rinpoche, before presenting the public this readable, systematic introduction to the whole of Buddhism from the viewpoint of contemporary Nyingma scholarship. Due to the scope of this work, [it includes] supplementary reference material (including visual images) to aid the reader. Several specialized bibliographies, a phonetic Tibetan-to-English index, a comprehensive table of contents, and a thoughtful introduction add to the efficiency of this exceptional work." (Tricycle)"A landmark in the history of English-language studies of Tibetan Buddhism." (History of Religions)"H. H. Dudjom Rinpoche (1904-1987), the supreme head of the Nyingma Order, was unquestionably one of the most extraordinary Tibetan Buddhist masters of the twentieth century. Highly realized, he also was a greatly accomplished scholar, whose numerous writings contributed substantially to the preservation of the Nyingma heritage. This foundational work comprises two 'volumes'--the texts and the reference materials. Volume One includes two treatises, here called 'books,' with the first book (pp. 3-382) covering the fundamental teachings of the Nyingma Order and the second book (pp. 383-973) representing the most comprehensive history available for this oldest branch of Tibetan Buddhism. Volume Two, consisting of the reference materials, makes up the rest of this enormous compilation, which includes numerous photographs, line drawings, and maps--an outstanding achievement for the author, the translators, and the editorial team of Wisdom Publications. In his first treatise, Dudjom Rinpoche explains the key concepts of nirvana and samsara along with the source literature relating to them, the important notion of Buddha bodies, the three vehicles, Buddha Families, the two truths according to Madhyamaka and the source literature relating to the 'causal' vehicles, the Secret Mantra Vehicle (Vajrayana) and its various levels and most important source texts. The second treatise has a historical orientation but necessarily also includes matters of philosophical and practical interest. Dudjom Rinpoche begins his treatment with the original teachings of the Buddha and the patriarchs of the early Buddhist Sangha. He next focuses on the rise of Vajrayana and its lineages of Mahayoga, Anuyoga, and Atiyoga. He describes the development of the many-branched Nyingma Order in incredible detail, paying attention to all its lineages and providing valuable biographies of their many masters from Padmasambhava to Mipham. A whole section is dedicated to rectifying classic misconceptions about the Nyingma tradition, and another section provides a concise chronology extending from the Buddha's life (who is assumed to have been born in 962 B.C.) to 1987 A.D. Gyurme Dorje, the principal translator, has rendered a helpful yeoman's service, especially for lay readers, by furnishing this tome with a systematic introduction that expertly maps out the contents of the doctrinal discussions found in the first treatise." (Georg Feuerstein, *Traditional Yoga Studies Interactive*)Language NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: TibetanAbout the AuthorDudjom Rinpoche (1904-87) was appointed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama as

the supreme head of the Nyingma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism. He was an enlightened yogi and meditation master, a discoverer of concealed treasure teachings (a terdon) who was inseparable from Guru Rinpoche [Padmasambhava], the most prolific of contemporary Tibetan scholars, and an incarnate lama who had intentionally emanated for the sake of sentient beings for seventeen successive lives. Gyurme Dorje holds a PhD in Tibetan Literature and an MA in Sanskrit with Oriental Studies. From 1991 to 1996 he held research fellowships at London University, where he worked on the Encyclopaedic Tibetan-English Dictionary. He has written, edited, translated and contributed to numerous books on Tibetan culture. Matthew 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.