

About H. E. The Kuanding Tai Situ Rinpoche

The lineage of the Kuanding Tai Situ Rinpoches can be traced back to one of Buddha Shakyamuni's main disciples, the Bodhisattva Maitreya. It is furthermore closely connected with Guru Rinpoche since he appeared as Padmasambhava's regent and one of his main disciples.

Another important incarnation was that of the enlightened translator Marpa, the first Tibetan within the Kagyu lineage who brought the teachings from India to the land of snow. This is why the tradition of Kagyu which is transmitted through this line of enlightened masters is also called Marpa Kagyu. The Kuanding Tai Situ Rinpoche and H. H. The Gyalwang Karmapa are utmostly closely connected and have, through the history shared their responsibility for the Kagyu lineage.

The 8th incarnation, Chokyi Jungne, founded the prestigious Palpung monastery in Tibet, an outstanding center of learning, art, ritual, meditation and medicine and mother monastery of the Karma Kagyu in Eastern Tibet.

The 12th incarnation, Pema Donyo Nyinje Wangpo, was born in 1954 in Dege, Eastern Tibet to a family of farmers. His birth was accompanied by many auspicious signs. When the sixteenth Gyalwang Karmapa together with the fourteenth Dalai Lama visited Beijing, he became aware of the birth of his heart son thus enabling the accurate recognition. The Rinpoche was enthroned at the age of eighteen months at Palpung monastery and recognized all the old servants of his previous incarnation.

In 1959, due to the Chinese invasion, he was forced to leave his country and arrived in Bhutan. Finally he moved to Rumtek where he received the complete transmissions from the 16th Karmapa until 1975. With the blessings of H. H. The Karmapa, at the age of twenty-two he established his first monastic project and founded Palpung Sherab Ling in Himachal Pradesh, North India which houses relics of the 8th Kuanding Tai Situ Rinpoche in a separate stupa temple.

As a Buddhist teacher, The Rinpoche regularly tours the world giving teachings and empowerments at the request of Dharma centers: in 1981 The Tai Situ Rinpoche went on tour throughout Europe and visited America in 1982. Since then, The Rinpoche has traveled extensively in North America, Europe and Southeast Asia. These teachings are collected and published in nine books till now.

In 1984 for the first time, his Eminence returned to Tibet and in 1991 spent three months in Palpung, East Tibet.

In 1989 H. E. The Tai Situ Rinpoche went on pilgrimage for World Peace. In 1992 he recognized the 17th incarnation of H. H. The Gyalwang Karmapa and enthroned The Gyalwang Karmapa in Tsurphu, Tibet, the main seat of the Gyalwang Karmapas. His Eminence is the main Guru of the seventeenth Karmapa Ogyen Thrinle Dorje in Mahamudra and training in turn the next generation of Buddhist masters.

The Kuanding Tai Situ Rinpoche is actively involved in the advancement of inter-faith and -cultural humanitarian efforts and is a master scholar, poet, artist, calligrapher, architect, geomancer and philosopher. His art work was collected and published in four books so far. He is the Supreme Abbot of Palpung Sherab Ling in India and Palpung in Tibet and the Supreme Head of the Palpung Congregation with monasteries and centers throughout the world.