

**Study Guide Questions for the video,**  
***The Great Liberation: the Tibetan Book of the Dead - the Bardo Thodol***  
(Filmed in and around Ladakh)

1. Identify the critical educational processes undergone by and key lessons taught to the thirteen year old novice monk portrayed in this video. How are they like a rite of passage?
2. Which school of Buddhism is represented in *The Great Liberation*?
3. How is everyday “reality,” the state of living beings, understood by this Buddhist Ladakh community?
4. How is the transition from a living state to death, and “death” itself understood by this community? What is a “*bardo*”?
5. What is meant when it is said that during this time of transition, “you can see the Mind”? How is “Mind” understood by this Buddhist community?
6. What roles do the Buddhist monk and the *Bardo Thodol* play in assisting a dying person in this transitional period?
7. What is the source of the “peaceful” as well as the “wrathful” deities that confront a dying person during this transition? How should a dying person deal with these deities? Based upon choices the dying person makes during this transitional period, what might be the possible consequences awaiting him or her? Why must a dying person not cling to the past?
8. How are the basic principles of the Middle Way and the Three Jewels of Buddhism represented in the video?

Ladakh, "land of high passes," is a region in the state of Jammu and Kashmir in Northern India sandwiched between the Karakoram mountain range to the north and the Himalayas to the south. It is one of the most sparsely populated regions in India. Ladakh is renowned for its remote mountain beauty and Buddhist culture. It is sometimes called "Little Tibet" as it has been strongly influenced by Tibetan culture. In the past Ladakh gained importance from its strategic location at the crossroads of important trade routes, but since the Chinese authorities closed the borders with Tibet and Central Asia in the 1960, international trade has dwindled. Since 1974 the Indian Government has encouraged tourism in Ladakh. The largest town in Ladakh is Leh. A majority of Ladakhis are Tibetan Buddhists and the majority of the remainder are Shia Muslims.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladakh>