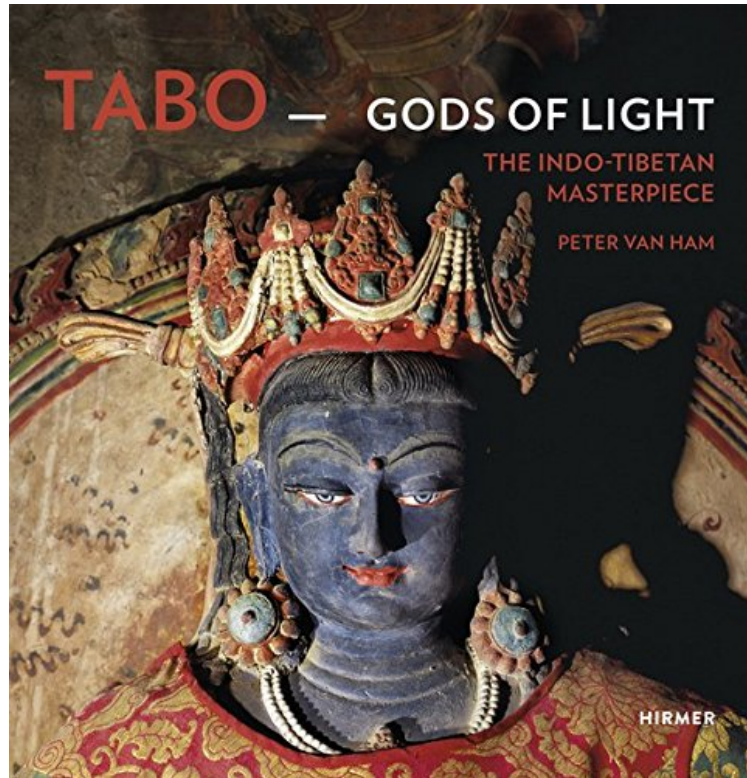


## Tabo - Gods of Light: The Indo-Tibetan Masterpiece

*Peter van Ham*

*ebooks | Download PDF | \*ePub | DOC | audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1045836 in Books 2015-02-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 11.00 x 1.10 x 11.00l, 4.90 #File Name: 3777423262308 pages | File size: 38.Mb

**Peter van Ham : Tabo - Gods of Light: The Indo-Tibetan Masterpiece** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tabo - Gods of Light: The Indo-Tibetan Masterpiece:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the best most interesting work i have seen for a long ...By susanmeyerthe best most interesting work i have seen for a long time. i am using the colors in a new house and it looks fabulous.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. the bestBy CahcapSo beautiful and inspiring. Unique, distinctive amongst other books of this sort, and top rate quality throughout4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely essential for anyone who loves artBy Robert C RossIt is very unusual to see a book reviewed by the author on , but for this extraordinary book, bravo to Peter van Ham. He has devoted a great portion of his life to this incredible place, and the book is a valiant effort to communicate to all of us the wonders within. Read his Review; buy the book; rejoice!Sudhana's path to understanding appears as the final part of Sanskrit Ga"a-vyha; see The Flower Ornament Scripture: A Translation of the Avatamsaka Sutra or Manifestation of the Tathagata: Buddahood According to the Avatamsaka Sutra.Scholars debate what the title means: vyha is something like an arrangement, a map of the universe; ga"a means,among other things, a rhinoceros, a mark or spot, a stalk, or a bubble. Perhaps "the cosmos seen as a bubble"?All of Sudhana's story appears in a sequence of painted murals in the Du-khang or Assembly Hall within the main shrine in the monastery of Tabo, in the Spiti Valley in northern India close to China. The Tabo paintings were completed in the mid-eleventh century, and have been well studied over the past 50 years or so.Peter van Ham,

an authority on early Indo-Tibetan art, has produced this wonderful photographic record of the Tabo masterpiece; see the first Comment for links to some of the images on the Internet. This collection on paper, however, brings out many details that one cannot appreciate in pixel form, at least to my taste. David Shulman in the "New York Review of Books" describes the paintings: "The painted panels in Tabo vary greatly in the elegance of their designs and in their execution; some of the figures are almost primitive, others--particularly the Bodhisattva panels--of a breathtaking complexity and finesse. All of them, however, seem to reveal to our eyes not merely the concrete phenomena (persons, deities, trees, animals) that we can identify by name but something of that empty spaciousness that has generated them. Especially powerful in this respect is the palette of colors the artists have used: the strangely muted yet radiant reds and ochres, the blues or pale black that often serve as background, filling the interstices of the panels and shading off into a shimmering golden green when yellow is mixed in. There is also a lively, granular, sometimes eerie white or beige infiltrating the inner surfaces of the figures and the burgeoning landscapes through which they move. It is also important to see the major panels, such as what is left of the large-scale depiction of Sudhana's entry into Maitreya's tower, as artistic wholes, teeming with the living creatures that inhabit these visionary inscapes." (Another fine collection of images on paper can be found in *Tabo: A Lamp for the Kingdom*.) Find some of the images online; enjoy them; but rest assured seeing them on paper will amaze you. Robert C. Ross February 2015 revised March 2015

More than a thousand years old, the monastery complex of Tabo in the north-Indian region of the Himalayas is the oldest temple complex in the Tibetan cultural area to have been preserved in its original state. Its main temple, the Temple of the Enlightened Gods, is a unique expression of Tibetan culture and architecture, while its halls form a horizontal walkable mandala. In addition, the monastery holds a wealth of exquisitely preserved artworks, including sculptures and paintings. For this book, the Archaeological Survey of India allowed Peter van Ham unprecedented access to this otherwise forbidden place. The result is a stunning visual account of the outstanding beauty and history contained within the monastery. A concise text accompanies the images, bringing in the latest research on the sanctuary of Tabo, making this volume an absolute must-have for art historians, travelers, and anyone else who has been captivated by the history and culture of Tibet.

Peter van Ham, an authority on early Indo-Tibetan art, has now given us a splendid photographic record of the Tabo masterpieces undoubtedly the finest pictures we have from this site.