



MEDIA KIT

A Timely Message from the Cave



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ABOUT THE BOOK

DISCOVERING THE DIVERSITY OF BUDDHIST SCHOLASTIC TRADITIONS AND RELIGIOUS LIFE IN TIBET AND BHUTAN

A Timely Message from the Cave addresses the long-lasting debate about the Mahāmudrā doctrine and meditative system that was first elicited through Sakya Paṇḍita (1182–1251)'s systematic critique in the thirteenth century. For the first time, the positions of eminent Bhutanese Drukpa Kagyü masters between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries are made accessible to the English-speaking reader. The Tibetan text corpus deals with the entire spectrum of the crucial controversial topics about the Mahāmudrā doctrine and meditative system. Some of those topics were discussed over centuries, partially reaching back to earlier philosophical disputes in India. Furthermore, this Tibetan text corpus shows how oral discourses formed into new elite Buddhist textual traditions addressing the Mahāmudrā doctrine and meditative system and gained trans-regional and trans-cultural relevance among both Tibetan and Bhutanese Buddhist masters in the eighteenth century. *A Timely Message from the Cave* includes a critical edition as an *editio princeps*, a richly annotated translation, and a comprehensive analysis of the Sixty-ninth Chief Abbot of Bhutan Geshe Drapukpa Gendün Rinchen (1926–1997)'s dense Mahāmudrā commentary in verse, the *Timely Messenger*, comprising the Ninth Chief Abbot of Bhutan Shākya Rinchen (1710–1759)'s root text, the *Pointed Spear of a Siddha*.

The Sixty-ninth Chief Abbot of Bhutan Geshe Drapukpa Gendün Rinchen was one of the most influential Bhutanese Buddhist masters of the twentieth century. He significantly contributed as an author, scholar, teacher, and practitioner to doctrinal innovations and the modernization of religious, educational institutions of the Drukpa Kagyü school in Bhutan. *A Timely Message from the Cave* also explores his life and vast literary and scholastic heritage based on classical Tibetan biographical and autobiographical accounts and his collected works in ten volumes.

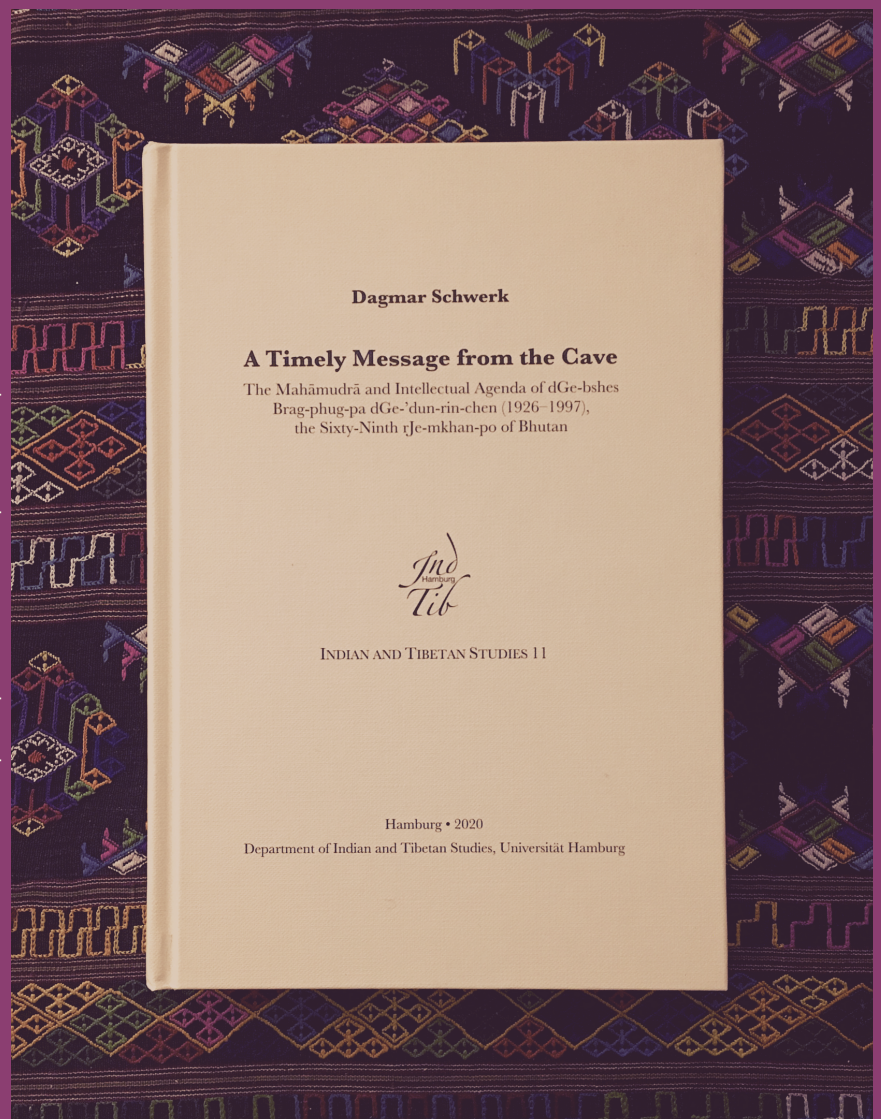


BOOK DETAILS

Dagmar Schwerk, *A Timely Message from the Cave: The Mahāmudrā and Intellectual Agenda of dGe-bshes Brag-phug-pa dGe-'dun-rin-chen (1926-1997), the Sixty-Ninth rJe-mkhan-po of Bhutan*. Indian and Tibetan Studies 11. Hamburg: Department of Indian and Tibetan Studies, Universität Hamburg, 2020. ISBN: 978-3-945151-10-5.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Dagmar Schwerk is a German scholar focusing on Tibetan and Bhutanese Buddhism as well as Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. She specifically addresses the formation of doctrinal agendas covering subjects such as the Madhyamaka philosophy and the Mahāmudrā doctrine and meditative system. Currently, she works on Bhutan's intellectual, political, and social history between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries with a particular interest in the relationship between religion and politics, Buddhist ethics, and the environment.

Following an M.A. in Tibetology, classical Indology, and political science, she graduated with a Ph.D. in Tibetology from the University of Hamburg in Germany in 2017 and is currently the Khyentse Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Tibetan Buddhist Studies at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. She is also the recipient of the 2012 Khyentse Foundation Award for Excellence in Buddhist Studies at the Universität Hamburg.



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