



THE GEDEN PHACHO BHUCHO PROJECT

(Preservation of the Sacred Lineages of Empowerments and Oral Transmissions of the Geden Tradition known as Gelug Tradition)

BACKGROUND

The Geden tradition of Buddhism in Tibet was founded by the highly revered Buddhist master and scholar - practitioner, Je Tsong Khapa, in the 14th century. Born in Eastern Tibet in 1357, Je Tsong Khapa studied extensively from an early age, favouring the use of both powerful meditation techniques and incisive intellectual understanding. He explored the entire range of Buddhist doctrines in all Buddhist schools flourishing at the time and sought to synthesise these into a cohesive whole. Je Tsong Khapa's legacy is enormous; he is credited with having revitalised many sutra and tantra lineages which would otherwise have become extinct. The thirty-seven volumes of the Collected Works of Je Tsong Khapa and his two chief disciples, Gyaltsab Dharma Rinchen and Khedrup Gelek Palsang, comprise the root texts containing the precious teachings

and commentaries of Je Tsong Khapa and his two main disciples are known as "Phacho" in Tibetan ("Teachings of the Fathers").

The works of the immediate disciples of the three former masters and their followers together with the commentaries of the Indian Buddhist scholars and commentators are known as "Bhuchho" in Tibetan ("Teachings of the Sons"). The importance of pure lineage transmission in the form of Buddhism practised in Tibet is undisputed. It ensures a stream of undiluted blessing from the Buddha himself to contemporary students. The purity of lineage teaching is considered essential for ultimate attainment and realisation of Buddhahood. It is essential because if a lineage is broken, or in danger of becoming broken, then the teachings themselves are threatened. Without qualified teachers giving correct personal oral transmissions, the enlightened understanding, beneficial spiritual energy, and extraordinary blessing of previous masters cannot be passed on effectively.

RATIONALE

Since 1959, when Tibetans began to leave Tibet and settle in many parts of the world, many precious teachings have already been lost, due to older Tibetan Lamas passing away, without being able to properly transmit the teachings they held to the younger generation. If this continues for a long time, Je Tsong Khapa's precious legacy, amongst others, is at risk of being lost forever. If the work on the preservation of the lineage teachings is not carried out now, the vast and profound teachings of the Geden tradition may not survive for long. This will be a great loss not only for Tibetans but also for the whole of humanity as this unique tradition has much to offer for world peace.

VISION

To preserve the sanctity and purity of the teachings of Buddha Shakyamuni for all the sentient beings who have within them the seed to attain Buddhahood.

GOALS

Although the practice of Buddhism differs in Tibet, with each school following its own set of unique traditions propounded by their own founders, the root of all these traditions can be traced to the Teacher of all Teachers - Buddha Shakyamuni himself. Je Tsong Khapa, like all other highly revered Buddhist Masters, studied the teachings of Buddha Shakyamuni extensively and founded the Geden School of Buddhism in Tibet in the 14th century. This project is designed to focus first of all on conducting a comprehensive research of the lineages of the Geden tradition and successfully preserving all the transmission lineages belonging to this unique tradition.

OBJECTIVES

1. To compile a working reference catalogue to serve as a master copy of all the lineages belonging to the Geden Tradition.
2. To determine a programme and process of oral transmissions of the Geden lineages based upon the expertise and advice of the highly revered Buddhist Masters and scholars of the Geden Tradition
3. Following this process, to facilitate the oral transmission of all the known Geden Lineages to the most appropriate students.

Each of the above-stated objectives will have a series of activities, the broad framework of which is outlined on the website.

On the advice of Professor Samdhong Rinpoche, we had an important conference on Geden Phacho Bhucho at the Norbulingka Institute in Dharamsala, India on 29th June, 2006. H.H. Gaden Tripa gave a lecture, followed by the reading of a message from H.H. the Dalai Lama. Talks were also given by Mr. Lobsang Nyima (The Tibetan Minister of Religion and Culture), Professor Samdhong Rinpoche, (The Prime Minister of Tibetan Government in Exile), and several other prominent masters. After these talks, meetings were held to discuss the project and map out a course of action, which is now being followed by the above-named Geden Phacho Bucho Preservation Centre.

For the implementation of this project, The Geden Phacho Bhucho Preservation Centre was opened in Dharamsala in June 2006.

Course of Action:

- Step 1. Identify the lineages which are extant and their holders. Also identify all the doubtful cases and prove beyond doubt the status of the lineage, whether extant or broken.
- Step 2. Identify a group of highly qualified students or disciples, who shall receive the oral transmission of lineages from their holders.
- Step 3. Facilitate the transmission of lineages from the holders to the disciples.
Provided there are enough funds available, the project will facilitate transmissions of lineages to all identified disciples. In many cases, students will need to travel to many different places to meet the lineage holders. It may be more practical to prioritise lineages and their associated teachings according to their rarity.

For more updated details and forthcoming teachings or to watch the conference DVD, please visit our **website** address at bottom of page.

Make a donation

Even the **smallest of donations** for this cause would help in taking this urgent project forward. ***The Trust is a registered UK charity no. 1079844.*** All donations are tax deductible. Donations can be made by cheque, payable to Lelung Dharma Trust (Account No.3) and sent to Lelung Dharma Trust, address below.

Donations can also be made by bank transfer to us:

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