## Contents

List of Figures		ix
A Note on Terminology and Transcription		xi
	nventions of Transcription	xiii
Int	roduction	1
	S. N. Goenka's Vipassana Organisation	3
	The Field Site	10
	Introducing the Participants	16
	Conceptualisations	21
	Research Design and Personal Orientations	32
	Outline of the Book	40
1.	Conversion Career	43
	Preaffiliation	44
	Affiliation	51
	Conversion	56
	Commitment	75
	Concluding Summary	92
2.	Tacit Conversion	94
	Conversion Narratives	99
	Language and Self-Transformation	101
	Selected Case Study: Elijah	102
	Plotting the Narrative	103
	The Performance of Conversion Narrative	106
	Self-Acceptance and Agency	112
	Mind-Body Relationship	115
	Concluding Summary	117
3.	Pragmatic Leaving	119
	(1) Pragmatism	120
	(2) Dualistic Discourse	121
	(3) Ambivalence	122
	Experience Seekers	123
	Traumatic Meditative Experiences	125
	Frustrating Experiences	134
	Loss of Experience	137
	Loss of Experience in Disengagement Literature	142
	Concluding Summary	145

## viii contents

4.	Disaffiliation	147
	Religious Disaffiliation	148
	Selected Case Study: Damian	151
	Doubt and Religious Disengagement	159
	Ambivalent Language in Disaffiliation Narratives	162
	Chasing Enlightenment	166
	Concluding Summary	171
5.	Disaffiliation Trajectories	172
	Trajectory (1): Drifters in Samsara	173
	Trajectory: (2) Pursuers of the Gateless Gate	180
	Selected Case Study: Karen	181
	Remnants of the Movement's Language	185
	Concluding Summary	191
6.	Deconversion: Breathing New Self into Not-Self	193
	Selected Case Study: Luke	194
	Leaving a Universe of Discourse Behind	201
	Authenticity vs. Authenticity Talk	207
	Authenticity in Disengagement Literature	209
	Origins of Authenticity	213
	Concluding Summary	216
Concluding Discussions		217
Aţ	ppendix 1: Vipassana Ten-Day Course Timetable	223
Appendix 2: Participants' Information		225
Bibliography		229
Index		241