

SPECIAL EDITION

In Memory – Kyabje Thrangu Rinpoche
We Pray For the Lord Of Refuge's Swift Return

A Brief History of Kyabje Thrangu Rinpoche



The Venerable Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche kindly took rebirth for us all in 1933 in Ralungda, a small village in Kham, eastern Tibet. The Sixteenth Gyalwang Karmapa Rangjung Rigpe Dorje and the 11th Tai Situ Rinpoche Pema Wangchuk Gyalpo recognised the boy to be an incarnation of the Thrangu Tulku. At the age of five, Rinpoche was enthroned by the Venerable Traleg Kyabgön Rinpoche the 8th. By the age of seven, Rinpoche began his education, receiving many empower-

ments, transmissions and teachings from many high lamas including Gyalwang Karmapa, the Second Jamgön Kongtrul Rinpoche, and Tertön Rolpay Dorje.

Rinpoche did multiple retreats starting at the age of 10, including a one month White Tara retreat under the instructions of the 16th Gyalwang Karmapa. By the age of 12, Rinpoche went into a two year retreat covering preliminary practices and other important practices. For the next six years Rinpoche went on to diligently study many classic texts, such as the Way

of the Bodhisattva, The Five Great Texts of Buddhist Philosophy, and the Dharmas of Maitreya with Khenchen Lodrö Rabsel.

At the age of 20, Rinpoche was responsible for leading Thrangu Monastery, following the passing of the main Lama, the 8th Traleg Kyabgön Rinpoche, and soon after the passing of the Second Jamgön Kongtrul Rinpoche. Thrangu Rinpoche stayed at Thrangu Monastery for the next three years, before going on to visit the Gyalwang Karmapa at Palpung Monastery, where Rinpoche



established the Phende medical clinic in Namo Buddha, and other clinics Thrangu Tara Abbey and Vajra Vidya Institute which all serve the local communities and sangha.

E-Vam Institute would like to thank His Holiness 17th Karmapa for the swift return prayers for Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche. Also thank you to His Holiness Karmapa and other senior Lama's for their practice advice and guidance at this time. We cannot do without it. May Thrangu Rinpoche swiftly return. Full biography can be found at rinpoche.com

I bow at the feet of the great Master, Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche

Sometimes there is a union so profound that no words can truly capture its essence.

Our great Teachers of the Traleg Tulku's, Thrangu Tulku's, Zuri Tulku's and Lodro Nyima Tulku's have been inextricably linked together for centuries under our original home, that of Thrangu Monastery in Eastern Tibet. Thus we are truly family; brothers and sisters of the Dharma. Our hearts are with the Very Venerable Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche's many many students throughout the world during this difficult time.

It is also a time of great appreciation, joy and thanks that this great master Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche was blessed with a long life, working and teaching the Dharma right up until his parinirvana at the age of 91. To have lived such a long and remarkable life totally devoted to helping all beings, it is no wonder the impact on all our lives is felt so deeply.

The kindness that Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche afforded me personally, in particular after my own teacher Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche passed into parinirvana was so profound and essential for my own well being and that of Traleg Rinpoche's sangha, I will be for ever in gratitude. One cannot imagine the immensity and the all encompassing vision that Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche had, and how that vision allowed the implementation of so many initiatives of a Dharmic and humanitarian nature throughout the world. Please return swiftly dearest and most venerable, Lord of Refuge, Thrangu Rinpoche. ■

Traleg Khandro

received full monastic ordination, the Bodhisattva vows of the two traditions, and the tantric vows of the empowerments of Tukdrup Barchen Kunsel and Jinasagara (Red Chenrezig). In 1957 Rinpoche received mind instructions of the Dzogchen and Mahamudra from Khenpo Gangshar Wangpo.

Rinpoche made his way to Sikkim in 1960, where he continued to serve His Holiness Karmapa, and helped to build the new Rumtek monastery and teach the young monks. In 1967, Rinpoche in front of His Holiness Dalai Lama, undertook the examinations for the Geshe degree. Here Rinpoche was awarded the highest degree, the Geshe Lharampa. Later His Holiness Karmapa awarded Rinpoche the title of Khenchen, or Great Abbot.

Thrangu Rinpoche's activities were extensive, spreading far and wide. In 1974,

His Holiness 16th Karmapa recommended Rinpoche build a monastery in Namo Buddha, Nepal. In 1976, Rinpoche built a three-year retreat centre in Namo Buddha and a small monastery near the Great Stupa of Boudhanath in Nepal. Namo Buddha was later expanded to include a monastic college, school for young monks, and the Thrangu Tashi Yangtse Monastery. Rinpoche also established the Thrangu Tara Abbey for nuns near Swayambhunath in Nepal; the Vajra Vidya Institute monastic college in Sarnath, India; the Sekhar Retreat Center in Bhaktapur; and the Nar Satek Retreat Center in Manang.

Rinpoche was very focused on providing care to his local communities. He founded the Shree Mangal Dveep School in Boudhanath, a school for local Himalayan children. Rinpoche also

Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche's Visit to Nyima Tashi Buddhist Centre, New Zealand



There is a sutra that says:

He has built the boat of dharma, beaten the drum of dharma, blown the conch of dharma, raised the banner of dharma, blocked the seeds of samsara, taught the nature of nirvana, cut off the wrong paths, taught the correct path, reversed bad karmas, and correctly taught the fields...

In 2009 we had the great fortune of welcoming Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche to Nyima Tashi. At the request of Traleg Rinpoche, Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche gave a talk on the Mahamudra perspective. but not before offering a lengthy

description on the significance of what Thrangu Rinpoche referred to as the "Great Nirmanakayas". With Traleg Rinpoche in point, he spent over half an hour simply awakening the audience to the uniqueness of these "Supreme Nirmanakayas."

When a member of the audience asked "Where do you find such an emanation?", Thrangu Rinpoche laughed and said "Here! This is Traleg Rinpoche's Centre and with the auspiciousness of the Nyima Tashi name, he hoped would allow people to make a connection."

Prior to Rinpoche's 2009 visit to Auckland, in 2004, Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche ordained me as a novice Nun at the request of Traleg Rinpoche. Traleg Rinpoche spoke of Thrangu Rinpoche as being the perfect preceptor, someone who upheld the Vinaya with purity and excellence.

One never really knows what one has lost until it has gone. Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche stood firmly as a pillar of the Kagyu lineage for His entire lifetime. His Mastery and genuine accomplishment within the Buddhadharma – particularly as a beacon for the revered practice of Mahamudra was all too rare in these current times. We cannot help but feel that His loss as a Protector to the Kagyu Lineage, as a Luminous Scholar and Practitioner, is indeed a great one.

On a personal note, there have been many life-changing moments through being with Thrangu Rinpoche and receiving guidance and instructions from Him over several years.

As a Centre in the Karma Kagyu tradition, we have all directly and indirectly felt the impact of Rinpoche's immeasurable kindnesses. It is with a broken heart that we join with other Kagyu family members to grieve this profound loss, while also making supplications for Rinpoche's swift return. ■

*Ani Jangchub Lhamo
Nyima Tashi Buddhist Centre,
New Zealand*

"What a great master he was, Kyabje Thrangu Rinpoche. In all manners of his mindfulness, in every action, and simply upon seeing him, I have always felt that he must be in the awakened state just like the Buddhas and the great masters of old. I had the immense opportunity of meeting him in my early teenage years, but did not have the chance to receive teachings until later in my life while in America. Over the years I have had the great fortune to receive his teachings on the Sutrayana Prajnaparamita, the Mantrayana Mahamudra, and Vajrayogini initiations. I thus consider him to be one of my root teachers. As sad as it is that he is no longer in this world. I have no doubt that he is always accessible, and that his mind is all-pervasive without obstruction like the sky itself."

Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche



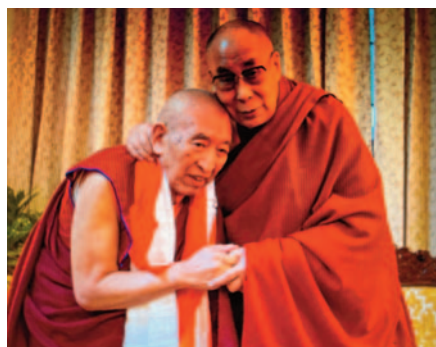
In Appreciation of the remarkable life of Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche from the Melbourne Shedra students



Namo Buddha Nepal

“On the 4th of June 2023, the full moon day of the fourth Tibetan month, Saga Dawa – the day we celebrate the Lord Buddha Shaka-muni’s birth, enlightenment and parinirvana, The Very Venerable Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche decided to leave this world of space and time. Rinpoche laid onto his right side, adopting the same posture as Buddha Shakyamuni did, and remained in Tukdam for three days as he passed into parinirvana.”

Excerpt from the Thrangu Monastery announcement.



Thrangu Rinpoche and HH Dalai Lama

Needless to say this was not the passing of an ordinary being. He was like the grandfather of the Kagyu lineage, and of Tibetan Buddhism moreover. Whilst Rinpoche’s loss is immeasurable, he lived a long and powerfully compassionate life. His activities and teachings were vast and left an indelible mark on so many. Rinpoche taught prominent Tibetan Buddhist teachers that we know and love today, including the four heart sons of the Kagyu Tradition; Tai Situ Rinpoche,

Jamgon Kongtrul Rinpoche, Gyaltsab Rinpoche and Sharmar Rinpoche. In 2000, His Holiness Dalai Lama appointed Rinpoche to be the tutor of His Holiness 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje. Thus Rinpoche played a vital role in preserving the Kagyu tradition.

Rinpoche was a prolific author of many books and commentaries. He founded monasteries, nunneries, Buddhist centres, places of learning and retreat centres. Rinpoche also had a close connection with our beloved teacher, Traleg Kyabgön Rinpoche. Because of this connection, we were blessed to meet with and receive teachings from Rinpoche when he visited Traleg Rinpoche’s centres in Australia. There was even a day the students received teachings from both Rinpoche’s together, at Maitripa Centre, Traleg Rinpoche’s retreat Centre in Healesville, Victoria Australia.

When our beloved teacher Traleg Kyabgön Rinpoche passed into parinirvana, Thrangu Rinpoche kindly took over our Shedra education. Thrangu Rinpoche sent Khenpo Chonyi Rangdol to continue to teach us the Gateway to Knowledge text and other essential Kagyu texts. There is a treasured and memorable video Thrangu Rinpoche did for the Shedra students. It was very inspiring to hear directly from Thrangu Rinpoche. He first thanked us for continuing to study and work hard for the centre in accordance with Traleg Rinpoche’s instructions, despite the difficulties we all shared in losing our beloved teacher. Thrangu Rinpoche rejoiced in our studies

of the text Gateway to Knowledge, by Mipham Rinpoche. In this video we learned that Mipham Rinpoche had a very close connection with the Traleg lineage. Mipham Rinpoche had composed the text up on the hill above Thrangu Monastery. Mipham Rinpoche even taught the text to Situ Pema Wangchuk Gyalop (the 11th Tai Situ Rinpoche), where this lineage transmission is unbroken till now.



Thrangu Rinpoche and HH Karmapa

Thrangu Rinpoche also shared with us that Khenpo Chonyi Rangdol was the brightest in his class. Rinpoche himself had taught Gateway to Knowledge directly to Khenpola. All the Shedra students are so very grateful to Rinpoche for sending Khenpola to us. We love Khenpola dearly. He is so kind and very patient with us, as we ask our many questions. Thrangu Rinpoche concluded the video presentation instructing us which texts we are to study next and humbly thanked us for continuing our practice and study, and for continuing Traleg Rinpoche’s vision. ■

*Matthew Hassett
Shogam Vidhalaya Shedra student*

Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche visited Maitripa Centre at Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche's request



Thrangu Rinpoche and Traleg Rinpoche

Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche, at the invitation of Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche visited Maitripa Centre in Healesville, Victoria, Australia. It was a very powerful time to witness these two great masters together. Thrangu Rinpoche gave a weekend of remarkable teachings at this event. For the last session of the weekend Thrangu Rinpoche asked Traleg Rinpoche to join him. These two great master gave a blessing to the shrine and to

the audience, and shared their wisdom in such a way that powerfully effected all who were present at this historic occasion.

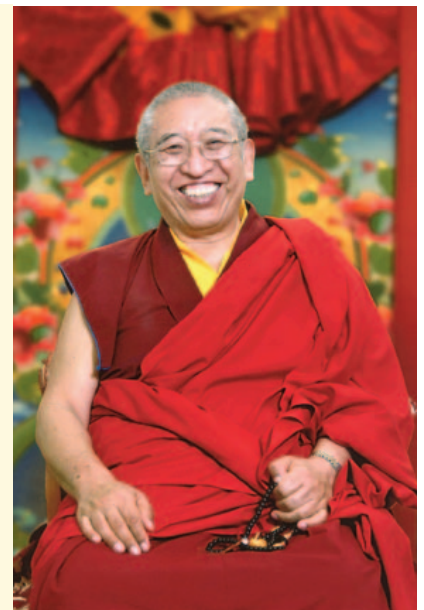
Bill and Sue Howes were assigned to lead Thrangu Rinpoche's car to Maitripa from a Chinese Buddhist temple the city. Bill shared their experience upon arriving at the temple, "Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche seemed most eager to travel to Maitripa. I had a sense that these two great Masters of the Dharma couldn't wait to

meet up with each other. Once we arrived at Maitripa Centre, they were just so delighted to see each other again. It was joyful to bring Thrangu Rinpoche to Maitripa to be with Traleg Rinpoche and his sangha. It was an honor to witness their meeting. We had the sense that it was a very important occasion for both Masters. It was certainly a remarkable time for all of us who were able to attend." ■

Quote from Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche

Student asks a question: So what am I looking with when I look at mind?"
Thrangu Rinpoche: "Your mind is looking at itself. That's why in the quotation I gave it says, "by looking repeatedly at the 'unlookable-at' mind." We say the mind is "unlookable-at" in the sense that what looks at it is not separate from what's being looked at. Therefore there's no object at which you are actually looking. Nevertheless, in meditation you can look at the mind and you will see that which cannot be seen. There's nothing that you can look at that's separate from what's looking."

Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche
Luminous Clarity: A Commentary on Karma Chagme's
Union Of Mahamudra and Dzogchen
Shambhala Publications, Page 66.



ལྷུང་འབྱོན་གསོལ་འདེབས་བཞུགས་སོ། །

A Prayer for the Swift Return of Khenchen Thrangu Rinpoche

གདོད་ནས་རྣམ་དག་ཚོས་དབྱིངས་བདེ་བ་ཆེ། །སྤང་སྟོང་ཟུང་འཇུག་སྐྱེ་མའི་རོལ་གར་གྱིས། །
སྲིད་ཞི་ཡོངས་ཀྱི་བྱུང་བ་དག་རྗེ་རྗེ་འཆང་། །མཉམ་མེད་སྤྲོ་མའི་ཞབས་ལ་ཕྱག་འཚལ་ལོ། །

**dö ne nam dak chö ying de wa che / nang tong sung juk gyu may röl gar gyi
si shi yong kyi khyap dak dor je chang / nyam me la may shap la chak tsal lo**

Through the primal, pure great bliss of the dharma expanse
And illusory play of appearance and emptiness unified,
Vajradhara, you are the lord of all existence and peace.
Incomparable guru, I prostrate at your feet.

གཉིང་རིང་འཁོར་བའི་རྒྱ་མཚོ་འཛིགས་རུང་བར། །ལས་ཉོན་ཚུ་སྲིན་འབུམ་གྱིས་གཙོས་བ་ཡི། །
ཉམ་ཐག་འགོ་ཀུན་སྐྱོབ་པའི་དཔའ་བོ་ཆེ། །པ་གཅིག་རྗེ་བཙུན་སྤྲོ་མ་དེ་རིང་དྲན། །

**ting ring khor way gya tso jik rung war / le nyön chu sin bum gyi tse pa yi
nyam tak dro kün kyop pay pa wo che / pa chik je tsün la ma de ring dren**

Great hero who protects all helpless beings
Tormented in the deep oceans of samsara
By the hundred thousand sharks of afflictions and karma,
Sole father, venerable guru, I miss you now.

མཁྱེན་ལོ་མཁྱེན་ལོ་དྲིན་ཅན་ཚོས་ཀྱི་རྗེ། །གཟིགས་ཤིག་གཟིགས་ཤིག་ཡོངས་འཛོལ་སྐྱེ་བའི་སེང་། །
བསྟན་འགྲོའི་བདེ་སྲིད་མར་མེ་སྐྱུ་མ་ཟད་ལྟར། །ལྷུང་པའི་དུས་འདིར་བཅུ་བས་དགོངས་སུ་གསོལ། །

**khyen no khyen no drin chen chö kyi je / sik shik sik shik yong dzin ma way seng
ten droy de kyi mar me num se tar / gyur pay dü dir tse we gong su söl**

Think of us! Think of us, kind lord of dharma!
Look at us! Look at us, O teacher, Lion of Speech!
The lamp of happiness for the teachings and beings
Has run out of oil—now think of us with compassion!

མཁས་བཙུན་བཟང་པོའི་ལུས་སྟོབས་རབ་རྒྱས་ཤིང་། །ཐོས་བསམ་སྒོམ་པའི་གཡུ་རལ་དགུང་དུ་གཟེངས། །
འཆད་རྩོད་རྩོམ་པའི་གད་རྒྱུང་མཐོན་པོ་ཅན། །སྤྲོ་བའི་སེང་གེ་སྤྲོ་མ་ཡང་ལྷུང་འབྱོན་གསོལ། །

**khe tsün sang poy lü top rap gye shing / tö sam gom pay yu ral gung du seng
che tsö tsom pay ge gyang tön po chen / ma way seng ge lar yang nyur jön söl**

Your body of learning, venerability, and goodness grew to full strength;
Your mane of listening, contemplation, and meditation touched the sky.
Loud was your roar of teaching, debate, and composition.
Lion of Speech, we beg you, return soon!

བཀའ་བརྒྱུད་རྣམས་ལས་དྲུགས་པའི་བཀའ་བརྒྱུད་དང་། །སྐྱབ་བརྒྱུད་ཡོངས་ལས་ཀམ་ཀམ་ཚང་གི།
བཤད་དང་སྐྱབ་པའི་རྒྱལ་བཟང་གསེར་གྱི་ཐེང་། །མི་ཉམས་སྤེལ་བའི་སྤྱོད་སྤྱོད་འཕྲོན་གསོལ། །

**ka gyü nam le dak poy ka gyü dang / drup gyü yong le karma kam tsang gi
she dang drup pay gyün sang ser gyi treng / mi nyam pel way kye bu nyur jön söl**

Come back soon, great being who preserves and spreads
The golden thread of the fine traditions of teaching and practice
Of the Dakpo Kagyu among all the Kagyu
And the Karma Kamtsang among all practice lineages.

འོག་མིན་ཞིང་ནས་བཀའ་བརྒྱུད་སྤེལ་མའི་ཚོགས། །ཏིལ་གྱི་གང་བུ་ཕྱེ་བ་ལྟ་བུ་ཡིས། །
རྗེ་བཙུན་སྤེལ་མའི་ཐུགས་རྗེ་རབ་བསྐྱལ་ཏེ། །སྐྱུལ་པའི་སྤྱོད་སྤྱོད་འཕྲོན་བར་མཛོད། །

**ok min shing ne ka gyü la may tsok / til gyi gang bu che wa ta bu yi
je tsün la may tuk je rap küle te / trül pay da shal nyur du char war dzö**

O hosts of Kagyu gurus in the realm of Akanishta,
Come forth like seeds spilling from a bushel of sesame
And invoke the venerable guru’s compassion—
Make the moon of his emanation rise soon!

དཔལ་ཚེན་མ་རྣམས་ལ་ལྷ་མ་འཕྲུལ་དང་། །དྲིགས་པ་བདུན་ཅུ་ཅུ་གཉིས་མོ་ཉར་བཅས། །
མཚོག་གི་སྐྱུལ་སྤེལ་མའི་ཉམས་གཞོན་ལུ་གང་། །ཞིང་འདིར་འབྲེན་པའི་སྤྱང་མ་ཉར་མཛོད་ཅིག། །

**pal chen ma hā ka la cham dral dang / drek pa dün chu tsa nyi po nyar che
chok gi trül kuy nyi ma shön nu gang / shing dir dren pay sung ma nyer dzö chik**

Great glorious Mahakala and Mahakali,
Seventy-two haughty spirits, and your messengers,
Be the protectors who bring the young sun
Of the supreme nirmanakaya back to this realm.

སྤྱོད་སྤྱོད་གསུམ་རྒྱ་མཚོའི་བདེན་མཐུ་དང་། །བདག་ཅག་སྤོང་འབངས་དད་གཤུང་ཅེ་གཅིག་པས། །
རི་ལྟར་གསོལ་བའི་དོན་རྣམས་མ་ལུས་པ། །འགྲུབ་པའི་རྒྱུ་འབྲས་བསྐྱེད་མེད་གྱུར་ཅིག། །

**la ma tsa sum gya tsoy den tu dang / dak chak lop bang de dung tse chik pe
ji tar söl way dön nam ma lü pa / drup pay gyu dre lu wa me gyur chik**

By the power of the truth of the ocean of gurus and three roots,
And the fervent, one-pointed faith of us disciples,
May there be the unfailing cause and effect
That fulfills all we ask for, in its entirety.

བསྐྱེད་པ་སྤྱི་དང་བྱེ་བྲག་ལ་བཀའ་དྲིན་མཚུངས་པ་མེད་པ། བསྐྱེད་པ་ཡོངས་རྗེ་གསུམ་གྱི་དགོ་བའི་བཤེས་གཉེན། གསུམ་ལྡན་དོ་རྗེ་འཛིན་པ། ལྷ་སྐྱབས་རྗེ་ཡོངས་འཛིན་ལྷ་འགྲུ་རིན་པོ་ཆེ་མཚོག་རེ་ཞིག་ཞི་བ་ཚོས་གྱི་
དབྱིངས་སུ་གཤེགས་པའི་རྒྱལ་བཟང་གསེར་ལ། བསྐྱེད་པའི་དོན་དུ་མཚོག་གི་སྐྱུལ་སྤེལ་མའི་ཡང་སྤྱིད་འབྲུལ་པ་མེད་པ་ལྟར་དུ་འཕྲོན་བའི་སྤྱང་མ་ཉར་མཛོད་ཅིག་ལ། ཨོ་རྒྱལ་ཕྱིན་ལས་སུ་འབོད་པའི་སྤོང་འབངས་
ཐ་གཤེས་འདས་ལོ་ ༢༥༠༦ ལྷོ་ལོ་ ༢༠༢༣ ལྷོ་ ༦ ཚེས་ ༨ ལ་སྐྱུར་བ་དོན་དང་ལྡན་པར་གྱུར་ཅིག། །

The Lord of Refuge Thrangu Rinpoche, a spiritual friend of all Buddhist teachings and vajra holder with all three vows, gave incomparable service to all the teachings and to the Karma Kagyu in particular. Upon his passing into parinirvana, the least of his disciples, Ogyen Trinley, who has the mere title of Karmapa, wrote this on June 8, 2023, the Buddhist year 2566. May it be meaningful.
Translated by David Karma Choephel.

