



Khensur Rinpoche Lobzang Tsetan

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Khensur Rinpoche Lobzang Tsetan is a Tibetan Buddhist monk from Ladakh, India who has been traveling and teaching in the United States for over thirty years. He began his monastic life at age seven in Stok, his family village in Ladakh, India. At age thirteen he joined the Stok Monastery to study and memorize Buddhist scriptures. In 1952, when he was fifteen years old, he walked 800 miles with his father from Ladakh to Shigatse, Tibet to enter the renowned Tashi Lhunpo Monastery. Rinpoche received his novice monk vows there and studied Buddhist philosophy at the monastery's Skilkhang College with many prominent Tibetan scholars. His dream was to receive the Geshe degree in Buddhist philosophy, roughly equivalent to a Ph.D. This dream was deferred for him when the Chinese government intensified their policy of cultural genocide on occupied Tibet in 1959, so Rinpoche escaped to his homeland in 1960.

Back in the village of his birth, he studied tantric practices and then joined the School of Buddhist Philosophy in Choglamsar for seven years. Rinpoche then traveled to Varanasi, India, where many high lamas in exile had resettled and built new monastic colleges, and received his Shastri degree, the equivalent of a bachelor's degree. Afterward, he felt a responsibility to return to Stok and contribute to the community through teaching, so from 1974-1978 Rinpoche taught high school in Ladakh. In 1979, he received a special invitation to come to the United States and teach at the first Tibetan Buddhist learning center in America, Labsum Shedrub Ling in Washington, New Jersey. He went in hopes of learning English and completing his Geshe degree studies. He accomplished both, and in 1984 returned to the Drepung Monastery for commencement.

Since 1984, Rinpoche has been traveling and teaching in the United States for part of the year, and returning to Ladakh during the summer months. His association with the Manjushri Center in Amherst and other connections provided him with extensive teaching positions and lecturing opportunities at a number of schools including Smith, Bowdoin, Amherst, Hampshire, Drew, Maine College of Art, Bangor Theological Seminary, Phillips Exeter Academy, Deerfield Academy, Stanford, and others.



In 1995, Rinpoche founded The Siddhartha School in his home village in Stok, Ladakh. The school seeks to preserve Tibetan Buddhist Culture and language while giving the children of this remote Himalayan area a well-rounded and thoroughly modern education, which allows them to represent themselves and their culture in our rapidly evolving global community.

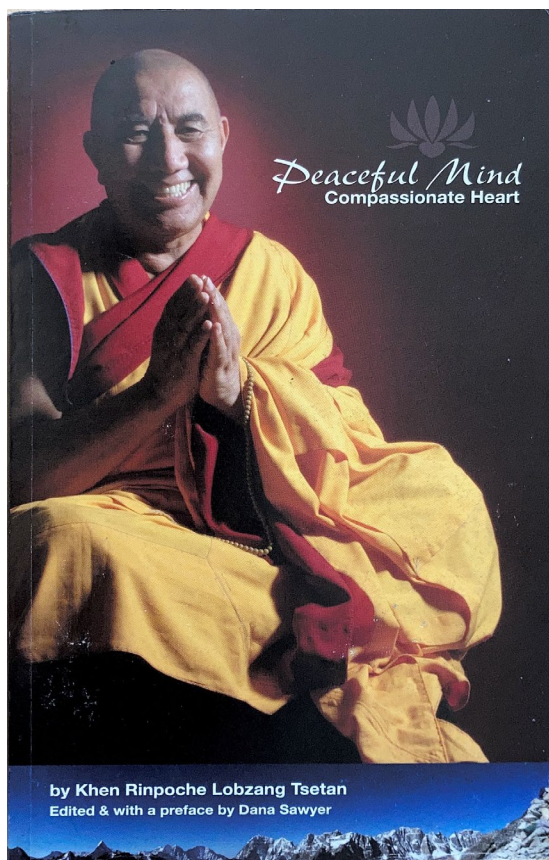
In 1996, shortly after he founded the school, H.H. Dalai Lama, appointed Rinpoche to be the head abbot of the newly reestablished Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in Balakuppe, India. (This is in the absence of the 11th Panchen Lama, one of Tibet's most revered reincarnating masters and traditionally Tashi Lhunpo's abbot, who has been missing since the Chinese Government took him and his family into custody when he was 4 years old.) Ven. Khen Rinpoche humbly set aside this great honor, with the Dalai Lama's blessings and support, so that he could devote himself completely to the Siddhartha School. However, in 2005 His Holiness again asked Rinpoche to accept the abbot position, and this time he could not refuse. In July 2005 Rinpoche was installed as Kachen or head abbot, of the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in southern India. In 2021, Khensur Rinpoche, with the blessing of His Holiness, stepped down as Kachen. He continues to reside during the Winter months at Tashi Lhunpo Monastery and travels to Ladkakh in the Spring to work with Principal Dechen Wangmo and the Ladakh Culture and Welfare Society Board (Ladakh Board) in support of the Siddhartha School.

Peaceful Mind, Compassionate Heart

Donate a minimum of \$30 to receive "Peaceful Mind, Compassionate Heart" by Khensur Rinpoche Lobzang Tsetan. This is a series of teachings on the basics of Mahayana Buddhism. Based on the Lam-Rim text of Tsong Khapa, a great Tibetan philosopher who first systematized the teachings of the gelug-pa sect, this book offers rich advice to the novice on the Buddhist path and a profound overview for the long-term practitioner.

Your gift supports the Teacher's Fund, which provides for the salaries, supplies and schoolrooms of the teachers at the Siddhartha School.

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The Radiant Deer

Donate a minimum of \$25 to receive a copy of "The Radiant Deer" featuring a preface by Khensur Rinpoche Lobzang Tsetan. This illustrated book, presented with English, Hindi, and Tibetan text, is a retelling of one of the beloved Jataka Tales, stories of the Buddha's previous births. This particular tale, of a compassionate deer who saves a drowning man, has inspired readers for more than 2,000 years.

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