



the
Teacher

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THE SALAMANDER SERIES

The salamander is an ancient symbol of emerging awareness—similar to the archetypal meaning of Hermes in Greek mythology.

This logo marks a series of publications reflecting the presently growing new consciousness.

the Teacher

Eleven Aspects of the Guru Rinpoche

Salamander



Series

POMEGRANATE ARTBOOKS • SAN FRANCISCO

This book is dedicated to you.

In memory of James Lane Prior,
friend, mentor and publisher
of the Salamander Series.

Born 1928, De Land, Florida.

Died 1990, Kathmandu, Nepal.

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When the Buddha was about to pass away and His Disciples were weeping, He said to them, "Weep not, for there will be born one who will be much wiser and more spiritually powerful than Myself.

He will be called Padma Sambhava, and by him the Esoteric Doctrine will be established."

Padma Sambhava ("Lotus Born One") or Guru Rinpoche ("Precious Guru," as he is known in Tibet) was the founder of the Red Hat Sect of Tibetan Buddhism, the oldest of several Tibetan schools.

In a sense, the following prints could be considered as various "moods" of a perfected being. In a state of consciousness wherein nothing is casual, these become reflections of basic conformations in every human being. With this in mind, the exhaustive study of the multilayered symbolism incorporated in these prints is better left to scholars. More to the point for the pilgrim is the effort of energizing these forms in his own consciousness.

Get to know each aspect of the Teacher—each form—as you would get to know another human: gradually, by being with them through time. Eventually, you may find that these forms are apparent to you in other contexts of your life, and as they make up a complete being—so your life will become complete.

The Meditation of Guru Rinpoche

In the world of complete purity
The dwelling places of illumination we set up
Without inside or outside
Their entire form is of light

There in the center is set the throne of the Dharma
The lotus seat of Compassion
And the Sun Throne of Wisdom
And Guru Padma Sambhava is the eternal child who
sits there

End and origin of both confusion and realization
He wears the royal robes of The Three Yanas
He holds the Vajra of Means in his right hand
And in his left the cup of Wisdom filled with ambrosia

He cuts off the heads of aversion, attachment,
confusion
And wears them as ornaments on his trident
Which he holds to his side as a consort
He sits in the Vajra-position, unmoving in meditation

From *The Śadhana of Guru Padma Sambhava*
Translated by Ven Chogyam Trungpa Tulku



**Padma Sambhava (“Lotus Born One”)
Guru Rinpoche—The Teacher**



The idealization of the Guru Rinpoche shown on the previous page, and the following eleven aspects of the Guru, are taken from prints struck in Northern India. The original woodblocks were taken out of Tibet during the emigration some years ago.

This booklet is offered as a reference guide for those who have dared to place their feet upon the Path that leads along the Journey of Return.

The following reproductions of Tibetan woodblock prints form a sequence of specific aspects of the Guru Rinpoche—the Teacher. As they reflect an Eastern culture, their symbolic value to a Westerner may appear vague, but the archetypal power is ever accessible through familiarity. Get to know them intimately. Live with them until you can detect the single spirit behind each form. Whether in fiery dance or loving embrace, the Teacher's gaze is steady.

This volume has been made small enough to easily keep with you as you pass through each day. Refer to it often amidst the demands of the world, that you may remember what you are about. Spend time with the aspects you find most difficult until they, too, fall into proper perspective.

The Teacher is a spirit whose total existence is devoted to seeing that you become all that you can be, and He will move heaven and earth, if necessary, to accomplish that task.

Throughout your busy, noisy life, the Teacher encompasses you—He waits in eternal patience for you to see the patterns of His teaching, more subtle than nature; to hear His voice, more gentle than thought. There is plenty of time, but every moment counts.

Once you have acknowledged Him, however, He will hound you, heal you, burn through you, love you and storm about you right up to the gates of the Abyss—beyond which He can do no more, except, with the universe, hold His breath as you cross alone.



1.

Padma Jungnay, the “guru born of the lotus,”
a form of Padma Sambhava.



2.

Padma Sambhava, Guru Rinpoche, "precious jeweled teacher."



3.

Gurtak, Guru Seng-ge Dradog
“the guru who teacheth with the voice of a lion,”
a form of Padma Sambhava.



4.

Gurtak as a Phurbu
(ritual demon exercising dagger).



5.

Guru Tsokey Dorje, a form of Guru Rinpoche.

(Guru Rinpoche has many names depending on the manifestation, or mudra, of his image.) Here the "Precious Guru" is shown seated on a throne with Vajradhara Yab Yum on his right hand and Ye She Tsogyal on his left. Ye She Tsogyal was a princess who deserted her kingdom to follow Guru Rinpoche. It was she who compiled the book now known to Westerners as "The Tibetan Book of the Great Liberation" and hid it away in a cave.



6.

Padma Sambhava Yab Yum.

Yab Yum is the Tibetan iconographic representation of Divine Union, shown in image as sexual union. In such images He (here Guru Rinpoche with Dorje and Bell) represents skillful means, and she Divine Wisdom.

Their union (within one soul) brings enlightenment.



7.

Padma Sambhava Yab Yum.

**Here Padma Sambhava—Guru Rinpoche—is shown with
Dorje and Skull Cap.**



8.
Padma Sambhava Yab Yum.



9.

Dadak, one of the fiery guardians
of Guru Rinpoche.



10.

Dorje Drollo —“the Guru with the loose-hanging stomach”—was the form in which Guru Rinpoche manifested in a cave in Bhutan to set on the right path some devotees who had gone astray and fallen into evil ways. His three eyes stare in all directions; he is enveloped by the flames of the inner warmth of compassion, and he rides a pregnant tigress, symbolic of the force of creation.



11.

Guru Rinpoche in a Lama's robes,
with Gurtak on his right and Senge-dong-ma on his left.



The dark narcisses
 flowered in his mind
Steady, sure, a careful opening,
 disclosing splendid petals
 thrust to the fine heart

I regret only this—
That I did not take myself
 more seriously,
As did he, and all the other
 travelers between the worlds,
Who, knowing well the almost
 unknown track,
Safely made the journey,
Safely made it back.



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