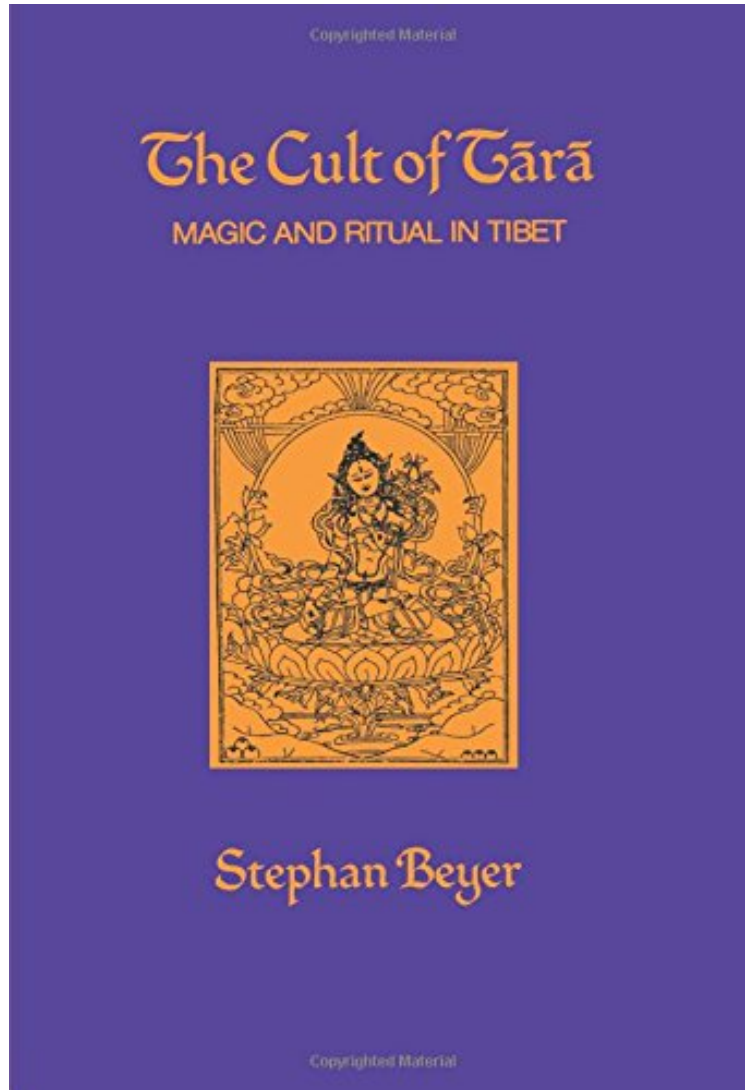


[Get free] The Cult of Tara: Magic and Ritual in Tibet

The Cult of Tara: Magic and Ritual in Tibet

Stephan Beyer

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#505930 in Books 1978-06-12 1978-06-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.82 x 1.44 x 6.06l, 1.68 #File Name: 0520036352542 pages | File size: 60.Mb

Stephan Beyer : The Cult of Tara: Magic and Ritual in Tibet before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cult of Tara: Magic and Ritual in Tibet:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Tara -- a Common Thread of Old Tibet +++By Kevin KierskyThe author of "The Cult of Tara", Stephan Beyer, has most cleverly and wisely chosen Tara as a way to unify study of magic and ritual in Tibet across the many Vajrayana, Bon and Shamanic branches of Tantric Yoga. This work is one of the most detailed presentations on circa-Tibetan Tantric practice. Stephan Beyer directly interacted with many actual living circa-Tibetans and thereby gained their trust and some good understanding of their Tantra. One can see

that Stephan Beyer put a greatly inspired well-learned effort into "The Cult of Tara". It is so well-learned that one would likely have a good foundation for the cultural anthropology of circa-Tibetan shamanic religion -- if one were to add study of "The Cult of Tara" to "Civilized Shamans" by Geoffrey Samuel. With all the apparent variety of shamanic religious tradition in circa-Tibet it is quite interesting that the very vast majority of circa-Tibetan Vajrayana, Bon and Shamanic folks have an inmost personal shrine to Tara -- the "Goddess" of Tibet. With the various levels of interpretation of the reality and meaning of an Entity such as Tara -- "Goddess" is only an approximate marker for Tara. A few like equivalents to Tara may be Isis of old Egypt, Sungoddess of Japan and Mary, Queen of Heaven. These three Ladies also having wide and deep meanings -- or maybe they are all of one She +++2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent! By Michael This book is outstanding in every possible way. It requires some dedication to read it, because it is not light reading. It requires a lot of thought, and a lot of focus. That's because the subject matter is very complex. The author did a great job of presentation of the material, and he kept it as simple and readable as anyone could have. Set aside a month in seclusion in the mountains to read this if you can. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. read books not screens By irene basile the book was a gift for a spiritual friend. she was delighted to receive it and read it thoughtfully, often commenting about certain passages to me.

"The real history of man is the history of religion." The truth of the famous dictum of Max Muller, the father of the History of Religions, is nowhere so obvious as in Tibet. Western students have observed that religion and magic pervade not only the forms of Tibetan art, politics, and society, but also every detail of ordinary human existence. And what is the all-pervading religion of Tibet? The Buddhism of that country has been described to us, of course, but that does not mean the question has been answered. The unique importance of Stephan Beyers work is that it presents the vital material ignored or slighted by others: the living ritual of Tibetan Buddhists. The reader is made a witness to cultic proceedings through which the author guides him carefully. He does not force one to accept easy explanations nor does he direct one's attention only to aspects that can be counted on to please. He leads one step by step, without omitting anything, through entire rituals, and interprets whenever necessary without being unduly obtrusive. Oftentimes, as in the case of the many hymns to the goddess Tara, the superb translations speak directly to the reader, and it is indeed as if the reader himself were present at the ritual.

A definitive contribution to the field by a brilliant young scholar. The magnitude of this work is awesome--a fine and scholarly piece of work which sheds much light on a dark subjects. --Virginia Quarterly The result of field-work... supplemented by vast researches into Tibetan and Sanskrit source material which is handled with impressive competence. It is impossible not to admire the immense amount of hard work and deep and critical thinking which has gone into this book, which is certainly major milestone in the subject. --Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African studies Opens a new door for the Western student of religion to the understanding of ritual in one of its most sophisticated and artistic forms... The author provides a precise and descriptive representation of the actual rituals. He gives very readable translation of the important parts of the ritual texts such as the visualizations of the contemplated deity, praises, prayers, offerings, and innovations along with a detailed account of what the participants actually do. These descriptions are much aided by simple and comprehensible sketches of the hand gestures to be performed as well as attractive drawings of the different deities involved...and photographs of the preparation of the rituals and ritual in progress. --Artibus Asiae From the Inside Flap An outstanding achievement Times Literary Supplement