

## The Tibetan Book of The Dead

This work came from a class assignment by my teacher Parang Geri Larkin guiding force at Stillpoint Buddhist Temple located in Detroit MI and I thank her for the inspiration and faith in me to produce this work .The Bardo Thodol or as commonly known in the west The Tibetan Book of The Dead is a text that was written by great master Padma Sambhava in the eighth or ninth century. The focus and teaching of the text is the question of human death . I intend to explore our perceptions about life, death, and breath through this challenging text of the Indian and Buddhist culture. I am extremely conscious of history in my play and seek to express the reality of my particular Afro American experience and thereby hopefully touch on what is universal on our collective journey and maintain the integrity of tradition. The Tibetan Book of The Dead is a text about the passage from death to rebirth through what is called in Tibet the Bardo. I have taken the liberty to use language that renders meaning through extreme metaphorical symboism and thick philosophical / psychological images of desire, sexuality and the quest for resolution. The path through the Bardo is filled with surreal wrathful deities as well as the veiled capability of enlightenment .One of my intentions was to make available a discourse about the art of dying as an extention of the art of living but, I do not intend this to be an authoritative text about The Book Of The Dead but simply a hope to make available a conceptual path to the complicated study of the Bardo. This play is dedicated to the brave and compassionate people of Tibet who have suffered tremendous loss and violence through the Chinese occupation of their homeland.

Ron Allen