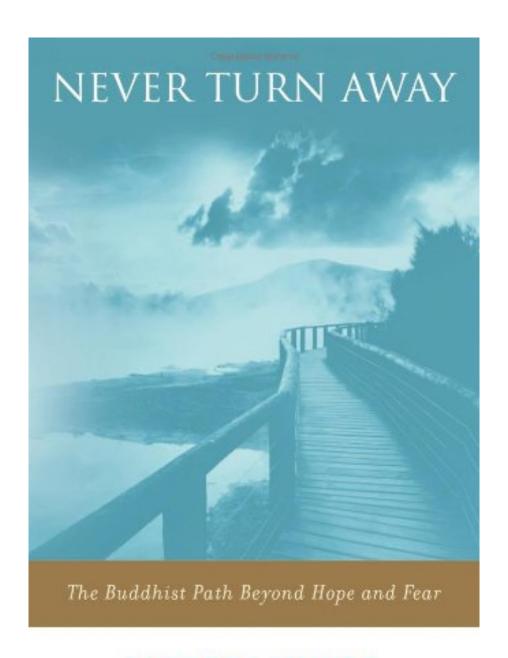




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Review

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"'Never turn away'--a simple suggestion, encouraging us to enter into direct communion with all aspects of our lives. Why? The answer is delivered here with brilliant, clear teaching that is inspiring, practical, and valuable for all meditators." (Larry Rosenberg, author of Breath by Breath)

"Rigdzin Shikpo, a student of Shambhala-founder Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, has been practicing Buddhism since the mid-1980s. An heir to Trungpa's lineage but independent of the Shambhala community, his book Never Turn Away: The Buddhist Path Beyond Hope and Fear is an inspired look at the relationship between meditation and everyday life. Rigdzin Shikpo encourages the reader to turn toward experience rather than shirk from life's possibilities, admitting in the opening chapter that such an approach might well be called 'the path of embarrassment.' His clear, practical writing makes this book the perfect guide to the compassionate practice of bodhicitta, which allows us to discover 'our awe-inspiring nature, which is hidden beneath the surface, like precious ore concealed in mountains." (Tricycle Editor's Blog)

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A meditator's meditator, Rigdzin Shikpo (ne Michael Hookham) began the practice in the mid 1950s and eventually became a prominent student of several renowned Tibetan Buddhist teachers, including Chogyam Trungpa and Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche. Over the years he has developed his own utterly unique style made of straight talk and sparkling, inspiring insights.

The title of this, his long-awaited new book, comes from the teachings Rigdzin Shikpo received from Trungpa Rinpoche, who said that we should always turn toward those things that scare us, open to them completely, and never turn away from them. This path of openness, clarity, and sensitivity is a hallmark of the Dzogchen tradition of Buddhist practice. Rigdzin Shikpo has lived its truth so deeply that his words shine with authenticity and freshness.

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The Tibetan Buddhist's Digest

By John L. Kernell

Rigdzin Shikpo (the former Michael Hookham) is my teacher's husband (Lama Shenpen Hookham or Dr. S.K. Hookham, the author of "The Buddha Within".) They are the Real McCoys: Western Buddhists and Dharma teachers of uncommon skill and scholarship. One a former Buddhist nun, the other a long-time Buddhist scholar and practitioner. They were both deeply influenced by the late Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, who founded what is now Naropa University, the only accredited Buddhist-inspired university in North America. As was Pema Chodron.

This may seem like "Buddhism Lite" to some because of its lack of physical "heft. Don't let its size and

accessibility fool you. Read it and re-read it and re-read it as it slowly grows on you. Things you miss the first time around will hit you like a big Aha the next time around.

If this is your introduction to Tibetan Buddhism, count your blessings.

9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. greatest introduction to buddhist thought

By uwe

this is probably the greatest introduction to buddhist thinking i have read. everything is laid out clearly and without religious or mystic overtones. a manual to self-improvement from an outstanding teacher. highly recommended!

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Congratulations to Rigdzen Shikpo

By Hugh James

I am not a practicing Buddhist. Having said this, Rigdzen Shikpo's introduction to Buddhism is one of the best I have read. It is based on a profound knowledge of the tradition of Tibetan Buddhism and - more importantly - a development of the author's original insight.

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