

# **DZOGCHEN PONLOP RINPOCHE**

## **RELIGIOUS OFFICES**

### **The Seventh Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche Nyingma and Kagyu Lineage Holder**

The Seventh Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche is a lineage holder in both the Kagyu and Nyingma lineages of Tibetan Buddhism. The line of Dzogchen Ponlops originated in 16<sup>th</sup> century Tibet, where they resided and served as co-abbots at Dzogchen Monastery (a major monastery in the Nyingma lineage in eastern Tibet) until the 1950s. Rinpoche was born in 1965 at Dharmachakra Center, Rumtek, Sikkim, India, the exile seat of His Holiness the 16<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Karmapa, supreme head of the Kagyu Lineage. The Karmapa recognized Rinpoche as the 7<sup>th</sup> Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama confirmed this recognition. In 1979, the Karmapa formally empowered and officially proclaimed The 7<sup>th</sup> Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche as a Kagyu lineage holder and heart son of His Holiness Karmapa.

## **ORGANIZATIONS**

The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche is one of the foremost scholars and educators of his generation within the Nyingma and Kagyu Schools. He has established and directs a number of key institutions that sustain the transmission of Buddhism in the East and supports its transplantation to the West.

### **President, Nitartha International**

A not-for-profit educational corporation established in 1994 with operations in the US and Asia, Nitartha International assists in the integration of computing and digital systems with traditional Tibetan scholarship. Nitartha uses information technology to support Tibetan studies and education. Nitartha has preserved over 400,000 pages in digital formats and edited, reformatted and published numerous traditional Tibetan-language texts in modern book formats for use in Kagyu monastic colleges throughout Asia.

Nitartha Institute, a division of Nitartha International, provides a systematic course of Buddhist studies for Western students, translating into English and adapting the traditional teaching curriculum of the Kagyu Tibetan monastic colleges.

### **President, Nalandabodhi**

Nalandabodhi, is an association of centers established in 1997 to support the study and practice of Buddhism in the Nyingma/Kagyu traditions. It is dedicated to continuing the genuine lineage of Tibetan Buddhism within the contemporary international community. Nalandabodhi centers and study groups are located in the US, Canada, Europe and Asia. Nalandabodhi also supports students through the translation and publication of important Buddhist texts.

### **Founder, Nalanda West**

Nalanda West, in Seattle, offers courses for the public in contemplative studies and meditation, and is known as the Center for American Buddhism. Inspired by the ideals of the original Nalanda University in India, one of the greatest centers of learning in the first millennium, Nalanda West also serves as the international headquarters for Nitārtha International, Nalandabodhi, and related institutions.

### **Publisher, Bodhi Magazine**

Published in the English language and distributed internationally, Bodhi magazine, the “Voice of Vajrayana Buddhism,” was for twelve years a quarterly print periodical providing in-depth teachings by the most eminent masters of the Nyingma and Kagyu lineages of Tibetan Buddhism, as well as articles by Western Buddhist teachers and scholars. In 2010, Bodhi began a transition to become a web based resource supporting Buddhist study, practice, and spiritual inquiry.

**PUBLICATIONS** - please see the attached

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

#### **President, Karmapa Foundation**

Rinpoche was appointed by His Holiness the 17<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje in 2007 to represent His Holiness and the Karmapa’s Office of Administration in connection with His Holiness’s US activities. In 2007, Rinpoche took principal responsibility for establishing the Karmapa Foundation, which serves His Holiness Karmapa in the US.

In 2008, Rinpoche organized and directed Kagyu and other centers throughout the US in hosting the first tour of His Holiness Karmapa to the West.

#### **Visiting Professor, Naropa University**

Since January 1996, Rinpoche has taught Buddhist philosophy and language as a regular visiting assistant professor at Naropa University, Boulder, Colorado.

#### **Visiting Professor, Hong Kong University**

Rinpoche taught Buddhist philosophy as visiting assistant professor at the University of Hong Kong in 2008 and 2010.

#### **Honorary Trustee, Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center**

#### **Distinguished Advisor, Center for Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence**

#### **Spiritual Director, Kamalashila Institute of Germany**

Rinpoche serves as spiritual director at the request of His Holiness, the Seventeenth Gyalwang Karmapa.

## **EDUCATION**

### ***Ka Rabjampa Degree, 1991***

Karma Shri Nalanda Institute, Rumtek, Sikkim (India)

### ***Acharya Degree in Buddhist Studies, 1991 (M.A.)***

Samprunnant Sanskrit University, Varanasi, U.P. (India)

### **Columbia University, New York, New York 1991**

Non-degree student in English language and religious studies for one semester

## **PERSONAL**

The predecessor to the Seventh Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche was the Sixth Dzogchen Ponlop, [Jigtral Tsewang Dorje \(1925-62\)](#). The Sixth was the brother of His Holiness the Sixteenth Karmapa, supreme head of the Kagyu Lineage. In addition to his duties at Dzogchen Monastery, the Sixth spent extended amounts of time with the Sixteenth Karmapa at Tsurphu Monastery, the main seat of the Gyalwa Karmapas in Central Tibet. In 1959, the Sixth Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche and the Sixteenth Karmapa escaped together from Tibet to Sikkim, India, the location of Rumtek Monastery, and the seat of the Gyalwa Karmapas in India.

The Sixth Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche resided at Rumtek until his death in 1962. The current Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche was born in Rumtek, Sikkim, to Dhamchoe Yongdu, General Secretary of His Holiness the Sixteenth Gyalwang Karmapa. As a young man, Rinpoche accompanied His Holiness the Sixteenth Karmapa on his 1980 tour of America. Rinpoche resides in the United States.

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE DZOGCHEN PONLOP RINPOCHE

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### Books

*Rebel Buddha: On the Road to Freedom*, Shambhala Publications, 2010. (Chinese, French, Dutch, German, Italian and Korean translations in progress.)

*Mind Beyond Death*, Snow Lion Publications, 2007 (Translated into Chinese, French and German with other translations in progress.)

*Penetrating Wisdom*, Snow Lion Publications, 2006

*Wild Awakening: The Heart of Mahamudra and Dzogchen*, Shambhala Publications, 2004 (Translated into Chinese with other translations in progress.)

### Magazine Publications

- *Buddhadharma*

Forum: "The Myths, Challenges, and Rewards of Tantra." *Buddhadharma*, Fall 2009. Panel discussion with Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche, Anne Carolyn Klein, and Larry Mermelstein.

"Pointing Out Ordinary Mind;" *Buddhadharma*, Fall 2009.

Forum: "You Mean I'm Going to Die Too?" *Buddhadharma*, Spring 2009. Panel with Jan Chozen Bays, Ajahn Amaro, Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche, and Frank Ostaseski.

Forum: "How to Work with Emotions" *Buddhadharma*, Summer 2008. Panel with Sharon Salzberg, Judith Simmer-Brown, John Tarrant, and The *Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche*.

Forum: "Too Much Meditation?" *Buddhadharma*, Summer 2007. Panel with The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche, Stephen Batchelor, Eido Roshi, and Joan Sutherland.

"Are You Ready for Death?" article excerpt from *Mind Beyond Death*; *Buddhadharma*, Summer 2007.

"Emptiness First, Then Compassion," excerpt from "Emptiness and Compassionate Action," *Bodhi* 8-3, *Buddhadharma*, Spring 2007.

"Kicking the Klesha Habit," excerpt from "No Ego," *Bodhi* 7-4, *Buddhadharma*, Spring 2006.

"The Beauty of Analytical Meditation," excerpt from "The Arrow and the Target," *Bodhi* 7-3, *Buddhadharma*, Spring 2006.

"How to be a Student," *Buddhadharma*, Winter 2005. Panel with Sharon Salzberg, Norman Fischer, and The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche .

"Tiny, Slippery Spot Of Mind: The Four Foundations Of Mindfulness In The Mahayana Tradition." *Buddhadharma*, Spring 2005.

Forum: "Translating the Dharma;" *Buddhadharma*; Winter 2004. Panel with Bhikkhu Bodhi, Elizabeth Callahan, Francisca Cho and Larry Mermelstein.

"Chogyam Trungpa's Legacy." *Buddhadharma*, Summer 2004. Review of the Collected Works of Chogyam.

Forum: "Who Will Teach The Dharma?" *Buddhadharma*, Summer 2003. Panel with The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche, Jack Kornfield, Yvonne Rand, Richard Shrobe, and Ajahn Amaro

- **Shambhala Sun**

"Rebel Buddha" article excerpt from the book, *Rebel Buddha – On the Road to Freedom*; Shambhala Sun, January 2011.

"Erring and Erring, We Walk the Unerring Path;" Shambhala Sun, September 2009.

Presentation: Celebrating Buddhism in America: What's Next; "A New and Different Buddhism;" Shambhala Sun, January 2009.

Presentation: Love & Relationships - What the Buddhists Teach; "The Great Mirror; Shambhala Sun, November 2008.

"This Very Mind, Empty and Luminous;" Shambhala Sun, May 2008.

"What the Buddha Taught;" Shambhala Sun, May 2006.

"The Three Turnings," and "The Two Truths: Distinguishing Between The Relative & the Ultimate," Shambhala Sun Teaching Issue, 2006.

"Letting It Really Sink In - The Student's Path," Shambhala Sun, March 2005. Panel discussion with The Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche, Judy Lief, John Tarrant, and Phillip Moffitt, led by Trish Deitch Rohrer.

"The Wisdom of the Body and the Search for the Self," Shambhala Sun, September 2004

- **Tricycle**

"Rebel Buddha" Tricycle Book Club selection, November 2011. Daily excerpts and discussions.

- **Halifax Banner**

"Searching for your Buffalo," December 2004. Vol. XVIII No. 10.

"Merit," from the seminar, "Karma, Merit & Magic," given at the Shambhala Centre on October 21st and 22nd, 1994.

"Absolute and Relative Truth from the Hinayana and Mahayana Perspectives," May 2003, Vol. XVII, No. 3.

"Creation and Completion" from a talk given at Halifax Shambhala Center, July 14, 2002.

## **Anthologies**

*In the Face of Fear: Buddhist Wisdom for Challenging Times; "Erring and Erring, We Walk the Unerring Path;"* Shambhala Publications 2009. Edited by Barry Boyce and the editors of the Shambhala Sun.

*Be the Change: How Meditation Can Transform You and the World;* contributor; Sterling Publishing (NY) 2009. Edited by Deb and Eddie Shapiro. (Forthcoming November 2009)

*Best Buddhist Writing 2009; "This Very Mind, Luminous and Empty";* Shambhala Publications 2009. Edited by Melvin McLeod and the editors of the Shambhala Sun.

*Best Buddhist Writing 2008; "Emotions: What They Really Are";* Shambhala Publications 2008. Edited by Melvin McLeod and the editors of the Shambhala Sun.

*Best Buddhist Writing 2006; "No Ego";* Shambhala Publications 2006. Edited by Melvin McLeod and the editors of the Shambhala Sun.

*Nurturing Child and Adolescent Spirituality: Perspectives From the World's Religious Traditions;* Part III: Rituals and Practices to Nurture the Inner Life; Chapter 14: "Young Minds, Youthful Buddhas"; Rowman & Littlefield 2006. Editors: Yust, Johnson, Sasso, and Roehlkepartain.

*Best Buddhist Writing 2005; "The Infinite Dot Called Mind";* Shambhala Publications 2005. Edited by Melvin McLeod and the editors of the Shambhala Sun.

*Recalling Chogyam Trungpa; "Genuine Water: The Legacy of Chogyam Trungpa";* Shambhala Publications 2005. Compiled and edited by Fabrizio Michel.

- **Huffington Post**

Blog Entries by Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche

*Heart to Heart: The Importance of Freedom and Commitment in Intimate Relationships*

Posted February 14, 2011 | 04:58 AM (EST)

*Letting Go of Labels and Seeing the World Anew*

Posted October 13, 2010 | 08:43 AM (EST)

*Is Buddhism a Religion?*

Posted August 6, 2010 | 06:58 AM (EST)

*Relationships: Riding Your Emotional Rollercoaster*

Posted July 7, 2010 | 02:53 PM (EST)

*Meditation: Catch and Release*

Posted June 10, 2010 | 12:24 PM (EST)

*Buddhist Insights for Accepting and Respecting Our Emotions*

Posted June 4, 2010 | 12:50 PM (EST)

*Meditation: Resting the Busy Mind*

Posted May 13, 2010 | 02:23 PM (EST)

*Finding Your Buffalo: The Path to Happiness*

Posted April 28, 2010 | 01:30 PM (EST)

*The Buddha Wasn't a Buddhist*

Posted April 14, 2010 | 06:49 PM (EST)

### **Other Publications**

In addition, Rinpoche has supervised the translation of numerous Tibetan works and has annually published commentaries and meditation manuals under the imprint of Nalandabodhi Publications. His blog posts have appeared on numerous web sites.