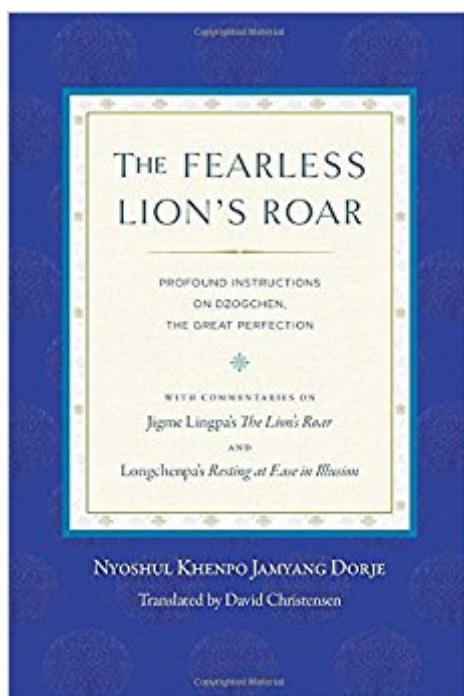


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The Fearless Lion's Roar: Profound Instructions On Dzogchen, The Great Perfection



Synopsis

A collection of teachings on how to correctly practice the view and meditation of Dzogchen by one of its most accomplished and beloved masters of the twentieth century. This volume is a heartfelt, intimate presentation of the entire system of the Nyingma tradition from sutra to tantra to Dzogchen, the Great Perfection, and how through it, modern-day practitioners can succeed in attaining fully realized buddhahood. Inspiring stories of the great masters Longchenpa and Jigme Lingpa kindle the prerequisites of faith and devotion that are the basis for the practices that follow. The Tibetan Buddhist master Nyoshul Khenpo Jamyang Dorje gave these talks during a three-year retreat in France from 1982 to 1985.

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Customer Reviews

"Nyoshul Khenpo Jamyang Dorje was one of the most outstanding exponents of the Great Perfection and an authority on every aspect of its history and practice. He was someone who embodied the blessings of the great masters of the lineage, especially the omniscient Longchen Rabjam and Jigme Lingpa, and his extraordinary oral teachings were marked by a vast knowledge, profound realization, and ever-present compassion. This book will provide inspiration and priceless guidance to all who seek to follow this precious path." — Sogyal Rinpoche, author of *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* "Living the life of a hidden yogi, Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche was a master of the teachings of sutra and mantra, in terms of both scholarship and spiritual accomplishment. His teachings are indeed a powerful treasure, yet to

truly reap their benefit one must study them under the guidance of a qualified teacher who holds the lineage. At best, one should endeavor to receive the empowerments, reading transmissions, and oral instructions related to such profound teachings."~•Ch~f~knyi Nyima Rinpoche, author of Present Fresh Wakefulness"

Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche is one of the most highly realized Dzogchen practitioners of our times and the teacher of many of the rinpoches of the current generation. Born in Tibet and trained under the great masters of Tibet, he was an unusually gifted scholar. Following his studies, Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche's approach was to receive a few key points of oral instruction from his teachers, and then go into the mountains to practice them. Until he gained exceptional experiential signs of the practice he had received thus far, Rinpoche would not return to his teachers for further instructions; and he practiced in this manner for a great many years. Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche would never speak falsely, and whatever he spoke or taught was authentic and based in his own experience. I feel so fortunate to have met Khen Rinpoche in this life, as Rinpoche is one of my root gurus, and I regard him very highly. I always miss him, and he is still alive in my heart. I received many Dzogchen teachings from him, which had an amazing benefit for my practice and helped me immensely. I recommend those with interest to read this book in order to receive Rinpoche's blessings of wisdom and compassion, and I offer the deep wish that whoever reads this book will indeed receive Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche's blessings."~•Tsoknyi Rinpoche, author of Open Heart, Open Mind"

Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche was one of the most extraordinary twentieth-century teachers of the Dzogchen lineage, widely acclaimed for his great wisdom and compassion. His commentaries form a step-by-step guide to the Nyingma teachings, starting from mind training (Longchenpa's Immaculate Light) and leading up to and including Dzogchen (Jigme Lingpa's The Lion's Roar). I have firm confidence that new students as well as experienced practitioners who read this book will gain a much deeper understanding of the path and that the book will answer their questions about practice and life."~•Dilgo Khyentse Yangsi Rinpoche"

Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche is a true example of a dharma teacher and a genuine practitioner. When I met Rinpoche, I saw someone who was very genuine, very humble, very gentle, and at the same time, very diligent in his meditation practices. I never saw Rinpoche criticize any individual, school, or religion. His pure perception was so immense. I am very happy for anyone who reads this book. Please respect the book and read it very slowly. If you do, you will receive a never-ending shower of blessings from the enlightened ones, the masters of the Great Perfection."~•Kyabg~n Phakchok Rinpoche

NYOSHUL KHENPO RINPOCHE (1932-1999) was one of the lineage holders in the Dzogchen

tradition known as Longchen Nyingthig, the Heart Essence of the Vast Expanse, which descends from Longchen Rabjam and Jigme Lingpa. Born in Derge, East Tibet, he escaped to India in 1959. He trained many of the current generation of Dzogchen teachers, including Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche, Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche, Mingyur Rinpoche, Tsoknyi Rinpoche, Sogyal Rinpoche, and many others.

It's always satisfying to be able to give heartfelt endorsement to a new book. From the beginning Forward of The Fearless Lion's Roar the reader is drawn into the dzogchen world. The short sections on two principle dzogchen teachers, Longchenpa and Jigme Lingpa, are concise and fascinating, followed by seminal works by those great masters of dzogchen. First is a commentary on Longchenpa's final testament, Immaculate Light. This commentary uses a traditional approach that might be nicknamed call and response, a single paragraph of the text followed by an author commentary. After the first brief commentary the book returns to a narrative approach, explaining the historical basis for heart essence teachings, how to receive the teachings, the role of meditation deities, a brief but insightful summary of Longchenpa's Resting at Ease in Illusion, and a brief verse and explanation on the importance of mindfulness. The second half of the book centers on the Jigme Lingpa text from which this book takes its title. The complete text is followed by what we've nicknamed a call and response commentary. As if all this wasn't enough, there are final sections with Spontaneous Songs by the author, old photographs of the author, and personal advice from the author. If ever there was a page turner. OK, perhaps better not go that far. Stick with the middle path and say you'll want to keep returning to it whenever you can. That said, this book is for the Buddhist practitioner. As the author clearly states "(w)e cannot discover the self-originating wisdom of the Great Perfection by searching through books. (at page 26) Presumably he includes his own. You'll need to follow through on these teachings with further study and practice, hopefully under the guidance of a qualified teacher. In the mean time you will have read a very inspiring book.

Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche, who I met, was one of the greatest teachers in the 20th century. So many of the great lamas alive today were his students. This book is a must-have for anyone interested in Tibetan Buddhist practice in the Nyingma tradition. He has another book too: Natural Great Perfection: Dzogchen Teachings and Vajra Songs and there is a great piece by him

inÃ Â Dzogchen: Heart Essence of the Great Perfection

This is a very clearly organized and succinct presentation of the Buddhist path from the Nyingma perspective. It gives the overview, but all the details as well, and seems especially good as a general and thorough introduction (or reminder in retreat!). Based on a series of lectures given to 3 year retreatants in France in the 80's (of which the translator was one) by Nyoshul Khen Rinpoche (1932-1999), it is presented as a cleanly edited transcript which preserves the intimate mix of traditional and conversational style of the original discourses. Translator David Christensen does an excellent job introducing the lay-out of the book and sequential order of the original teachings, as a lamrim ("gradual path") teaching of the Nyingma (old school) tradition with special (but not exclusive) emphasis on the dzogchen view. Nyoshul Khen has such an exalted reputation as having been one of the rare "real" itinerant yogis of the last century (what has increasingly become a lost breed) that anything he wrote or taught is worth absorbing. Overall this is a very traditional presentation, but given the context it makes perfect sense for it to be more scholarly and lamrim based rather than a more existentially experiential (and radical-dzogchen) orientation. My main interest in getting this book was the two main advertised texts (Longchenpa's "Resting at Ease in Illusion" and Jigme Lingpa's "The Lion's Roar") which make up the latter part of the book. It turns out the teaching on Longchenpa's text only covers an introduction, with just the first chapter being quoted from (the first analogy of the dream of existence). This seems a bit of a tease since this text is such a beautiful and direct teaching by Longchenpa. Fortunately this has been ably translated by Keith Dowman elsewhere (seeÃ Â Maya Yoga: Longchenpa's Finding Comfort and Ease in Enchantment), but apparently I expected more here...Jigme Lingpa's text is dealt with in greater detail (100 pages in all) and does not disappoint! Lingpa is known as the great 18th century reviver of Longchenpa's (14th century) dzogchen presentation after several centuries of strong coercive influence by the socio-politically dominant Gelukpas (15th century reformist branch of the new school), and their general disregard for the dzogchen view. This text which seeks to point out and correct errors we (practitioners of lesser to middling acumen) might develop in our dzogchen view and meditation is quite remarkable (in clarity and practicality), as is Nyoshul Khen's commentary, and for that matter Christensen's translation. The point of these kinds of teachings is to first be in an appropriately receptive space, and this is what this book attempts to accomplish by preserving and augmenting the format of the original retreat setting. The effect is a nice mix of traditional Tibetan Buddhist cosmology/mythology/hagiography (the container), and the timelessly and culturelessly direct and immediate liberation of, and from, the mind (the content).

As a practitioner for nearly 40 years and a teacher for 21 years, I found this book outstanding in revealing aspects of Dzogchen. I recommend it!

This is perhaps the best book on Dzogchen to come out in English since the autobiography of Khenpo Ngachung a few years ago. Excellent, crisp translations of wonderful teachings by one of the great masters of the 20th century. Thank you David Christensen for bringing this out.

Incredibly helpful: clear, precise and to the point in sorting out subtle misunderstandings in meditation practice.

The Nyingma / Dzogchen Longchen Nyingthig path is one of mystic intimacy with Being (kung-zhi) through the doors of Dharmakaya Sambhogkaya and Nirmanakaya. It is a paradoxical vortex only traversed via the successful transmission to and the student's successful absorption of the teaching from one's qualified guru. It is this mystic knot which is the indestructible engine of guru yoga practice taught here by Nyoshu Khenpo and so admirably translated for us by Lama David Christensen with vivid and comforting grace only obtainable from practice surpassing intellectual understanding. His glowing clarity and understanding of these instructions reflects the profound teaching in a style true to classical teaching yet bright with his contemporary yoga practice. For the novice and the lay practitioner this translation is alive with wisdom, tips and cautions right from his heartfelt practice. This text is a must for all serious meditators on the Dzogchen path to read with heart and mind.

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