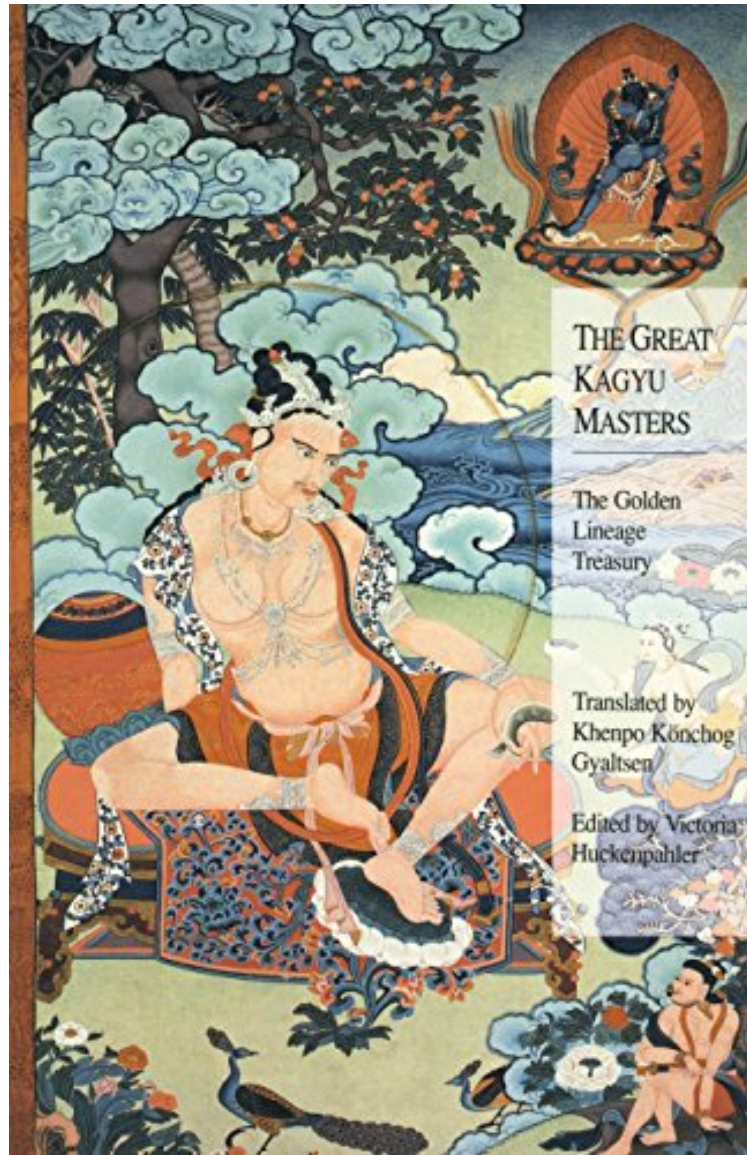


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The Great Kagyu Masters: The Golden Lineage Treasury

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From Brand: Snow Lion : The Great Kagyu Masters: The Golden Lineage Treasury before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Kagyu Masters: The Golden Lineage Treasury:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Lives of the Great Kagyu Masters - an esoteric 13th century text By Magalini Sabina The Venerable Khenchen Rinpoche Konchog Gyaltzen is a Tibetan monk that has gone through all the phases of expatriation followed by refugees fleeing Tibet after 1959 (see the magnificent description of this period of

Tibetan Diaspora in John Avedon's "In Exile from the Land of Snows"). He now lives according to [...] in the United States. Besides from being a teacher and a master of Buddhism he is a translator that strives to make important text available to the public and provide training in the Dharma. He has already translated other Tibetan texts, but he found that a translation of the 13th century text by Dorje Dze Od a disciple of the Kagyu lineage might be useful for the public and his students. Dorje Dze Od was himself a great master that practiced in Western Tibet, experienced in meditation practices and perceived by his disciples in miraculous ways. He wrote a compilation of the lives of the Kagyu Masters starting from Tilopa, Naropa, Marpa, Milarepa, Gampopa down to the more recent Phagmodrupa and Lord Jigten Sumgon describing their mutual relationships, their miracles, illuminations and adding significant and beautiful doha songs (a kind of praises and prayers). So we are talking about a translation of a 13th century text, like (if a comparison is consented) Dante's "Divine Comedy", or St. Francesco d'Assisi's "Laudato sii.." or Jacopone da Todi's *Laudae*. Naturally Italians, with experience of Latin and classical literature, are capable of understanding part of these beautiful and significant religious texts, but even our school editions have notes and explanations that consent to appreciate the full meaning of the texts, but when an English translation is necessary notes are indispensable. This is to say that once one decides to translate an ancient text, more so one with a religious and spiritual significance also in modern times and not only a narration of known and timeless tales (like for example the Iliad), this must be rendered comprehensible also to a non adept public. Notes, historical, geographical explanations are completely absent from this book. Only the dates of the life spans of the Great Masters are reported. This particular characteristic makes this translation an esoteric book which is somehow a little frustrating for the interested reader. However, since the web gives us many resources I found great help on [...] for a comprehension of the Kagyu tradition and on [...] for the current meaning of the Lineage. Remembering a "The life of Milarepa" I read many years ago, I took it down from the shelf and reread it. This translation I have (from the Rechungpa chronicle of his life - 12th Century) is by Jacques Bacot, and I don't believe it exists in English. Though not fraught with notes it is comprehensible and infinitely interesting to read and has the intent of explaining Mila's life to the occidental reader. The introduction expressly states "sometimes different words design a similar or same thing. We must remember the enormous distance that separates the intellectual world of Milarepa from that of the occidental reader today. Some misunderstanding might be present also regarding the facts. Our comprehension of the phenomena of Indian mystics will always be missing the will, and also the possibility of experiencing it, because it requires some conditions which are for us today unrealizable". Bacot wrote this in the 1920's. Maybe today it's truth is not so evident because many readers have an idea of Tibetan mystics and Buddhism is part of or New Age practical life philosophy. However, KK Gyaltzen's translation is sometimes really cryptic and this is a pity because the interest of the text does not come fully out. The book has a sturdy binding, a colourful cover and very nice line drawings. At the end it reports the Drikung Kagyu lineage with the relative dates. It is a useful adjunct to a library, but only a stepping stone to knowledge about such a different cultural milieu. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Solid historical reference By MysticJaguar This is a very solid work which contains all the fantastic tales you would expect from the founding of the Kagyu lineage. I did not realize Atisha's participation in this lineage before this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Mauricio C. Tavares The language used is quite ancient buddhism. It makes the book hard to read.

For inspiration, Buddhists turn to the life stories of how the great masters of their lineage struggled with their circumstances and achieved enlightenment. This important and very readable volume tells the extraordinary tales of the greatest teachers of the Kagyu the lineage with the widest following in the U.S.

"This most inspiring, authentic, and important book is a timely shower that certainly quenches our thirst for knowledge of the early sages of the Kagyu lineage of Tibet, many of whose lives are unknown to non-Tibetans. A golden treasure, this single volume contains fascinating life stories of many enlightened masters such as Tilopa, Naropa, Marpa, Milarepa, and Gampopa." Tulku Thondup Rinpoche, author of *Peaceful Death, Joyful Rebirth and The Healing Power of Mind* "A welcome addition to the publication on the teachings of this dynamic branch of Tibetan Buddhism. The lives of the great Kagyu teachers represent a living enactment of their personal trials and triumphs while vividly depicting the transformation of their existential shortcomings into transcendent perfection." Lobsang Lhalungpa, translator of *Mahamudra and The Life of Milarepa* "The Great Kagyu Masters is part biography, part religious history, and part insight into the principles and teachings of this dynamic path of Tibetan Buddhism." Wisconsin Bookwatch About the Author Khenchen Knchog Gyaltshen, founder of several Buddhist centers worldwide, is respected and beloved as an accomplished scholar, meditation master, teacher, translator, and author. In 2001 he received the high honor of being enthroned as Khenchen (great abbot). He lives in Frederick, Maryland.