

About H. H. Gyalwang Karmapa

H. H. Gyalwang Karmapa is the Master of enlightened activity, karma (sanskrit) means activity. He is thus said to enact the entirety of all activities of all Buddhas. The lineage of the Gyalwang Karmapas was prophecied in many Sutras and Tantras.

H. H. Karmapa is the Supreme Head of the entire Kagyu lineage and just as H. H. The 14th Dalai Lama considered an emanation of Avalokitesvara, Buddha of compassion.

The first Gyalwang Karmapa, Dusum Khyenpa, enlightened master “introduced” the principle of conscious reincarnation in Tibet: since then he has given details about his future incarnation and entrusted them to a main disciple. Throughout history the Gyalwang Karmapas and the Kuanding Tai Situpas have thus been connected most closely.

Dusum Khyenpa was born in 1110 in Eastern Tibet. He became the main disciple of Gampopa and after many years of secluded retreats founded the monastery of Tsurphu in central Tibet near Lhasa which from then on has remained the seat of the Gyalwang Karmapas.

The 16th Gyalwang Karmapa fled Tibet in 1959 with thousands of followers and settled in Sikkim near the capital Gangtok in Rumtek, a piece of land offered by the King of Sikkim for that purpose. Von Rumtek the Kagyu transmission spread throughout the entire world: in 1974 H. H. Karmapa set out on his first world tour, a second followed in 1976. Since then, Rumtek has been the International Seat of His Holiness.

In 1981, H. H. The 16th Gyalwang Karmapa left his body behind in Chicago. After his passing, his body remained in full meditation posture for another three days and his heart stayed warm.

The 17th incarnation, Ogyen Thrinle Dorje, was born in Lhatok, Eastern Tibet into a nomadic family. During his birth wonderful, auspicious signs were witnessed. For four years the reincarnation was searched for without result until H. E. Tai Situ Rinpoche remembered a charm given to him by the 16th Karmapa. It held the prediction letter which contained all details for the discovery of the new incarnation.

At that time the Gyalwang Karmapa was already seven years of age. One day he told his family that a search party would soon reach him to find him and hence made the family move to that place where H. H. the 16th Karmapa had once written down a prophecy.

H. H. Karmapa Ogyen Thrinle Dorje was recognised by H. H. the 14th Dalai Lama on June 30, 1992 and was successively recognised by all the Heads of the other traditions of Tibetan Buddhism as the 17th incarnation of the Gyalwang Karmapa.

Brought to Tsurphu, The Gyalwang Karmapa was formally enthroned by Tai Situ Rinpoche in the presence of the Chinese government on September 27, 1992, the first Chinese recognition of a reincarnation since the Chinese occupation of Tibet.

The 17th Gyalwang Karmapa fled Tsurphu in Tibet in December 1999 while the world celebrated the new millenium and reached India on January 5, 2000 where he has since then been receiving all the transmission of Kagyu. His root Guru is H. E. Kuanding Tai Situ Rinpoche. H. H. Karmapa has been residing in Gyuto monastery near Dharamsala, North India since then.