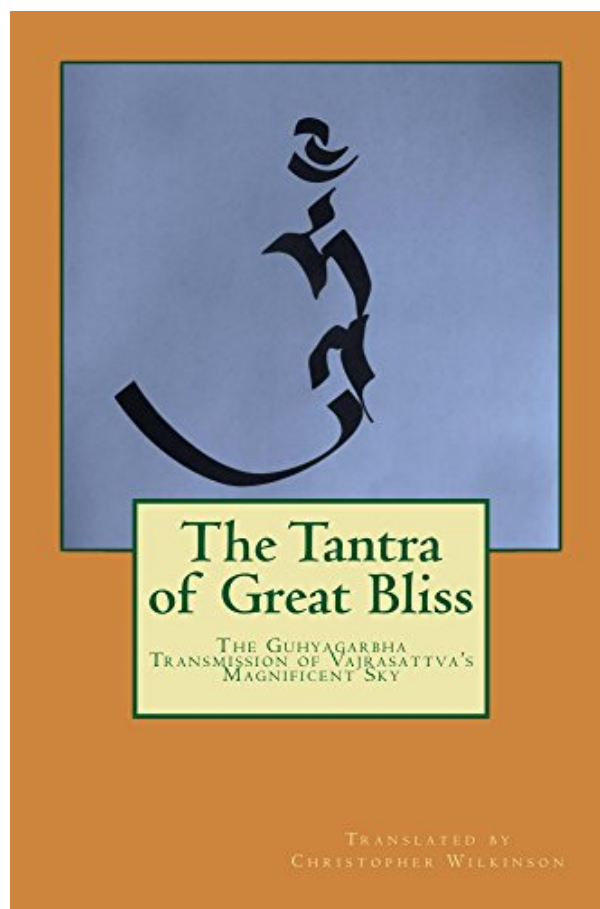
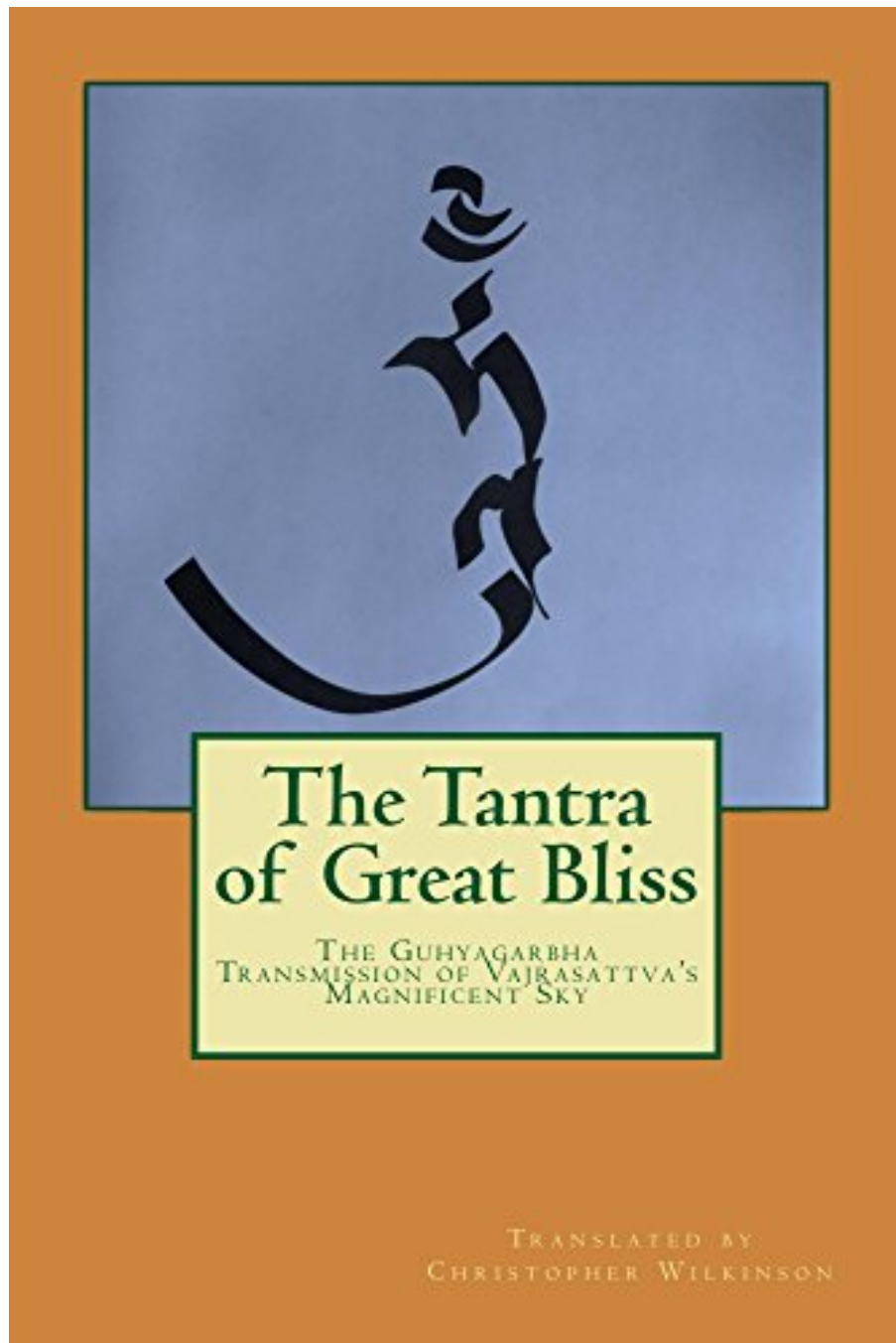


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About the Author

Christopher Wilkinson began his career in Buddhist literature at the age of fifteen, taking refuge vows from his guru Dezhung Rinpoche. In that same year he began formal study of Tibetan language at the University of Washington under Geshe Ngawang Nornang and Turrell Wylie. He became a Buddhist monk, for three years, at the age of eighteen, living in the home of Dezhung Rinpoche while he continued his studies at the University of Washington. He graduated in 1980 with a B.A. degree in Asian Languages and Literature and another B.A. degree in Comparative Religion (College Honors, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa). After a two year tour of Buddhist pilgrimage sites throughout Asia he worked in refugee resettlement programs for five years in Seattle, Washington. He then proceeded to the University of Calgary for an M.A. in Buddhist Studies where he wrote a groundbreaking thesis on the Yangti transmission of the Great Perfection tradition titled "Clear Meaning: Studies on a Thirteenth Century rDzog chen Tantra." He proceeded to work on a critical edition of the Sanskrit text of the 20,000 line Perfection of Wisdom in Berkeley, California, followed by an intensive study of Burmese language in Hawaii. In 1990 he began three years' service as a visiting professor in English Literature in Sulawesi, Indonesia, exploring the remnants of the ancient Sri Vijaya Empire there. He worked as a research fellow for the Shelly and Donald Rubin Foundation for several years, playing a part in the early development of the Rubin Museum of Art. In the years that followed he became a Research Fellow at the Centre de Recherches sur les Civilisations de l'Asie Orientale, Collège de France, and taught at the University of Calgary as an Adjunct Professor for five years. He has published several volumes of translations of Tibetan literature, and is currently engaged in further translations of classic Buddhist literature.

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THE TANTRA OF GREAT BLISS: THE GUHYAGARBHA TRANSMISSION OF VAJRASATTVA'S MAGNIFICENT SKY BY CHRISTOPHER WILKINSON PDF

This volume contains two Tantras: the Tantra of Great Bliss and the Tantra of the Natural Intent of the Heart. Both of these Tantras represent a meeting of the Atiyoga tradition and the Mahayoga, and offer us an insight into the interrelationship of these two classes of Tantra as they are brought together. We are gradually introduced to a seed syllable and to mandalas both physical and sonic, elaborately described in colorful detail. Practices are described, including a graphic description of sexual yoga, while we are reminded that there is no practice or meditation. The translations in this book were done based on Tibetan manuscripts, images of which are included. The Indian source works have been lost in time. The Tibetan texts we have are translations made by Vairochana, a famous Tibetan translator who went to India in search of the literature on instantaneous enlightenment in the Eighth Century of our era. His biography recounts his finding a teacher, Sri Singha, who had the transmission, but did not have the books, as the King had put them under lock and seal due to a disturbance involving a prostitute and a nun. So Sri Singha and Vairochana broke in to the palace by night, broke the seals, and stole the books. Then, over a period of many years, Vairochana studied these texts under Sri Singha. It is certain that Vairochana carried finished translations of several works with him when he returned to his country. The Tantras here translated are among the source works that inspired such great Tibetan luminaries as Longchen Rabjampa (1308-1364), Jigme Lingpa (1729-1798), and Mipham Gyatso (1846-1912). It is clear that the thinking within them was found critical to an understanding of the profundities of the Great Perfection, even hundreds of years after Vairochana's translation, and that those who sought to reconcile the inspiration of the Great Perfection with the practical realities of a practicing path, such as the Mahayoga, found them to be critical to their understanding. The Tantras come to us from out of the same basic time period as the works of Saraha, and do discuss the Mahamudra at numerous points. Those who study the early roots of the Mahamudra transmission and its relationship to the Great Perfection transmission will find these Tantras helpful. Those who study the debate regarding instant versus gradual enlightenment will find these works a valuable resource.

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... a series of translations by Christopher Wilkinson of the Great Perfection Tantras

By Book Drawn

This translation is a welcome addition to a series of translations by Christopher Wilkinson of the Great Perfection Tantras. As the introduction points out, Great Perfection or Atiyoga is an instantaneous approach to enlightenment. As with all his translations, Christopher Wilkinson has made these tantras reader friendly. The texts flow easily so the reader may find he or she is getting ahead of themselves, for the content is profound and requires reflection. Two Indian tantric texts translated from Tibetan are covered: The Tantra of Great Bliss and The Tantra of the Natural Intent of the Heart. These are the basic texts, sans commentary. On one level the reader can enjoy the poetic sound, on another these texts represent the highest teachings of Buddhism, long secret to the western world. It goes without saying for most this is not the place to begin a Buddhist practice. It is a place for all to experience.

In terms of length, the Tantra of Great Bliss dominates the book. From the samadhi of primordial liberation, the Buddha's words flow in rhythmic waves, one upon another in a crescendo leading towards pristine awakening. Perhaps these tantras are best read over time; if your mind wanders for a moment the line by line import is missed. If that happens double back, don't miss what turns out to be gold throughout.

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Thank you

By Yoga sattva

Mr. Wilkinson is the leading translator of Buddhism in the world today. What a marvellous achievement in producing these fine texts.

All his translations of these rare and supreme teachings are so excellent that one can never be too grateful.

Long may Christopher Wilkinson continue to make the ultimate teachings of Atiyoga available.

1 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

I like the translation as it has been cut clean from ...

By john tuinman

I like the translation as it has been cut clean from most of the paraphenelia of tibetan cultural idiosyncracies.

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