

**The Significance of the Guhyagarbha, compiled by Nikko Odiseos,
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"As Kyabje Dungse Thinley Norbu Rinpoche has said, 'The ultimate source for the entirety of Sutra and Tantra is the King of Tantras, The *Guhyagarbha*, Glorious Secret Essence.' The *Guhyagarbha Tantra* summarizes the heart of all eighteen great Mahayoga tantras and is the general tantra of the category of enlightened mind. This Secret Essence Tantra is the most advanced and extensively studied tantra within the Nyingma lineage; and its twenty-two chapters elucidate how to correctly view the ground, traverse the path, and ultimately reach the result-fully enlightened buddhahood.

The tantra of the Glorious Secret Essence (the *Guhyagarbha Tantra*) extracts the essence of the eighteen Mahayoga tantras and is also the general tantra of enlightened mind. The twenty-two chapters of this tantra describe the three tantras of the ground path and result and explain the topics of tantra needed to perfect the practice.

Studying the Secret Essence is crucial for all who seriously wish to learn any of the three inner tantras, as Mahāyoga is the foundation of all the inner tantras and the Secret Essence is the root tantra of Mahāyoga. The great Mipham writes, 'One must learn the tantric trainings by relying on Mahāyoga, as it teaches the ground, path, and result of all tantric cycles.' He also says, 'Correct understanding of the visions of all three inner tantras depends on understanding the Secret Essence.' The Secret Essence is also the source of numerous teachings on the one hundred peaceful and wrathful deities, one volume of which—*The Tibetan Book of the Dead*—is quite popular in the West."