Teacher's notes and answer key

Padmasambhava – Did Tibet's Second Buddha Really Exist?

Subjects: English · Religious Studies · History | recommended from age 13 (B1) | Video: 8:48 min

Answers B

1. Guru Rinpoche, the “precious master”; for many believers the second Buddha who brought Buddhism to Tibet in the 8th century; the Nyingma school traces itself back to him.

2. Disasters struck while the first monastery, Samye, was being built, and people blamed the old gods; the abbot Shantarakshita advised bringing a master who could deal with such powers.

3. He did not destroy them but bound them with an oath – they became protectors of Buddhist teaching.

4. Testament of Ba: he tames spirits but stays only briefly; ministers distrust him and the king sends him back. Dunhuang (probably 10th century): he is named as master of a tantric ritual with the phurba dagger.

5. “Treasures” – teachings he is said to have hidden, later found by tertöns (treasure finders); they include the “Tibetan Book of the Dead” (14th century).

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

E: Legend – born from a lotus in Oddiyana / second Buddha, subdues all gods / stays long, flies on a tigress / rides off through the sky. Sources – Oddiyana probably in the Swat Valley (Pakistan), uncertain / a tantric ritual master at court / perhaps only briefly / unknown; the great legend grew over generations.

Content note and age

Recommended from age 13. Charnel grounds are mentioned; otherwise explanatory. A living religion – please treat it with respect.

Sources: Tibetan tradition, the “Testament of Ba” (sBa bzhed), Dunhuang manuscripts, terma literature.

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