



TIBET'S GREAT YOGĪ
MILAREPA

A Biography from the Tibetan
Edited by W. Y. Evans-Wentz

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With the reissue of this unusual biography of a great Tibetan religious leader who lived more than 800 years ago, all four volumes of the late Dr. Evans-Wentz's noted Tibetan series become available in Galaxy Books.

Despite the many sectarian differences between the numerous sects of Tibetan Buddhism, they all unite in holding the Great Yogi Milarepa in the highest reverence and esteem, and consider him the prototype of everything that a great saint should be. In Milarepa's life, the teachings of all the great *yogis* of India, including the greatest of them known to history, Gautama the Buddha, are exemplified. Remarkable parallels, too, may be drawn between Milarepa's teachings and those given the world by another Great Master of Life in the Sermon on the Mount. And in his preface to the second edition of this work, which appeared in 1951, the editor points also to similarities between the life and teachings of Milarepa and the greatest of modern India's spiritual leaders, Mahatma Gandhi. In making this translation from the original Tibetan, the late Lāma Kazi Dawa-Samdup, who was Dr. Evans-Wentz's Tibetan *guru* for many years, wished to show to cultured Western eyes "one of our great teachers, as he actually lived, in a biography of him, much of which is couched in the words of his own mouth, and the remainder in the words of his disciple Rechung, who knew him in the flesh." Dr. Evans-Wentz contributed a highly informative introduction, and liberal explanatory notes.

The late Dr. W. Y. Evans-Wentz, formerly of Jesus College, Oxford, studied occult doctrines intensively in India and in Sikkim, during the early years of this century. His tetralogy of works on *yoga*, based on translations from the Tibetan, offers to Western scholars a rare "interpretation from within." Dr. Evans-Wentz is also the editor of *The Tibetan Book of the Dead* (GB 39), *The Tibetan Book of the Great Liberation* (GB 260), and *Tibetan Yoga and Secret Doctrines* (GB 212).



THE GREAT KARGYÜTPA GURUS

Described on pages xxiii-xxvi

TIBET'S GREAT *YOGĪ* MILAREPA

A BIOGRAPHY FROM THE TIBETAN

being the

JETSÜN-KAHBUM

OR BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY OF JETSÜN-
MILAREPA, ACCORDING TO THE LATE
LĀMA KAZI DAWA-SAMDUP'S ENGLISH
RENDERING

Edited with Introduction and Annotations

by

W. Y. EVANS-WENTZ

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Jesus College, Oxford; Author of
The Fairy-Faith in Celtic Countries
The Tibetan Book of the Dead
&c.

SECOND EDITION

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**I DEDICATE THIS BIOGRAPHY OF MILAREPA
TO THOSE WHO CLING NOT TO BELIEF
BASED UPON BOOKS AND TRADITION
BUT WHO SEEK KNOWLEDGE
BY REALIZATION**

THE YOGI'S CAR OF VICTORY

Whoso the Faith and Wisdom hath attained—
His state of mind, well-harnessed, leads him on;
Conscience the pole, and Mind the yoke thereof,
And Heedfulness the watchful charioteer:
The furnishings of Righteousness, the Car;
Rapture the axle, Energy the wheels;
And Calm, yoke-fellow of the Balanced Mind;
Desirelessness the drapery thereof.
Goodwill and Harmlessness his weapons are,
Together with Detachment of the mind.
Endurance is the armour of the Norm,
And to attain the Peace that Car rolls on.
'Tis built by self, by one's own self becometh—
This Chariot, incomparable, supreme;
Seated therein the Sages leave the world,
And verily they win the Victory.'

The Buddha, from the *Samyutta Nikāya*, v, p. 6.

(F. L. Woodward's Translation.)

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

THE PATH TO SIMPLICITY AND FREEDOM

'To have but few desires and satisfaction with simple things is the sign of a superior man.'—*Precepts of the Gurus*.¹

IT is the same oft-repeated and age-old call from the Supermen, throughout the millenniums, heard by Thoreau and Emerson and Whitman in America, to simple living and high endeavour, which this book transmits, from Tibet, the Land of the Snowy Ranges, to the peoples of the Occident, who have extolled and much preferred, but, of late, not without many disconcerting misgivings, their complex, industrialized way of life.

Whilst *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*, the first volume of our Oxford Tibetan Series, sets forth the art of knowing how rightly to die and to choose a womb wherefrom to be reborn, this, the second volume of the Series, sets forth the art of mastering life and directing it to the all-transcendent goal of liberation from conditioned existence.

Inasmuch as living and dying and being reborn are held to be inseparable parts of a universal life-process by the followers of the Buddha, and by the devotees of many other Faiths, the first volume of the Series is complementary to the second volume, although a separate and distinct *yogic* treatise in itself.

The first edition of this *Biography* of Milarepa, the illustrious Buddhist saint of Tibet, led to the writing of many letters of appreciation to the Editor, not only by laymen and members of the *Sangha*, of both Northern and Southern Buddhism, but also by Hindus and Christians, Catholic and Protestant alike. And now the Editor hereby thanks each of the writers of the letters for their words of appreciation and encouragement. Each of these correspondents recognized in Milarepa those universal characteristics of saintliness to which no religion

¹ Cf. W. Y. Evans-Wentz, *Tibetan Yoga and Secret Doctrines* (Oxford University Press, 1935), p. 80.

