

World Religions

Buddhism Questions

(The World's Religions by Houston Smith)

The Diamond Thunderbolt [Tibetan Buddhism] (pp. 139-144)

1. What does Vajrayana literally mean? What is the origin of the term?
2. Who perfected this third Buddhist path?
3. This type of Buddhism is at heart what?
4. Based on its Sanskrit roots, what two meanings does Tantra have?
5. Tantras are tests that focus on what?
6. What distinguishes Tibetan Buddhist practice?
7. How do Tibetan Buddhists believe *nirvana* can be accomplished in a single lifetime?
8. What energy most interests Westerners?
9. Why must sex be linked directly to God?
10. What religious meaning does the word "ecstatic" have?
11. What physical energies do the Tantrics most regularly work with?
12. What characterizes Tibetan rituals?
13. What are *mantras*, *mudras*, and *mandalas*?
14. What is the essential function of the Dalai Lama?
15. How many incarnations has the Dalai Lama had thus far?
16. The uninterrupted current of spiritual influence of the Dalai Lama is characterized by what?
17. Read the last paragraph of this section on p. 144 very carefully and think about it.