

THE DAGPO EDUCATIONAL FUND

The Dagpo Educational Fund is a foundation created to preserve and promote the cultural, educational and philosophical traditions of the Tibetan Buddhist monastic university, Dagpo Shedrub Ling, wherever they are found, and to make them available to anyone interested in them.

A TRADITION OF NON-VIOLENCE

According to the Buddha, all living beings can achieve the state of inner peace to which they aspire and upon which

world peace depends. Dagpo Shedrub Ling's centuries-old traditions revolve around teaching and meditating on the steps leading to enlightenment (the *lamrim*), which allow us to increase our love, compassion and wisdom.

DAGPO SHEDRUB LING'S ORIGINS

After completing his major work, *The Great Lamrim*, the founder of the Gelugpa School, Je Tsongkhapa (1357-1419), gave a copy to his student, Je Lodrö Tenpa, and encouraged him to establish a monastery in southern Tibet where these instructions could be taught and practised. Je Lodrö Tenpa then created a monastic community in the Dagpo region, which later became Dagpo Shedrub

Ling Monastery. Since the 15th century until 1959, *The Great Lamrim* was widely taught in the region and passed on uninterruptedly from teacher to student.

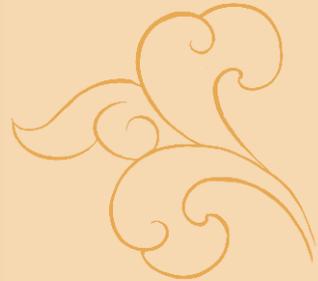
DIFFICULT YEARS

After the communist occupation in 1959, it became increasingly difficult to uphold monastic traditions in Tibet. A small number of Dagpo Shedrub Ling's monks fled to India, first settling in the eastern Himalayas. A long period of great hardship followed for Tibetans in Tibet as well as for those in exile in India, a period during which the survival of the community's precious traditions hung by a thread. In both countries however, the monks

managed to overcome enormous obstacles and were eventually able to pass on their knowledge to the next generation.

EAST MEETS WEST

Since those troubled times, the community's traditions have spread beyond the Himalayan regions. Starting in the late seventies, they have gradually been made available to a wider audience in both Asia and the West where they are much appreciated for their astonishing relevance to modern society.



DAGPO LAMA RINPOCHE

Dagpo Lama Rinpoche was born in Tibet in 1932 and at a very early age was recognized as the reincarnation of an important Buddhist master. At the age of thirteen, he began his studies in Buddhist philosophy at Dagpo Shedrub Ling. In 1959 he escaped to India and a year later emigrated to France. From 1961 until his retirement in 1993, Rinpoche taught Tibetan language and civilisation at the Sorbonne's School for Oriental Studies. Since 1977, Rinpoche has been sharing his vast knowledge of Buddhism with a larger public, teaching in various countries in Europe, Asia and America.

RECONSTRUCTION

Under Dagpo Rinpoche's enlightened guidance and through the assistance of many, a small group of Dagpo Shedrub Ling monks began reconstructing their monastery in the favourable environment of the Kullu Valley of northern India in the western Himalayas.

By 2005 the monks had established a monastery, a primary school for children from the valley and neighbouring regions as well as a small medical facility.

At present, more than 140 monks and 115 children are being educated at Kullu.



Dagpo Lama Rinpoche

PRESERVING TRADITIONS

In 2007, the Dagpo Educational Fund was founded in Holland upon Dagpo Rinpoche's recommendation. Its goal is to ensure the long term continuity of Dagpo Shedrub Ling's traditions as found in both monastic and lay communities.

The proceeds from its capital fund serve to finance long-range projects with the aim of maintaining these traditions for the benefit of future generations.



In winter it is so cold inside that they rather have classes outside, if the sun is shining...

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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The foundation is registered at the Chamber of Commerce in Utrecht (Holland) under nr. 30223716.

All board members work on a purely voluntary basis.



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