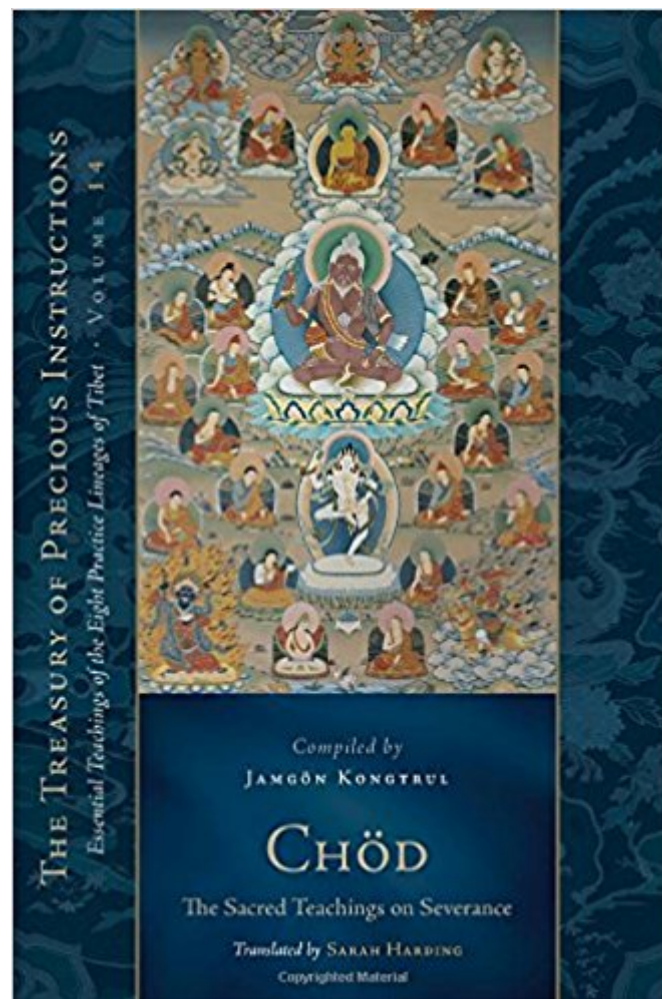


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# ChöD: The Sacred Teachings On Severance: Essential Teachings Of The Eight Practice Lineages Of Tibet, Volume 14 (The Treasury Of Precious Instructions)





## Synopsis

From the legendary cofounder of Tibet's nineteenth-century nonsectarian movement, an encyclopedic survey of the practice of Chod, or severance, a tantric ritual based on the crucial Mahayana sutras to sever clinging to an ego and thereby achieve realization. The Treasury of Precious Instructions by Jamgñn Kongtrul Lodrñn Taye, one of Tibet's greatest Buddhist masters, is a shining jewel of Tibetan literature, presenting essential teachings from the entire spectrum of practice lineages that existed in Tibet. In its eighteen volumes, Kongtrul brings together some of the most important texts on key topics of Buddhist thought and practice as well as authoring significant new sections of his own. In this, the fourteenth volume, Kongtrul compiles the teachings on Severance, or Chñd. It includes some of the tradition's earliest source scriptures, such as the "grand poem" of Aryadeva, and numerous texts by the tradition's renowned founder, Machik Labdrñn. Kongtrul also brings together the most significant texts on the rites of initiation, empowerments for practice, and wide-ranging instructions and guides for the support of practitioners. Altogether, this quintessential guide to Severance offers vast resources for scholars and practitioners alike to better understand this unique and remarkable tradition—the way of severing the ego through the profound realization of emptiness and compassion.

## Book Information

Series: The Treasury of Precious Instructions

Hardcover: 672 pages

Publisher: Snow Lion (November 29, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1611803721

ISBN-13: 978-1611803723

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #86,892 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Buddhism > Sacred Writings #95 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Buddhism > Tibetan #130 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern > Buddhism > Rituals & Practice

## Customer Reviews

Jamgñn Kongtrul Lodrñn Taye (1813–1900) was a versatile and prolific scholar and one of the

most outstanding writers and teachers of his time in Tibet. He was a pivotal figure in eastern Tibetâ€™s nonsectarian movement and made major contributions to education, politics, and medicine. Â Sarah Harding has been a Buddhist practitioner since 1974 and has been teaching and translating since completing a three-year retreat in 1980 under the guidance of Kyabje Kalu Rinpoche. Her publications include *Creation and Completion*, *The Life and Revelations of Pema Lingpa*, *The Treasury of Knowledge: Esoteric Instructions*, and *Niguma, Lady of Illusion*. She is an associate professor at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado, where she has been teaching since 1992, and has been a fellow of the Tsadra Foundation since 2000.

This text, the 14th volume in Jamgon Kongtrul's 19th century encyclopedic compendium of Tibetan spiritual practices, is a real jewel - in its originally conceived form and especially in the hands of translator Sarah Harding. Sarah is a wonderful translator of Tibetan to English, really one of the best, combining the sensibility of a committed practitioner with the precision of a scholar/translator. My first exposure to her work was her beautifully flowing and poetic translation of the Dudjom Tersar Troma/Chod sadhanas over 30 years ago, and I was instantly hooked. Since then she has gone on to do many other fine translations, and as a woman of wisdom herself she is the perfect translator for these lineages which initially arose from the 11/12th century Tibetan yogini Machik Lapdron. Although my own connection to chod has been in the Nyingma and Geluk traditions, and I was initially a little disappointed to discover that this collection draws primarily on practices and teachings of the Karma Kagyu traditions, I quickly discovered that this opened up a whole new perspective on what I thought I knew. Kongtrul's collection includes 29 different texts ranging from 3rd century Arayadeva to Machik and several prominent Kagyu adepts of the past eight hundred years culminating in Kongtrul's own offering liturgy - covering root source material, detailed commentaries, prayers, empowerments, and practice rituals. Throughout, Harding's intro notes are clear, incisive and thoughtful, and her translations thorough, down to earth and sublime. This beautifully published edition is highly recommend for those who have a connection to the practice. "When you have seen nonself in actuality, inflation is liberated in its own ground. There is no other meaning of buddha that could be established. That's because the subject (or perceiver) is realized to be the timeless awareness of the naturally occurring nature of phenomena." (3rd Karmapa, Rangjung Dorje, p. 93)

If you practice Chod this contains so much information you need to have this book. The best thing is that even though it is scholarly It is readable. It is an enjoyable read. I have the kindle edition and

the only criticism I have is there are no page numbers which makes it difficult if you are in a study group and some people are using the page numbers from the hard copy edition.

If there is such a thing as too much of a good thing, this could be it. A quick scan of the table of contents indicates the extensive coverage of scriptures and their commentaries, and empowerments, with the last section of the text devoted to instructions and guides. The author most familiar in the Chod "severance" tradition is Machik Lapdrön but the other authors are a who's who of the historical teachings. Of course its place in history also means it's neither formatted nor written for the modern reader. This can be initially off-putting, but is worth the effort required and anyone who has studied historic Buddhist texts will have no trouble. The text is authoritative and at the same time matter of fact. This for instance; "At the times of mixing space and awareness, things and characteristics, rejecting and accepting " fixation on referents " are naturally cleared up. Abide in the ultimate nature of phenomena without subject-object dualistic fixation." (at page 6) Could it be more direct? And it only gets better, continuing page after page with nuggets so beautifully translated that they echo in your mind until they become a part of you or perhaps they were always there. This is a formidable work and will certainly overwhelm you if not taken in small quantities and pondered and meditated upon after each reading session. Then its brilliance will be appreciated and have a profound effect. If you are serious about your studies of Buddhism and in particular dzogchen it deserves a place on your bookshelves. Will it become a classic? Perhaps.

It's a rare gift to have this material in one place. Chod is an important practice in Tibetan Buddhism and is rarely discussed. My only criticism is this book could have been better if it included examples of the rich iconography related to Chod practice. Spiritual entities are discussed but without reference to their form.

Of the hundreds of purchases over the years through this is the first that has compelled me into writing a review. Mainly to say thank you to everyone who had a hand in getting this book made.

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