

Website – What is a recension?

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WSA recensions are compilations of existing translations (some in print - some out of print) with an emphasis on preserving the essential meaning of the teaching. These recensions were never meant to be sold or even published for profit but were solely intended as meditation manuals for practitioners or students of the Teaching of the WSA. As a result, they are spiritual documents of the highest order rather than strictly literal historical records. The entire emphasis of WSA recensions is the focus on the meaning and the direct experience of it for serious seekers and students of the Tao.

Recensions are usually longer than the original text. This is so because different translations make different or parallel points that are spiritually valid in terms of the essential meaning. So, if there are three translations of a particular text, each with a valid point to be made in that particular section, all three versions will be included. As a result, these WSA recensions are longer yet the additional meanings and nuances are illuminated. These recensions all seem to have a certain degree of repetitiveness. However, if examined closely it will be seen that even if a point is restated, additional meanings, nuances and emphasis are being expounded. Furthermore, the appearance of repetition is valuable when using these texts as guided meditations to confirm the Teaching in one's direct experience of mind. Every teaching and explanation revealed in these texts has been directly confirmed in living experience by the teachers of WSA, both in ancient times and currently. Consequently these recensions are a result of the perfection of Wisdom and Awakening, both by the original expounders and the present compiler.

Every sentence included in each recension makes sense if understood in the light of the Teaching of WSA (Ekayana). These are actually instruction manuals and should be read as if they were guided meditations. This site is set up so that the seeker can print out individual volumes of these texts (about 100 single sided pages per volume) so that they can use it in their meditations. This is usually accomplished by reading the text in a meditative environment and in an open receptive state of mind. Seekers may wish to print each volume single sided and use the blank back side to

write down their own questions, observations and insights drawn from their own experience.

Aside from the historical information or background sections it is best to read these profound texts a page or two at a time, so as to facilitate the deeper comprehension that comes from looking directly into one's own mind. One should proceed from the experience of words to meaning to wisdom to Awakening. Frequently, reading the same pages again the next day will reveal further insight.

Some seekers find that reading the texts in the order that they historically occurred facilitates their initial understanding. On this site all texts have been listed in their historical order commencing with Bodhidharma ..... Other seekers find that they have an affinity for certain texts and gain an easier understanding of the Teaching of the WSA by reading those first. Some find the poem summarizing some of the Teachings, "Relying on Mind", as contained in "The Lamp of the Mind Transmission... The Great Caravan Continues", a good place to start. Others have found Huang-po's teaching .....The Transmission of Mind.....volumes to be very instructive. Still others start (and end) with Hui-neng .... Title.....

Read slowly and meditatively. Look into the nature of mind and awareness and see if you can find where in your experience the teaching contained in the text is already true. The goal is never intellectual comprehension or the accumulation of knowledge. In fact, these texts are understood with an open receptive mind that does not rely on theoretical or intellectual knowledge. Knowledge is powerless in terms of accessing wisdom but direct experience is definitely the entry point.