THE LIVES OF THE 3RD AND 4TH LACHEN GOMCHENS: NGAWANG KUNSANG RINPOCHE (1867-1947) AND KUNSANG YOUNGDOL WANGPO (1949-2012)

VEN. LACHEN GOMCHEN RINPOCHE KUNSANG YOUNGDOL WANGPO

Translated by Tsewang Gyatso Namchi Government College, Sikkim



The 4th Lachen Gomchen Rinpoche (1949-2012)

Note from the Editor:

Ven. Lachen Gomchen Rinpoche passed away on 18th September 2012. In guise of obituary, I thought it appropriate to publish a translation of the biographies of the 3rd and 4th Lachen Gomchens which were personally written by Late Lachen Gomchen Rinpoche and of which he gave me a copy some twenty years ago, to which, the translator

Tsewang Gyatso and myself only added a couple ending paragraphs in order to complete the list of Rinpoche's achievements.¹

To the life of the 3rd Lachen Gomchen, I only wish to add that the Gomchen was also known as the teacher of the French Buddhist-explorer Alexandra David-Néel who, already in 1914-16, had undertaken meditation retreats in remote corners of the Lachen Valley under the supervision of the 3rd Lachen Gomchen.

Little is known of the lives of the 1st and 2nd Gomchens. Rinpoche once told me that the first incarnation of the Lachen Gomchen was known as Rigzin Pema Yongda, a Rig 'dzin lineage holder from Pemayangtse monastery in West Sikkim. He was a good scholar and looked well after the monastery. Out of respect, villagers called him Naljor Pema Tsen Chan (rNal 'byor pad ma mtshan can). The second incarnation lived in Sang, South Sikkim, and was known as Tuputam Tsampo (mTsham po), he meditated in a cave and was not involved in monastic affairs.

THE 3RD LACHEN GOMCHEN NGAWANG KUNSANG RINPOCHE

Lachen Gomchen Ngawang Kunsang Rinpoche was born at Namok in North Sikkim. He was quite stubborn and fierce right from childhood. Because of his temperament, his father and brother sought advice and placed him in the Labrang Gonpa in North Sikkim. One day, the discipline master strongly slapped and scolded him after he had dropped a pot of porridge while serving the monks. Following this incident, he ran away to the Lopon at the Phodong Gonpa. There he completed his basic training in ritual and practice, and eventually received the instruction of the 'fierce fire flame Vajrāpani,' ('phyag rdor gtum mo me lce khrid) and went into retreat at a hermitage called Yaphi la where he stayed for a three year retreat following a simple living.

Unsatisfied with his practice, he left for Tibet where he received teachings from various accomplished masters. Among these, he received oral instructions, explanations and empowerments from Kharchen Lama (mKhar chen bla ma) and Phudak Kyabsgon (Phun dag skyabs mgon) as his previous karmic connection; he also received the

We would like to thank Pema Garwang, Tsultsem Gyatso Acharya, Phurba Tshering Bhutia and Hissey Wongchuk for their help in transcribing, typing and proofreading the original handwritten Tibetan and Hissey Wongchuk for providing the Wylie transcriptions.

complete empowerment of Hayagrīva and worshipped him as his meditational deity.

In the course of his life, he undertook retreats at several locations including Zargang (located above Lachen), Thangu Gonpa, Deothang (above Kalep, on the way to Thangu) and other caves. He is believed to have undertaken strict three and nine year retreats at secluded places. Above all, he never slept during the night but remained in sitting meditation. He also used to do three daily meditation sessions.



The 3rd Lachen Gomchen Rinpoche (1867-1947)

He received teachings on arterial system and wind practice (rtsa dang rlung) from the enlightened master Tokden Shakya Shri (rTog ldan Sha kya shri) in the course of two of his travels to Tsari in Tibet. I myself heard from late Labrang Gomchen that Tokden Shakya Shri used to hold him in high regards and addressed him 'Denjong Tokden' or 'Sikkimese meditation master.' He thus gave away entire teachings as if pouring down from a vase. As later narrated to me by late Labrang Gomchen who had accompanied him, he added that each and every word should be remembered by Denjong Gomchen.

The late Lachen Gomchen was an authentic great master. He specialized in arterial system and wind practices. It is said that once he blew away a large new conch shell which nobody could blow. And, he blew it loudly. He is also said to have bent a piece of iron to be placed under a prayer cylinder which couldn't be bent by any skilled blacksmith. He came out of retreat and bent it by simply placing it on his knee. The same is still preserved under the prayer cylinder of the Lachen Mani Lhakhang. He also possessed several other powers such as the ability to divert the direction of hail-stones, cure severe leprosy and other serious diseases caused by malignant spirits. There are several other things which I have not written here as I am now tired and will write later if the time is right.

The great yogi on his visit to Lachen was once requested to be the lama of the region by Chipon Dachom (spyi dpon dGra bcom) and other residents. He was also requested to do so by Chogyal Thutob Namgyal and Prince Sidkeong Tulku. He took complete responsibility for Lachen Ngodup Choeling (dngos grub chos gling) monastery for 49 years from the eighth month of the Earth Dog year (1898) of the 15th Rabjung of the Tibetan calendar.

During his stay, he contributed the mural paintings of the temple, a statue of Guru Nangsi Zilnon (sNang srid zil gnon) made of copper gold, several clay statues of Buddhas of the three times (chos longs sprul gsum - Dharmakāya, Sambokāya and Nirmānkāya), Tengyur (bstan 'gyur) from the Narthang press, twelve *vajrā* dancer costumes made of pure Chinese silk, increased the enrollment of novices and even contributed the oil-burners for the temple's butter lamps as seed of the offerings which needed nobody else to seek from.

Eventually, he passed away in the evening at the age of 81, in the fifth month of the Female Fire Pig year (1947), 16th Rabjung cycle (thams cad 'dul). The passing away of this great lama was marked by seven days Samādhi (thugs dam). During the funeral, devotees witnessed numerous auspicious physical signs as prescribed in the Tantra as opposed to a fictitious story.

THE 4TH LACHEN GOMCHEN KUNSANG YOUNGDOL WANGPO

I, his reincarnation, Lachen Gomchen Kunsang Youngdol Wangpo, a simple and innocent person, was born on a Tuesday morning at Yangang, South Sikkim in a humble family in the eleventh month of the Earth Ox year (1949) of the 16th Rabjung cycle of the Tibetan calendar.

When I was three, a powerful *ngakpa* (sngags pa) who could control hailstones was invited to our home in order to perform some rituals. One morning, I sat on the upper most section of his seat and touched his ritual instruments including his *damaru* and *vajrā* upon which the former debarred me from doing so. On that occasion, I said that I had better ritual instruments than his and also narrated names of lamas, yaks, *dri*, horses, mules, etc. I can't remember clearly but I still remember that I sat on the upper most section of his seat and uttered one word: 'Lachen.'

Whatever it may be, during the Ngakpa's travel to Kalimpong, he probably narrated the story to some of the tradesmen from Lachen. Upon hearing the news, the people of Lachen decided to approach Sir Tashi Namgyal, the then Chogyal of Sikkim, and briefed him about the child. The Chogyal and his council of ministers discussed the matter and consulted divinities upon which my name was confirmed. My recognition was further endorsed by HH Jamyang Khyentse Rinpoche and HH the 16th Gyalwa Karmapa who were on pilgrimage to Sikkim at that particular time.

At the age of nine, I reached Lachen. Later, my hair cutting ritual was carried out by Khyentse Rinpoche at Gangtok who named me Kunsang Dechen Wangyal. In the beginning, HH Jamyang Khyentse Rinpoche explained the 'praise of Manjushri' (gang blo ma) by opening the way of the Dharma followed by bestowing on me the empowerment of the 'gathering of precious jewels' (dkon mchog spyi 'dus) and long life empowerment.

Later, upon his departure, I went to seek his blessings; he gave me a statue of Buddha, the printed khangloma (gang blo ma), $vajr\bar{a}$ and bell and a blessing cord with prayers and aspirations.

Again, when I went to see him, he was quite seriously ill due to his failing health. He did not allow devotees to visit him but gave me special time on two occasions when I also received teachings. Later, while leaving his place he gave me an upper garment and a hat made in eastern Tibet. He asked his attendant to pick a hat among others kept in boxes, held it in different ways and eventually, recited a complete 'wish

fulfilling prayer' (bsam pa lhun grub) and put it on my head. After some months, the news of his passing away was heard.

Thereafter, I also received teachings, explanations and empowerments from the great hidden yogi Jokhang Rinpoche Kunzang Choepel (Kun bzang chos 'phel).

Generally, I started to learn reading and writing from the age of nine, also memorizing the daily prayers. I then committed to stay in strict retreat in order to undertake the complete preliminary practices of 'five Mandalas.' In the course of my retreat, I recited the mantra of my meditational deity, including 'wrathful guru and lion-faced dākinī' (bla ma drag seng), several million times. I especially recited several million mantras of my meditational deity.

From the age of sixteen, I again received several major empowerments, instructions and oral transmissions followed by future prophecies which I cannot put on record here. At the age of seventeen, I went to seek the blessing of HH Dudjom Jigdral Yeshe Dorje whose name and fame spread far and wide. Thus, I had a strong desire to seek his blessing at Kalimpong but he had already proceeded to Bodhgaya to participate in a congregation of non-sectarian Buddhist lamas. I also departed for Bodhgaya and sought his first blessing there. Since then, I kept meeting Rinpoche and received several empowerments. instructions and oral transmissions from him on which I will write separately. In particular, I received the Rinchen Terzod (rin chen gter mdzod) precious treasure collection empowerment at Rewalsar Lake where Guru Rinpoche miraculously transformed the fire into a lake. I will not elaborate on the teachings I received from HH Rinpoche as this isn't the right time to do so.

At the age of twenty, just as I had the intention, the opportunity to pursue further studies came about as HM the King Palden Thondup Namgyal offered me to do so. I then joined the Sikkim Institute of Higher Nyingma Studies, Deorali, Gangtok and received training for six years under the guidance of the learned scholar Khenpo Dazer (mkhan po Zla zer) and Khenpo Tsondru (mkhan po brTson 'grus). I studied the commentary of 'ju Mi pham and other treatises and grammars for which rare and sacred texts I had a certain disposition.

Following this, as the political situation in Sikkim was deteriorating, I took a break and went into retreat for several months during the summer. Because of the harsh climate and the cold, I fell ill and did not improve despite taking both Tibetan and allopathic medicines.

In fact, I had no doubt that it was due to my previous karma. Thus, in order to purify it, I made one million miniature *stupas* plus thirty

thousand extra which took me three and half months without counting the time it took to dig up the soil. These were placed in a duly consecrated *stupa* on the way to Thangu at a cross road where pilgrims can circumambulate it. From which, I accumulated merit in the beginning, in the end and dedicated it.

Later in the fourth month of the Fire Snake year (1977) of the Tibetan calendar it was unanimously decided to renovate the Lachen monastery (gyang dgon). The Pipon and Chutimpa (chos khrims pa), head of the village and discipline master approached the Ecclesiastical Department for a financial grant which was made and for which I remain grateful.

At that time, the monk body and people of Lachen several times together requested me to take responsibility for the monastery's renovation even though I didn't have the qualifications to do so. Yet, considering how times had changed and also how the time had now come according to the prediction, I saw the construction as a rare opportunity to contribute to the restoration of the Buddha Dharma. I was also encouraged to be able to utilize this precious human birth for this noble cause. It took almost two years to widen the site as the old monastery's site was quite narrow resulting in the temple having to face south-west, which was not a favorable direction for the enhancement of the monk's community as well as their teaching and learning practices. Because of this, the ground was leveled in an attempt to make the temple face east.

In the course of construction, the monk and people of Lachen selflessly rendered their services as unpaid labor for three months and twenty days. Moreover, the foundation of the monastery was made according to the rules stipulated in the scriptures; these were followed by making the 'stomach of lord of earth' (sa bdag lto phye) along with complete rituals. After reaching a certain level of construction, the necessary rituals were performed for the installment of the sacred vase (sa chu bum gter). It was installed as per the prescribed rules and by consecrating it with the 'Mind practice for pacifying all the obstacles' (thugs sgrub bar chad kun sel) which was the treasure discovered by Terton Chogyal Lingpa of the degenerated age. The ritual was performed by ten monks including myself together with propitiations over a period of seven days. Nine vases were installed in different directions including one in the centre of the temple.

During this period, I had several auspicious dreams and physical signs which might sound fictitious if narrated here.

The outside of the monastery was built with white stone whereas the inner portion was made with modern technology by using rod and concrete cement.

According to the Five Dhyani Buddhas (rigs lnga) treasure of Guru Rinpoche, as predicted in the prophecy of Bayul Demonjong (sbas yul 'Bras mo ljongs), in the eight directions are:Guru Nangsi Zilnon (guru sNang srid zil gnon), Panchen Bimalamita (pan chen Bi ma la mi ta), Yeshe Tsogyal (Ye shes mtsho rgyal), Gyalwa Lhatsun (rgyal ba lHa btsun), Chogyal (chos rgyal), Buddha, and paintings of exorcists together with other murals and paintings of Mipham in the temple. All the painted posts, pillars, main door and windows were made of concrete cement and rod. The main shrine ('du khang), the protecctor's room (mgon khang), the bed room (gzim chung), and store room were positioned as prescribed in the 'the elegant sayings of white Bedruriya' (legs bshad be dur dkar po).

The monastery is surrounded by the monks' private cells with separate apartments reserved for high lamas. Altogether, it represents the 'thirty seven limbs of enlightenment' surrounded by a fence together with two large doors on either side.

In front of the monastery, at a distance of one fathom, there is a two storey building reserved for the novices' recitation, memorization, reading and writing and to accommodate monk-students visiting from other places.

In 1979, I was elected as a lone Sangha member of the State Legislative Assembly and was inducted in the state cabinet in which I served selflessly as a minister for four and a half years. During my tenure, I looked after the departments of Ecclesiastical Affairs, Cultural Affairs and ST/SC Affairs. The Sikkim Institute of Higher Nyingma Studies was affiliated with the Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi during the said period. The introduction of monastic schools in the monasteries of Sikkim was also executed when I served as a minister in the State Cabinet.³

This paragraph was added by Tsewang Gyatso and translated from a biography authored by Ven. Lachen Rinpoche published in *Bibliotheca Sikkim Himalayica*, *Series 1, Guru Duechen Number Symposium Volumie*, 25th July 1996, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok, Sikkm.

dren pa nye bar bzhag pa bzhi, yang dag spang ba bzhi, rdzu 'phrul gyi rkang pa bzhi, dbang po lnga, stobs lnga, byang chub mchog gi chos bdun and 'phags lam yan lag brgyad

Addition:⁴

Under the guidance of Kyabje Dodrupchen Rinpoche, Ven. Lachen Gomchen Rinpoche first introduced the Lama Gongdue (bla ma dngos 'dus) practice at Tashiding in 1999, which has since been performed annually at the Ringhem monastery in North Sikkim.

Later in life and with the intention of reviving Sikkim's Pang Lhabsol tradition (*dPang lha gsol*—'offering to the witness god'), Rinpoche undertook the construction of Samten Choeling monastery located at Thangdu at an altitude of 14,000 ft in the upper reaches of the Lachen Valley. Following a thorough study of the scriptures concerned with the Pang Lhabsol celebration, Rinpoche personally oversaw the preparation of the costumes, the performance of the rituals and the training of the young Lachenpas who performed the *Pangtö cham* (*dPang bstod 'cham*—'dance in praise of the witness god') in honour of Kangchendzonga (*gangs* snow, *chen* great, *mdzod* treasure, *lnga* five), Sikkim mountain deity. The Pang Lhabsol celebration has been held annually at Thangu since 2009.



First Pang Lhabsol held at Thangu 2009

Added by the Editor partly from an unpublished *Brief Life Sketch of Late Lachen Gomchen Rinpoche* authored by Rinpoche's family.

This 'cham was designed by the third Chogyal, Chagdor Namgyal when he established the Pemayangtse monastery (in 1705) upon his return from Tibet.

Under the supervision of Rinpoche, a film was made on the first Pang Lhabsol's celebration held at Thangu in 2009, partly in collaboration with the NIT.

याकेत्रक्ष्म् सञ्जूषाञ्चा द्वीराम् सुरायदे द्वारा व्याकेत्रक्ष्म स्वाप्त स्वराय ह्वारा व्याकेत्र स्वराय ह्वारा व्याकेत्र स्वराय ह्वारा व्याकेत्र स्वराय ह्वारा स्वराय ह्वाराय ह

र्के अः हे 'त्यः के दः क्षेत्रं अः के दः ने दः वे रे के गुद्रः न वनः पे हिं अः के दः ने दः वे रि

ॐश | नार्ने न् त्र अन्ताना ना ना है अव्यक्त त्यों की अवस्ति । या ना त्या अप्ताने के स्थित क्षेत्र के स्थान का क्षेत्र के स्थान के स्थान के स्थान के स्थान के स्थान के स्थान प्राचीत के स्थान के स्था के स्थान के स्थान के स्थान के स्थान के स्थान के स्थान के स्थान

वेशक्ष्यः मुन्यायः विष्यायः विष्यायः विष्याः भ्राम्यायः विष्याः भ्राम्यायः विष्यः विषयः विषय

र्श्र.चीरश्र.पुरु,पूर्यरश्र.क्षेर.कुर.कुर.लीजाजीर.मी.कु.चश्रयाज्ञ था.कुरी लार.पु.चीकुश्र.चर. अःवरःवाधुःवार्देरःवर्ःवःक्रःव्यंदःवर्षेदःवर्षेदःअःधेवःवश्वःवःवरःवर्वे वे अःज्ञवाशःर्वे । चाश्रुस्रायायम्। स्वामा स्यायायो दास्त्रीय्यायम्। दे : भ्रायमा प्रस्य स्वामा स् ढ़ॏज़ॱॺळ॔**ड़ॱऒ॔**ॸ॔ॺॱॻॖज़ॺॱॶॱॻॖज़ॱॾॕज़ॱॾॗॖॕढ़ॱय़ॱढ़ॖॱज़ॱढ़ॏज़ॱज़ढ़ॺॱॾॣॕ*ॸ*ॱॸॖॱय़॓ज़ॺॱढ़ॕॎॸॱ लीका क्षेत्र प्रधीया है अ शिलीका क्षेत्र प्री श्री श्री श्री में श्री वी श के श्री हो पर श्री का वर्षाः ग्राम्य विवास्य म्हण्याः सुरास्य वे से स्वास्य सुरास्य सुरास्य सुरास्य सुरास्य सुरास्य सुरास्य सुरास्य देर-**खुल-क्षे-व्याक-क्रें**र-दश-खुल-क्षे-क्ष्र-क्षर-क्ष्य-क्ष्य-क्ष्य-क्ष्य-क्षर-क्षर-क्षर-क्षर-क्षर-क्षर-क्षर-क्ष वार्ट्र-सर्वायत्कराय्यायार्श्वेद्यायर्वेद्यायात्वेद्यायात्वेद्वायात्वेद्वायात्वेद्वायात्वेद्वायात्वेद्वायात्वेद श्रृदःद्रशःर्हेनःचबेरशःग्रीशःश्रुःग्ववदः (बरःग्रीश) चबेशःचर्डशःसह्दःचबेदः ब्रुर् ये तथायर श्रुपावद क्रिक्षे वर्षे अर्थे प्राप्त हे व्यापा हे व्यापा क्रिया था क्रिया वर्षे देव दश ૹ૾ુૠૼ*ૢૼ*ૹ૽૱ૹૻૣઽૡઌૹઌઌઌઌઌઌઌઌઌઌઌઌઌ૽૽ઌઌ૱૱૱ૹ૽૱ઌૹ૽૱ઌ૽૽ૢ૽ઌઌ૽૽૽ दर्भःक्टःस्रभःसहयःनभःदर्गुर्नःचन्वाभःस्यःहेःस्वरःचत्वाभःसरःवार्श्रयःनःचहनः याः भूरावयानवे या सहर् वनया हे या थेराये हें हे सारे पर भूषा के दार्गे दर् सहतार् जूरी विषया है या पर्ने त्यो भूराया मिया में त्याया गु र रे वा में के वे विषया <u>इ</u>ंश्राधीत्रःश्रॅन्यशायदायदाःश्रॅंश्यदाःश्रॅंश्वॅट्राक्कुःयतुन्नाःग्यदाः। देवायानेदाने।वेर्गक्कुश्राः धेव मश्मावव रुप्तिव नर्से पर्का चीयःश्चेष्ट्रात्तात्रमान्धेमाचीराचात्रमा समाक्षाचारचारक्रमाची मिलक्षा

चुनःश्चित्रायःश्वरामित्रे राष्ट्रदाय्याः श्वराक्षेत्रायः स्वर्णात् व्यान्त्र स्वर्णाः स्वर्ण

स्राचित्रभ्यात् स्राचित्रभ्या

भूनर्यायदेरालें क्रुयायदे दिरायद्वेषाक्षेत्राहे खूराधरा क्रिनेवेदारावायाययायसम्बर िखटासदे सुरावायदासे दे स्वाराह्में दिले वा मुत्ति स्वाराह्में सुवाराह्में सुवाराह्में सुवाराह्में सुवाराह्में ਫ਼ਜ਼੶ਜ਼ਫ਼ੑਜ਼ੑਸ਼੶ਜ਼ਸ਼੶ਜ਼ੑੑੑੑੑਜ਼ਜ਼੶ਜ਼<u>ੑ੶</u>ਖ਼ੑਜ਼੶ਜ਼ਫ਼ੑਜ਼੶ਜ਼ੑਜ਼ਜ਼ੑਜ਼ निरावियायी सेराधेव रे ययायायाय देखी त्या क्षु या विरावि या वा क्षेत्र क्षा वसायदेराचलुग्रास्प्रेंदासाधेदाळेंद्। यादासूराद्वयायद्वेरासादे दे से से पानावसाया नक्षेत्रः क्षे निर्वो व्यायस्न निर्मा स्वार्ते क्षेत्रः हित्य क्षेत्रः विष्टे स्वार्ये क्षेत्रः विष्टे स्वार्ये स्वर्ये स्वार्ये नरः अहर् दे। देशः अर् १६ दि दि दि अर अर्थे वा अर्थे वा अर भूतरायदर:स्रविदःयःसुरःहे र्ह्येदःयःदेवाःर्येदःयःदे त्यःकेदःदशःकुरः<u>य</u>वारादवादः न्यायर सहस्याया वेरानदे चरावेगा विता विता स्ति राने राने स्त्री न्याय स्ति स्त्री स्त्री स्त्री स्त्री स्त्री स र्भे विषा प्रिन्स ने रहें राज्य त्र त्याद द्वारा सव रहें व स्तर है व सार्थे हरा। श्री पी पा वर्षा त्यात्री प्रमुद्धा प्रवाद के शाम के देव के प्रमुद्धा के शाम के स्वाद के कि साम के स्वाद के कि साम के साम के स येग्रअः विद्यान्त्र स्ट्रान्य स्ट्रान्य विष्य हे। दः केंद्रि स्ट्रान्य स्ट्राम्य स्ट्रान्य स्ट्रान्य स्ट्रान्य वदी धिरानि के सम्बन्धित स्त्री के त्रानि के सम्बन्धित सम्बन्धित स्त्री स अर्ळेंद्र'ळदे 'ब्र्ॅंट्र'न'हे 'डंअ'न इअअ'अट'मोर्दे ट्र'अ'तुश्र अवर'अगुल'वग्राप्य' नष्ट्रस्थाने प्रत्योत्स्य । देवे नगाय कर व्ह्रा तुर तेर्दा द्रस्था द्वारा स्वापा स्वापा स्वापा स्वापा स्वापा स न् अन्य स्ट्रिं न्या व्या स्वया क्षेत्र स्वया क्षेत्र स्वया न्या स्वया न्या स्वया स

यात्वातः स्रान्त् अस्यात्वात् प्रम्ति । विद्राय्यात् त्रियायात् स्रान्त् स्रान्त् स्रान्त् स्त्रान्त् । विद्राय्यात् त्रियायात् स्रान्त् स्त्रान्त् स्त्र

इस् वर्षीयः वृश्वःतिरः यक्षेषः लावाः याः अत्राप्ताः विद्यः स्त्राः स्त्राः स्त्राः स्त्राः स्त्राः स्त्राः स् वर्षाः स्त्राः स्त्

इस्र.श्र. प्रत्याची स्वर्ग हो त्यां के त

ह्र्या.धें.चर्लेयेश्वरः हुंच्याक्क्र्यः याक्षरः हुंच्याक्ष्यः याव्याव्यः याव्यः यय्यः याव्यः य्

स्वासास्य स्वास्य स्वासास्य स्वास्य स्वासास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य स्वास्य स्वास

भ्रु'यळे द्रह्मश्रानर्श्व श्रु ह्रा ह्रह्म श्रे नश्र स्था द्र्या ह्रिया श्रु त्रा ह्रिया ह्र

सःचेनाःसरः चुनाःसः दर्वे नरः नसूर्। दनो नर्जे सःग्री सःनगदः र्क्के दः दृरः सून्। सःन ख़ॖॺऻॴख़ॱॼॕॱॸॱढ़ऻऀॺऻॱॿॖॸॱॎॺॸॱॼॕॴॸॖ॓ॱॺॕॱॺऻॸॕॣ॔॔ॸॱॸॣ॔ज़ॸॣॕॸॱॸॣॺॕज़ॸॣॺ॔ढ़ऻज़ढ़॓ॱ सर्व न उरा देर देव केंग यग से व इस श सबर ही व सहर सबर हा न हैर निध्यास् अ.जेषु हो हो टे. खें या हे. जा को टे. टे. हो टे. , , ला.चु. ला. , खें या या खें या शिया रेट'पळें'न'ट्रबर्टेव'रुब'प्य'नहेव'हे'नश्चेव'श्चन'स्वन्यहर्धेव'सहर्∥े दे'रुब'पपट्ट' बियायाल्येट्रासाक्ष्रिययास्यात्र्येट्राट्रायस्य स्त्रियायास्यात्रे ययात्रे स्त्रीयात्राक्ष्यया म्भी वित्रकाता न हुन् ने नान्यका स्वास्था स्वर्धिका नाव्य प्यान्य स्वर्धन स्वर्धन स्वर्धन स्वर्धन स्वर्धन स्वर् क्ची:प्रश्नायते प्राक्ची:क्षुं मुन्न मुन्न म्हायते विक्षा क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क ्रेचिश्वाल्यात्वेश्वान्त्रात्त्राची । श्वीत्याची । वार्षे । ये राज्ये वार्षे वार्षा । वार्षे वार्षे वार्षे वार्षे बर.श्चर. रिज.क्रव.ग्री.इ.इ.र.लूर् ने बर.रमूर्ये हें वे.बर. रिबर.पर्यूर.पर्यू. यदु त्वस र्नुगा से न त्वे स यदे सु ने न स्वा स्वा स्वा स्वा स्वा सु वा स्वा स्वा सु वा स्व स्व स्व स्व स्व स्व नर्हें व । अळ्यशस्त्रमावशादे प्रमान्तुः वे माशुक्षः वे प्रमुद्धे प्रसाव उत्सर्द्दा दे सू सक्तराशि.पर्वियोग्र॑ स्री.सक्तराशुर्य.सद.सेयसातवट. विय.योशिसार्य.स.क्या.सर. भूषाप्त्रियर्द्यायर्वायर्वा हिर्मार सम्बद्धाः स्ट्रा हिर्मायर सम्बद्धाः स्ट्रा हिर्माया हिर्माय स्ट्रा हिर्माय सबर-बिया.क्सरा.व्ह.मु.चर-भूर-री.लब.यहिया.ब्रिय.हे। क्षेयाया.रीया.स्या.सव. क्या. पर्चे र पा के द भें में न का ख़द प्राय: के दे : बन का वा न तहन्। विदाहे : दे : हे द : हे द : छे का यह : दर्शरार्केट्र सर्हे न्या स्वता के स्वता का निका के तार्चे का की स्वता के स्वता का स्वता के स्वता के स्वता का स <u> रमाः इससः तुसः मारः वर्हे देः द्धेयः नुः मानरः भ्रानसः द्धेयाः सद्धस्य सः नेः निवेत्। नेः परः </u> ૡચંશ-ફ્રુઁદશ-ફ્રુઁચોશ-ર્નેચ-ૹ૾ૢ-. ક્રીયોશ-તા-વ્યવ્યા-દેશું શ-લું શ-ભદ-ભદ-યોજી દશ-જ્ઞૈના છે. बरःक्षेत्राळेत्रःबेरायेनसासळेगारे ऋनसायुत्रः तुन्वरार्द्धेरायनुगाराविरागे । वया অম'অর'মে'বাধ্যুদ্ম'ঘ'র্রুমা

क्रमान श्वाहे साम् वित्ता ने क्रिया त्या साम क्रिया हो स्वाह्म स्वाह्

र्वेट्र अन्ते ते प्यटः श्रेन् पुत्रावरः क्षेत्र वा स्ट्रिंट्र वा सूच्या वा श्रुवा गुत्र व बटा प्येट्र वा श्रेव र्से निर्मान्ते वर्षा मुर्हे त्रामें सुमाना माना माना में नामे ना मुर्हे सार्काः ^{ढ़}ॴक़ॖॖढ़ॱढ़ॏॴॱढ़_ऻ॔ॸॸॴॗढ़ॱॸॹॱड़ॗॴॱॴॴॹ॒ॸॱॿॖॱॸॱॺॶॱॴऄॴॱॸऄॱऄॴज़ड़ॱड़ॗॴॱ रे*शः*न्वतःश्चेनःत्सरःग्चेःवेदःर्देरःदसःसःश्चेरःपन्यन्यत्यन्तरः विरः विश्वसःसःदेःसूः भूनर्यायदान्त्रेनाः सुवार्यायाः से रा<u>श्</u>रान्तः तुर्याः स्वानः स्वानः स्वानः स्वानः स्वानः स्वानः स्वानः स्वानः योट्यं विश्वामी शास्त्राम् योष्टा स्मित्रशास्त्रा हिंगा हेवा स्वत् वित्रा शास्त्र स्वाया वर्षी रा र्शेट-दशन्तर्भुन-ने निंद-नी सनुद्र-नुःथेन-सदे सर्वेद-कश्नाने देश-इस्राय-सन्।यादहः यर-वङ्गर्थायर-विंद-वीश-द्यावानश_े स्व-क्कीशव्य-केव-र्-ु-त्य-क्किंद्-र्र्ट-वी-सर्केद्-क्रशायदी र्वे त्या श्रुषा या उद्दायदी प्रदायदी र्वे राष्ट्र वे राष्ट्र विषय प्रदाय विषय प्रदाय मदे से दार प्रवाद दिया विशेषाया पर्वे वा दिया है हिया ही । विश्वाद श्रास्त्री वा श्रास्त्री वा श्रास्त्री वा श यदेवःवदःवःसरःवें व्यवदःर्षेदःभ्रदःवतुत्ताः ग्रदः ख्वःसरः वःदः ख्रः वाश्रवः वें द्वतः सेः वार्श्र अप्तर्वार्द्ध ग्राम् वायापर्वे स्र श्रेम प्राप्त । या के दावे अप्यये केवा स्थायम या <u>ल.लीट.क्श.सक्ष्रभ.र्रट्रे.चीक्रूभ.की.पट्री विट.क्रेर.क्रुं भ.ट्यट.वी.वीध्य.क्ष्रभ.</u> र्व्यायासापूरामाञ्चयाञ्चियायाश्चात्रे नयाञ्चयायाञ्चरायदे । त्युवासाञ्चरामाश्चरया ऍं ५ व्हें ५ त्या दे व्हू र त्या के द क्षेत्र क्षेत्र अर द्वा अर दे स्वर क्षेत्र या के दे विकास के दे विकास के पत्रिकाशु त्यायः त्रिकालीयाः पत्रिकालीं दिवालीयाः विवालीयाः भीः सर्व.री.पठर.पे.जू.क्रा.बिश.सर.क्रिया.क्र्य.स्थमायाचाराज्य माह्या.र्प्य प्राप्त.री.

पर्चेर्।

पर्चेर।

पर्

*ૄે ૱*ઌૻૺ*ૠ*ૠ૾૽ઽૢ૾ૼૼૼૼૼૼઌૺ૾૾૾ૢૼૼૼૼૼઽૹ૱ૹઙૢ૽ૺ૱ઌ૽૽ૢ૾૾૽૾૱૱૽૽ૼૹ૽૱ૢૢૢૢૢૢૢ૽ૺઌ૽૽૱ૢૺઌ૽ૼૹ૱૱૱ त्रमुरः से नः गुत्रः नवनः निरं के तः नवनः मुखः विशः वहन् श्रायः स्वरं । विरः र्वे नाः सरः निटः क्वें स्थरः खूनियायः वर्षे वः सहरारे : क्वें या क्वें : द्वें या क्वें या क्वें या क्वें : वर्षे या क्वें इना से ट र दट के र न द र र न सुरा न त द र सहित है त स्वराहे स है त सुना हु न उर र भूतर्य। हे 'दे 'हे द' ग्रे र' गुरु' त्या श्रु र' श्रु दा हो द' या दा के दा विकास हो देखा र र्ह्वे अदे 'दर्शेय'म'श्चर'य'ग्रेव _|हें'हेय'८८'ग्रेव'यर्ट्र'नठर्य श्चग्राश्चेंद'धुद'रेट' नवर हे. नक्ष्य हे अ. क्रॅर सिर से. अ. अ. वर्र ने. च वर से च या अ. से. क्षेत्र नि वर्ष निवर्ष है. स्तर्या ही दिराची से स्थापदर वियासहया हैन क्षु भी दार्ग दिन में दार्ग प्राप्त स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वापत स्वाप्त स् <u>रक्षम् अत्यक्षः श्रीः माञ्चम् अत्यक्ष्यः स्थान् स्यान् स्थान् स्थान्य स्थान् स्थान् स्थान् स्थान् स्थान् स्थान् स्थान् स्थान् स्थान्य</u> दर्ने या ख्रदा ने . विश्व हे शासु . क्षेत्र चुना : भ्रून शासु . क्षेत्र से ना स्थाप निवास । निवास । निवास । निवास । चाडिचान्दरः न्तुःलुः विस्रसः चाडें च्हतः चाडिचाः सूर्यः चाडिचाः स्याद्यादः स्वराद्यादः स्वराद्यादः स्वराद्यादः द्यान्तुःबुःदरःदरःयरःस्दिःदरःद्यान्ययान्तेःस्वाःनुःनवेयान्वयानवेयःस्र तरायासरारी, शहरी सबरायश्वासंध्याका करा खुर्या के या अपने हुं ते सूरी स्वापित हैं। गुर्भाग्री अर्थो त्यानर्भेदासर सहरि इस्पर्भा हे सासु हे रे हिर्द्रित प्रांस केंस ৴ঀৢ৴৵৻য়ৢ৻য়ঢ়৴৻৸৾ঽ৾৻য়৾ৢ৻য়য়৻য়ৢয়৻৸৾৾য়৾৻৸

यात्तीराभित्राचित्राच्यात्तित्ताच्यात्राच्यात्राच्यात्राच्यात्त्यात्त्राच्यात्त्यात्त्राच्यात्त्राच्यात्त्राच्यात्त्राच्यात्त्राच्यात्त्राच्यात्त्राच्यात्त्राच्यात्त्राच्यात्त्राच्यात्त्राच्यात्त्र्यात्त्यात्त्र्यात्त्यात्त्र्यात्त्यात्त्र्यात्त्र्यात्त्यात्त्यात्य

चर्षेत्र, संस्था क्ष्माका क्ष्माका क्ष्माका क्ष्मा क्ष्म

त्राम्यास्त्रम्त्रम् । त्राम्यास्त्रम् । त्राम्यास्त्रम्त्रम् । त्राम्यास्त्रम् । त

के। व्याप्तश्चिम् विकास स्थाप्त स्थाप

च्या स्ट्रा त्या त्र स्ट्र स्

सब्दान्तर्ना विश्व स्त्राचित्राचित्र स्वाचित्र स्वाचित्र स्वाचित्र स्वाचित्र स्वाचित्र स्वाचित्र स्वाचित्र स्व सब्दान्तर स्वाचित्र स्व

THE SIKKIMESE KHENPO DECHEN DORJEE (1937-2012)



TSULTSEM GYATSO ACHARYA Namgyal Institute of Tibetology

The sublime Khen Rinpoche Dechen Dorjee (mKhan Rin po che bDechen rdo je) was born to Dawa Gyatso and Drolma, in the Fire Female Cow Year of the 16th Tibetan Calendrical Cycle 'Rabjung,' 2417 year since the Parinirvana of Shyakyamuni Buddha, corresponding to Friday, October 15, 1937 in the region called Shari, near Phensang Sangag Choeding (Phan bzang gSang sngags chos sdings) Monastery in North Sikkim.

He entered one of Sikkim's six great monasteries, Phensang Sangag Choeding, when he was eight years old. From the time he learned to read and write, he trained and excelled in the doctrines of the monastery's systems, rituals and other aspects.

He received his name 'Dechen Dorjee' from Dungsey Thinlay Norbu Rinpoche (gDung sras 'Phren las nor bu rin po che, 1931-2011), son of Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche (sKyabs rje bDud 'joms rin po che). At the age of 27, he entered the Sikkim Institute of Higher Nyingma Studies ('Bras gzhung snga 'gyur bshad gra Thub bstan mdo sngags chos gling) in 1964. For fifteen long years, he thoroughly studied the unique major scriptures of sutra and mantra based on 'Jam mgon mipham Rinpoche's higher textbooks, as well as common subjects like spelling, grammar and poetics with Khenpo Lama Rinchen (mKhan po bla ma Rin chen, 1931-1971), Dzogchen Khenpo Dawa Wozer (rDzogs chen mkhan po Zla ba'i 'od zer, 1922-1990) and Dzogchen Khenchen Thubten Tsondru Phuntshog (rDzogs chen mkhan chen Thup bstan brtsun 'grus phun tshogs, 1920-1979).

He received the complete empowerments and transmissions of Nyingma Kama (rNying ma bka' ma) and Terma (gter ma), lower and higher Nyingthigs (sNying thig), Lama Gongdue (bLa ma dgongs 'dus), the nine volumes of Jigme Lingpa ('Jigs med gling pa), the five volumes of the 3rd Dodrupchen Rinpoche (rDo grub chen rin po che) and other transmissions from his personal Lord, the fourth Kyabje Dodrupchen Rinpoche Thinlay Pal Sangpo (sKyabs rje rDo grub chen rin po che 'Phrin las dpal bzang po, b.1927).

In the Male Earth Monkey Year (1968), he received empowerments and transmissions of the Rinchen Terzod (Rin chen gter mdzod), the Great Treasury of Precious Termas, from Kyabje Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche Rabsel Dawa (sKyabs rje Dil mgo mkhyen brtse rin po che Rab gsal zla ba, 1910-1991) at Woenchen Sangag Rabtenling (dBen can gsang sngags rab brtan gling) Monastery. From Kyabje Dudjom Jigdrel Yeshi Dorjee (sKyabs rje bDud 'joms rin po che 'Jigs bral ye shes rdo rje, 1904-1987), he received the empowerments and transmissions of the new cycle of Tersar teachings of Dudjom Lingpa (bDud 'joms gling pa, 1835-1903) and the empowerments of his own cycle of teachings in the Female Fire Snake Year (1977) in Nepal. He also received empowerments and transmissions from Kyabje Mingling Trichen Rinpoche Gyurmey Kunsang Wangyal (sKyabs rje sMin gling khri chen rin po che 'Gyur med kun bzang dbang rgyal, 1930-2008), Kyabje Yangthang Rinpoche Kunsang Jigme Dechen Woesel Dorjee (sKyabs rje gYang thang rin po che Kun bzang 'jigs med bde chen 'od gsal rdo rje, b.1929), Khunu Lama Rinpoche Tenzin Gyaltsen (Khu nu bla ma rin po che bsTan 'dzin rgyal mtshan, 1895-1977), Dungsey Thinlay Norbu Rinpoche (gDung sras 'phrin las nor bu rin po che), Khen Rinpoche Mewa Thupten Woeser (mKhan rin po che sMe ba thub bstan 'od-zer, 1928-2000) and several other lamas and noted masters.

In 1971, he took on the responsibilities of prefect in the dharma place of the Shedra (bshad gra). In 1973-74, he received the novice ordination vows from the propounder of the five sciences, Pandita Khenpo Tsondru (mKhan po brTsun 'grus). In 1977, he received the full ordination vows of a *bhikshu* from Kyabje Dzarong Zhadeo Trulshik Rinpoche Ngawang Choekyi Lodro (sKyabs rje rDza rong zha de'u 'khrul zhig rin po che Ngag dbang chos kyi blo gros, 1924-2011) at the Jarung Khashor (Bya rung kha shor) Boudhanath Stupa in Nepal.

On the 18th day of the 11th month of the Female Fire Snake Year (1977), Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche Jigdrel Yeshi Dorjee issued a handwritten letter bestowing the Khenpo title along with a white scarf a mark of auspicious blessing. Following which, on the extraordinary holy day commemoration of Matchless Shakyamuni Buddha's Sambhodiprapti day, on the 15th day of the fourth month (Saga Dawa) of the Female Earth Sheep year (1979), Kyabje Dodrupchen Rinpoche designated and enthroned him as a Khenpo at Chorten Sangchen Ngodrup Palbarling Monastery in Gangtok. From the time of his recognition as Khenpo, till the Female Fire Ox Year (1997), he served as the fourth in the succession of great scholar-abbots of Sikkim Institute of Higher Nyingma Studies. For 19 years, he bestowed instructions on the ocean of sutras and tantras of the Nyingma system, as well as by serving as the administrator of the Shedra, among other things. During his tenure as the Principal of the Shedra, he managed to procure the affiliation with the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Vishwavidhyala, based in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. He took great care in maintaining a very high standard of discipline and decorum in the Shedra as well as a high standard of education qualification among the students, thus contributing immensely to the Buddha Dharma during the onset of this Kalyug age. After retiring from the Shedra as per the Sikkim Government Service rules, he gave teachings on various Buddhist topics as well as moral advice to the general public of Sikkim, both monks and lay, at regular intervals. Beside he also organized the first observance of the rite of Drupchen (sGrub chen) Great Accomplishment on Lama Gongdue (bLa ma dgons 'dus) Summarv of the Guru's Intention at Ringon Rigzin Choeling (Rin dgon rig 'dzin chos gling) Monastery in North Sikkim.

In the Female Iron Snake Year (2001), he established Ngagyur Shedra Pema Drodul Phelgiling (sNya 'gyur bshad gra Pad ma 'gro 'dul 'phel rgyas gling) which is adjacent to Sangag Yangtse (gSang sngags yang rtse) monastery in Rinchenpong (Rin chen spungs) in West Sikkim. The newly set-up Shedra has over 80 students assembled from all over Sikkim. The juvenile students were taught reading, writing, memorization of text, alongside imparting the knowledge of making dough offerings, chanting, and performing ritual traditions. The senior ones were strenuously taught the major scriptures of the Buddha Dharma including the milk-like amrita of the sacred Dharma. Since most of the monks in the monastery are novices and pre-novice monks, he bestowed full ordination of a bhikshu or gelong (dge slong) to four senior monks, thus setting the ground for a proper learning by firmly establishing monastic vows and discipline at the Shedra. In order to expand the Institute, as per Khenpo's own initiative and directives, the committee of monks of Rinchenpong Monastery unanimously provided ten acres of land in order to realize his vision. The expansion work was sponsored under the Members of Parliament's fund, from the Central Government of India, and he laid the foundation work of the extended construction. Currently, Khenpo's disciples are fulfilling the construction of the assembly hall, an office, and quarters for the monks as envisioned by Khenpo.

In 2010, as per the request by the committee of the monks of the Phensang Sangag Choeding Monastery including *umdze* (dbu mdzad) and discipliner, Khenpo was ceremoniously enthroned as the Vajra Master of the monastery and after assuming the role he looked after the monastery well in all aspects. Besides, he also conferred the ordination of novice monks to the new recruits at Chorten Sangchen Ngodrup Palbarling Monastery in Gangtok. In summary, he strictly guarded the Vinaya rules and freely gave the teachings of holy Dharma. As such he spontaneously evoked the faith of the people and hence was highly revered by people from all walks of life in Sikkim.

Khenpo contributed several articles related to the hidden land of Sikkim as well as wrote commentaries on *Byang chub sems dpa' spyod pa la 'jug pa* (Boddhisatvas Way of Life) and *rGyal sras lag len so bdun ma* (Thirty Seven Practices of Boddhisatva), etc.

Khenpo Dechen Dorjee remained as an ornament of the Buddha Dharma in general and to the Hidden land of Sikkim in particular for having contributed immensely in the service of the Dharma. However, as a result of lack of karma on the part of monks and laypeople of Sikkim, after assuming an illness for a few years, the sublime Khenpo Dechen Dorjee passed away peacefully on Friday late evening on the 21st day of the fifth month of the Male Water Dragon year of the seventeenth Tibetan Calendrical Cycle, corresponding to 9th July 2012, at the Central Referral Hospital, at 5th mile, Tadong, Gangtok. As per the instruction of Kyabje Dodrupchen Rinpoche, his reliquary body was kept for one week at Phensang Sangag Choeding Monastery which was followed by two days at Rinchenpung Sangag Yangtse Monastery, to allow and enable monks, lay disciples, followers and general public to pay their last respect. Subsequently, his reliquary body was carried to Drakar Tashiding (Brag dkar bkra shis sding), the heart of the sacred sites of the Hidden land of Sikkim, and was incinerated while performing the religious rituals from the four corners at the crematorium site, based on the *mandala* rituals of the profound Tantra, led by Kyabje Yangthang, along with khenpos, tulkus (sprul sku) and monks of Phensang Sangag Choeding Monastery, Rinchenpung Sangak Yangtse Monastery, Drakar Tashiding Monastery, and Chorten Sangchen Ngodrup Palbarling Monastery, Gangtok.