

Biography of Shingdup Tulku Rinpoche

Shingdup Tulku Rinpoche is the reincarnation of Kyabje Shingdup Ngawang Gyurmed Tenzin who himself was said to be an emanation of Upasika Dharmapala, one of the sixteen arhats. Shingdup Tulku was born in 1975 in a Tibetan settlement in India to Jamtrul Rinpoche and Mayum Kunsang Dolkar. When he reached three years of age, His Holiness Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche, the Supreme Head of Nyingma School of Tibetan Buddhism, recognized him as the incarnation of his predecessor, Shingdup Ngawang Gyurmed Tenzin Rinpoche. He was five years old when he offered his crown hair to H.H Dudjom Rinpoche and was provided ceremonial robes and a new name, Pema Gyurmed Namgyal. With great joy, H.H Dudjom Rinpoche also composed a long life prayer for him that read thus:

The essence of all the infallible Buddhas, Padmasambhava;
The three roots, the spiritual heroes, and the dakinis;
May the power of their truth enable the life of Dodrul Pema Gyurmed Namgyal
To be always firm and may his activities pervade all of space!

He learned to read Tibetan from Jamtrul Rinpoche, the brother of his predecessor. At the age of six, he went to the Central School for Tibetans at his locality where he received primary education for three years. It was at this time that he faced obstacles. When H.H Dudjom Rinpoche was approached, he advised that Shingdup Tulku Rinpoche should either enter a shedra (traditional monastic college) or a drubdra (retreat centre). According to this guidance, Shingdup Tulku Rinpoche entered Zangdhok Palri Monastery, the monastic seat of H.H Dudjom Rinpoche in Kalimpong, India in 1986. He then studied how to read and write Tibetan followed by lessons in Tibetan grammar and Tibetan orthography, which belong to the common traditional sciences. In the uncommon sciences, he studied rites and rituals including chanting, ritual dance, mandala construction and playing religious instruments according to the Dudjom Tersar tradition for seven years and achieved perfection in them.

In 1993, Shingdup Tulku Rinpoche was formally enthroned amidst a congregation of over one thousand devotees at Shechen Monastery in Boudhanath, Nepal. The ceremony was presided over by H.E Shechen Rabjam Rinpoche and H.E Namkha Drimed Rinpoche. In the same year, Shingdup Tulku Rinpoche expressed his wish to study the ocean of sutra and tantra teachings of Lord Buddha before his teachers, including Chime Dorje Rinpoche, the head of Zangdhok Palri Monastery, and others. Lama Chime Dorje Rinpoche, the teachers and officials of the monastery appreciated Tulku Rinpoche's aspiration and gave their consent to study the Buddhist scriptures, on the condition that Tulku return to the monastery after he completed his education. Thus, Tulku got

proper permission to embark on his spiritual training of study and contemplation.

Thus, in 1994 Tulku enrolled in the Ngagyur Nyingma Institute (NNI), the monastic university of Namdroling Monastery in south India, where he studied the common ocean like sutra and tantra teachings, as well as the extraordinary three inner tantras of the Nyingma tradition, and completed his studies in 2005. In 2003, during the Silver Jubilee Celebration of NNI, he received from HH Penor Rinpoche the “Thadrel Mawai Wangchug” Certificate, equivalent to a Higher Secondary degree in Buddhist philosophy and Practice, and the “Pharchin Rabjam” Certificate, equivalent to Bachelor of Buddhist Philosophy and Practice. In 2007, he received from HH Penor Rinpoche the “Ngesang Legshe Dzochang” Certificate, equivalent to Master of Buddhist Philosophy and Practice.

Following in the footsteps of his predecessor, Tulku Shingdup Rinpoche received the complete empowerments, reading transmissions and pith instructions from many authentic teachers, including H.H Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche. He received from H.H Penor Rinpoche the Rinchen Terzod (Rediscovered Treasure Teachings) Empowerments, Nyingthig Yabshi (Four Cycles of the Heart Essence Teachings) Empowerments, Dowang Dangtsi Chugyun (Stream of Honey—The Empowerment of the Anuyoga Tantra), Kagye Sangdzog Chenmo (Eight Herukas as the Great Complete Secret One) empowerment, Empowerment of the Three Roots Practice according to Nyingthig Cycle, and the complete transmission of Ngondro (Preliminary Teaching), Tsalung (Channels and Winds) and Dzogchen (Great Perfection) from the Namcho Cycle.

He received from H.H Taklung Tsetrul Rinpoche the entire cycle of empowerments and reading transmissions of the Jangter (Northern Treasures). He also received the Kalachakra Empowerment from HH the Dalai Lama. He received many empowerments, reading transmissions, and pith instructions of the Dudjom Tersar lineage from H.E Dungse Thrinley Norbu Rinpoche. He also received the entire Rinchen Terzod empowerment from HH Dodrupchen Rinpoche. He received the entire cycle of empowerments and reading transmissions of the previous Dudjom Rinpoche from HH Kyabje Sangye Pema Shepa. And, as H.H Jadrel Sangye Dorje Rinpoche had a close connection with Shingdup Tulku’s predecessor, Jadrel Rinpoche with great joy bestowed upon him the refuge vow and the empowerment of Rigzin Dungdub (Accomplishment of the Lineage of Vidyadharas).

Shingdup Tulku Rinpoche then returned to Zangdhok Palri. He was consistently requested by the abbots, teachers and officials of the same monastery to take

responsibility for the monastery as its head. In 2009, Shingdup Tulku Rinpoche took full charge of the monastery and since then, he has been taking full responsibility as Zangdhok Palri monastery's head.