



15 Questions about *49 Buddhas*

for Media Interviews and Book Club Discussions

- 1) *49 Buddhas* begins with Lama Rinzen's rebirth into the Hell Realm. Is rebirth a key belief in Buddhism?
- 2) Western Hell is a place of eternal damnation and no escape. *49 Buddhas* says Lama Rinzen has been reborn into Hell in other lifetimes. Is Buddhist Hell temporary? Is it the same as Western Hell?
- 3) Rinzen is reborn into Hell to learn its lesson. What is the Hell Realm's lesson?
- 4) I like the idea of a Buddhist detective, but I don't know why. Is there a synergy between being a Buddhist and being a detective?
- 5) Is *49 Buddhas* a religious novel? Is Buddhism a religion?
- 6) The book has a bit of magical realism. Is magic a key belief in Buddhism?
- 7) Throughout the book it says, "If you see the Buddha on the road, kill him." What does this mean?
- 8) If the Hell Realm's lesson is to overcome confusion, what is the confusion that Rinzen needs to overcome?
- 9) What is the moral of Inspector Fernandez's on-going story about his father?
- 10) Abril is never totally honest with Rinzen, and yet seems to be the reason for his rebirth on Colfax. Is theirs a healthy relationship, or just more confusion?
- 11) Rinzen's old teacher Daidyal plays the part of bothersome sidekick, and then suddenly disappears from the story. Why?
- 12) Who is Madame Sun, and what role does she play in Rinzen's story?
- 13) At one point, we hear that the Buddha says we suffer due to our attachments. What does this mean?
- 14) What are the Six Realms of Buddhism, and what are their lessons?
- 15) Rinzen's goal is achieve enlightenment. What is enlightenment, and is it achievable?