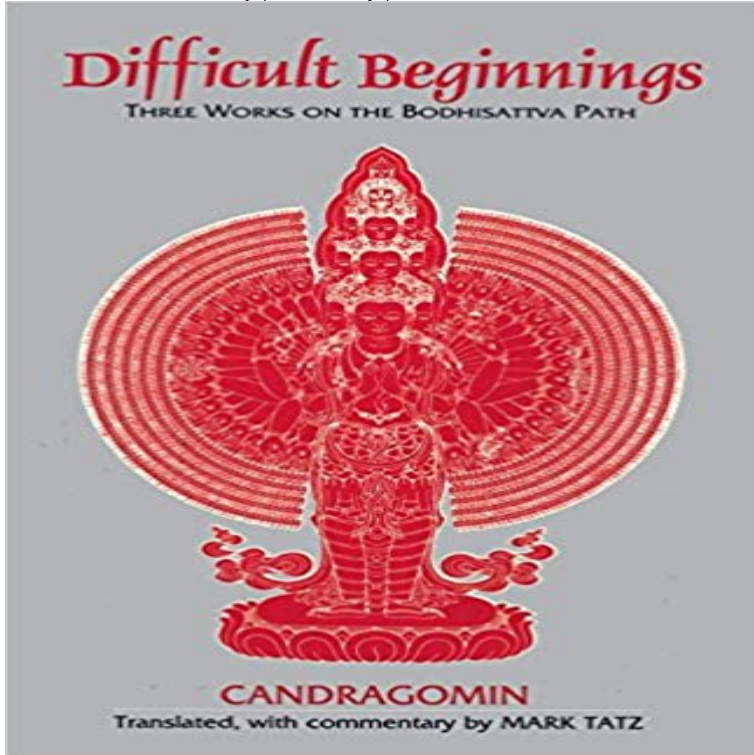


# Difficult Beginnings: Three Works on the Bodhisattva Path



This is the first English translation of the works of Candragomin—a seventh-century Indian philosopher and poet—which have been highly influential in the practice of Buddhism over the past twelve centuries. The book provides an excellent introduction to Mahayana, the middle way of the Buddhist path. It will appeal to anyone interested in Eastern Religion. Candragomin is regarded in the Indo-Tibetan tradition as an exemplar of the bodhisattva ideal. *Difficult Beginnings* presents three of the most important works. Candragomin's *Resolve* is a short verse aspiration. *Twenty Verses on the Bodhisattva Vow* is a basis for exposition of the bodhisattva vow. *Praise in Confession* recounts the problems that Candragomin encountered in his spiritual practice. Dr. Tatz provides an excellent introduction to the theory and practice of the bodhisattva path, the ideal of attaining buddhahood—awakening—as well as the commitment to teach and guide others on this path. Also included is a fascinating account of Candragomin's life, and lengthy commentary on the three works presented here.

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