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The Buddhist Tantras: Light on Indo-Tibetan Esotericism

By Alex Wayman

Motilal Banarsidass Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, India, 2014. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. Fifth Reprint. The author here reprints a number of his published Tantra essays, and writes some others to fill out this work. It has much material not readily available elsewhere in Western language sources. It concludes with a correlation of the two Tantra collections of Tibetan Buddhist canon, which are the revealed Tantra in the Kanjur, and exegetical works in the Tanjur. The work is leavened with illustrations and drawings. This book has been divided into four sections. Part One is an Introduction which places the position of the Buddhist Tantras within Mahayana Buddhism and recalls their early literary history, especially the Guhyasamajatantra; the section also covers Buddhist Genesis and the Tantric tradition as well as the analogical thinking in the Buddhist Tantras. Part Two: the author discusses the foundations of the Buddhist Tantras—he considers the Tantric presentation of divinity; the preparation of disciples and the meaning of initiation; some Tantric materials; symbolism of the mandala-palace; Tantric ritual and the symbolism of its attainments; twilight language and a Tantric song. Part Three: This section is devoted to Special Studies which are very rarely...



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