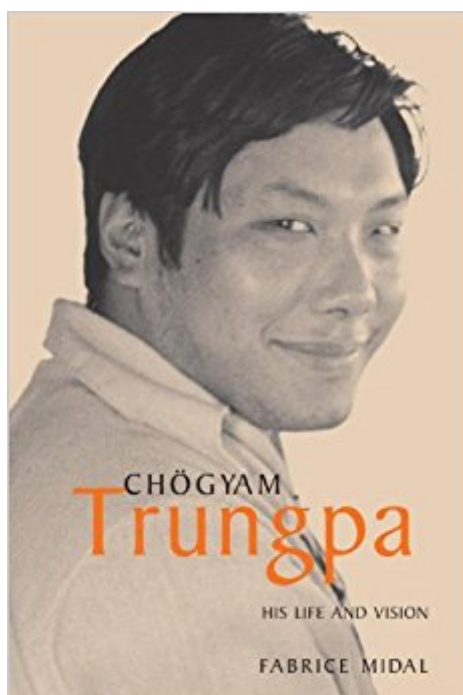


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Chogyam Trungpa: His Life And Vision



Synopsis

Chögyam Trungpa is virtually synonymous with the transmission of Tibetan Buddhism to the West. Over the course of his seventeen-year teaching career in North America, Trungpa ushered in a radically new approach to spirituality – both rooted in the ancient wisdom of the buddhadharma and thoroughly situated in the contemporary world. His teachings, grounded in what he called the “Shambhala vision,” focused on the development of an enlightened society through the transformation of ordinary, everyday life into sacred activity. Steering between Western biography and traditional Tibetan hagiography, Fabrice Midal takes you on a soaring journey through Trungpa’s life and teachings. Touching on all of the most momentous events, this series of glimpses into Chögyam Trungpa’s world provides a rare view on the formation of Trungpa’s thought and the remarkable body of teachings and writings that remain as his legacy. Included are accounts of: • Chögyam Trungpa’s education in Tibet under the tutelage of great tantric masters, like Jamgön Kongtrül of Sechen and Khenpo Gangshar • The founding of landmark centers for Buddhist practice and education, such as the Naropa Institute (now Naropa University), Karmachögyi Chöling, and the Rocky Mountain Dharma Center (now the Shambhala Mountain Center) • Trungpa’s historic meeting with the sixteenth Gyalwa Karmapa in 1974, the first-ever visit of the Karmapa to America • Behind-the-scenes stories of Trungpa’s most treasured writings, including *Meditation in Action*, *Cutting Through Spiritual Materialism*, and *Shambhala: The Sacred Path of the Warrior* • And much more

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Customer Reviews

“A wealth of anecdotes, unpublished material, and reminiscences by students help round out this fascinating portrait of one of the most unconventional and influential teachers in the West.”
•Snow Lion
“An excellent introduction to the life and work of a truly remarkable teacher.”
•The Middle Way

Fabrice Midal is a professor of philosophy at the University of Paris. He holds a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Paris, Sorbonne, and teaches the dharma in France and elsewhere in Europe. A practicing Buddhist in the tradition of Chogyam Trungpa, he is well known in Buddhist circles in France and has published books on religious topics with major French publishers, among them several titles on Tibetan Buddhism.

Amazing story, amazing man ! I can't believe a monk raised in Tibet could do some much in such a short life in a foreign country ! The story is well told and the life of the man is extraordinary ! Too bad I bought it on Kindle and not on hard copy ! I wish the hard copy has colored pictures !

I am very pleased with this book about Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche. The author gives a comprehensive look at Chogyam's life. This man was a genius. His aim in life was to teach people how to escape the suffering of this world. His way is not for the fainthearted.

This book not only includes the life story, but also the many teachings of Chogyam Trungpa. Warmly recommended for anybody who would like to understand more about the Shambhala teachings

The writer brings Trungpa's unique ways of transmission of the Dharma making me feel alive and inspired by this man's journey! I simply love reading this book!

Great book, great transaction !

Great book, highly recommend!

I felt this book was rather poorly put together. As other commentators have noted, it presents only half a picture, and overlooks very important and potentially very illuminating aspects of a great man's life. Still, even in the half-a-picture we are afforded, the style is hodgepodge and the author seemed very intent on letting us know about his own thoughts on Cezanne and sculpture and other things that simply break up the flow. The flow, such as it is, is more along the lines of essays joined together, not by any means a biography. The author poses a lot of questions "Why did he drink?", "why did he break his vows?" but after several hundred pages I didn't really feel like I knew much more about Chogyam Trungpa than when I had begun. Instead of answering the questions, the writer often launches into a prolonged litany of praises better left to guru yoga. The author keeps telling us that Buddhism is really all about living in the here and now in our full nakedness - which I'm not really sure is true of Tibetan Buddhism - but this book did not present its own subject in full nakedness. As another reviewer stated, the write should have given us a full picture, and then we would decide. Instead we got something along the lines of a very, very long fan letter.

Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche was one of the first Tibetan teachers in the West and has been widely credited both by Westerners and by other Tibetan teachers with creating the ground for the subsequent expansion of Buddhism here. Beyond that, Trungpa Rinpoche taught Buddhism in a unique way, insisting on the complete integration of spiritual and secular life. He did not regard spirituality as a path out of this world but as a way of being in it. His teachings are amongst the most challenging, inspiring, and practical presentations of the Buddhist and Shambhala paths ever given. Fabrice Midla's biography of Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche integrates many of Trungpa Rinpoche's extensive teachings with the diverse and colorful events in his complex life. In this way, M. Midal also succeeds remarkably in conveying a sense of the atmosphere which Trungpa Rinpoche's students experienced. This book will be of enduring value not just to those interested in the Buddhist or Shambhala paths, but to those who are curious about what it means to pursue a spiritual life within the secular Western world.

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