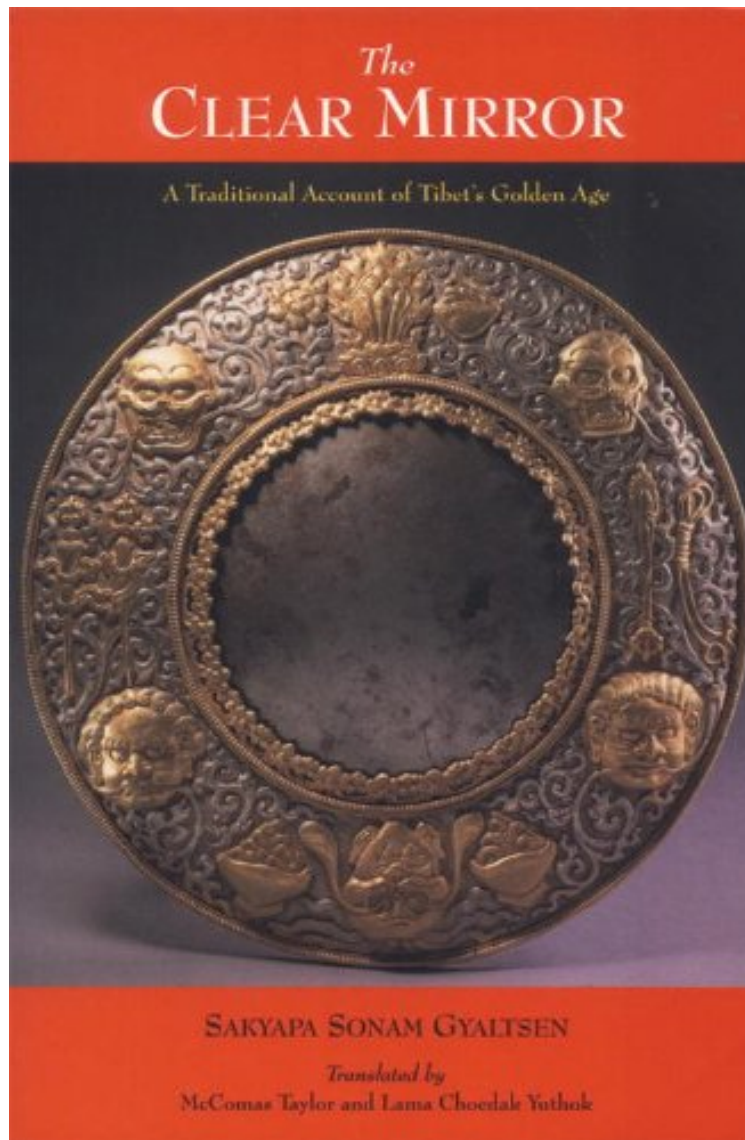


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The Clear Mirror: A Traditional Account Of Tibet's Golden Age

Sakyapa Sonam Gyaltzen

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Sakyapa Sonam Gyaltzen : The Clear Mirror: A Traditional Account Of Tibet's Golden Age before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Clear Mirror: A Traditional Account Of Tibet's Golden Age:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Poetical history By peter mcguire The Clear Mirror, a traditional account of Tibet's Golden Age, is a great story. The histories of kings and kingdoms are probably always accounts of human beings at their worst, with self seeking, skull duggery and outright criminality. But the Tibetan view of history

looks past this mean spiritedness and sees the soaring of the human spirit, in a broad sweep of poetic understanding which provides us with another dimension which gives great dignity to human beings. This mythic account of the creation of the universe according to the Tibetans, takes us through the introduction of Buddhism to Tibet, and the rise of the kings of Tibet. This is a political book of great significance, indicated by the opening verse from a 9th century Sino-Tibetan Treaty wishing Tibetans happiness in their own country, and the same to Chinese in their own country. It is a good historical sourcebook for the stories of the Chinese and Nepali princesses, and a strong affirmation of the vaidilty Tibet's rule over Tibet.

A rich blend of history, legend, poetry, adventure, and romance, *The Clear Mirror* is a treasure-trove of traditional Tibetan narrative and folk wisdom. It presents in full the often-cited but elusive accounts of the origins of the Tibetan people, the coming of the Dharma to Tibet, and the appearance of Avalokiteshvara as the patron deity of Tibet. The text treats the era during which Buddhism came to Tibet, Lhasa became the capital, and the Jokhang and Ramoche temples were founded. Written to inform and entertain, the book has a pre-eminent position in Tibetan society.

From Publishers Weekly Just as China is stepping up its repression of Tibet by, among other deeds, identifying its own candidate for Panchen Lama in defiance of the exiled Dalai Lama's choice, comes Gyaltzen's admirable collection of folk materials that record a people's memory of itself when it was master of those who now master it. The Golden Age of Tibet, like the golden ages of so many peoples, was a time of giants who conquered, created and established a nation. Taylor and Yuthok present this history, originally written in 1328, in an admirable new translation for English students of Tibetan Buddhism and culture. The task of translating Tibetan into English is difficult even for contemporary Tibetan texts; it is daunting for texts from the 14th century. This is an important text, beautifully rendered in readable English. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover A rich blend of history, legend, poetry, adventure and romance, *The Clear Mirror* is a treasure-trove of traditional Tibetan narrative and folk wisdom. It presents in full the often-cited but elusive accounts of the origins of the Tibetan people, the coming of the Dharma to Tibet, and the appearance of Avalokiteshvara as the patron deity of Tibet. The text treats the era during which Buddhism came to Tibet, Lhasa became the capital, and the Jokhang and Ramoche temples were founded. Written to inform and entertain, the book has a pre-eminent position in Tibetan society and is popular today. About the Author McComas Taylor's interest in Tibet was sparked by a chance meeting with Lama Choedak Yuthok, and he subsequently immersed himself in all things Tibetan. He lives in Canberra, Australia, in a house inspired by the fortress-monasteries of the Himalayas, amid a jumble of children, books and treasures garnered from the natural world. Lama Choedak Yuthok was born in a yak-hair tent in Central Tibet in 1954. After becoming a monk and studying for twelve years under the Most Venerable Chogay Trichen Rinpoche, he completed a three-year solitary retreat. Since 1982, he has served as interpreter for prominent teachers from all four traditions of Tibetan Buddhism.