

Response to Allen

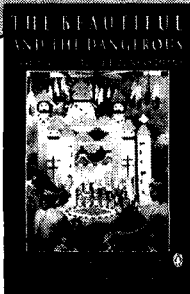
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Things must be getting pretty dull in Post-Thatcherland if Nick Allen is reduced to trashing *High Religion* in the name of higher textology (AA 94:967-968, 1992). His position—that Sherpa Buddhism primarily exists in Tibetan texts (even though most Sherpas neither read nor write classical Tibetan)

rather than in texts *and* social practices—is clearly too archaic to qualify him to review the book. Allen's fieldwork among the Sherpas is virtually nonexistent, and his "review" suggests that his acquaintance with cultural theory can be contained in less space than this response. Readers interested in the ways in which culture and power inflect the lives of real people over a particular historical trajectory, and in the explicitly theoretical underpinnings of such an argument, can read the book and form their own opinions. Textologists like Allen should stick to their closed stacks and narrow frameworks.

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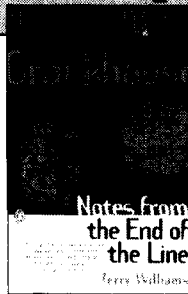
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