

## TARA LING NEWSLETTER: VOL 1

Greetings! This is our first and feeble attempt at a newsletter to keep all of you informed. Please do be kind and patient with our flaming egos.

I (Sue) and Jamyang are here in the heart of Hollywood at 11pm on a Wednesday evening attempting to hone our computer skills.

Now for the real news (in the future we will be much more professional):

Dagmola will be arriving on Thursday, August 4th. On that evening she will be leading a White Tara practice at Carol Moss' home in Malibu, CA (Please RSVP at 310-456-3591 or greenlotus@earthlink.net for directions and parking instructions - note space is limited). The suggested donation is \$20.00 (sliding scale/scholarships available) and no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

On Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> Dagmola will be at Tara Ling in Pasadena from 10am – 12pm for a Medicine Buddha teaching. From 2-4pm there will be practice on the Three Long Life Deities. Dagmola will also answer any questions on practice and interviews can be arranged.

On Sunday, August 7th Dagmola will be giving a teaching on Lojong Seven Points of Mind Training from 10am - 12pm and from 2 - 4pm she will be leading the Practice of the Four Mandalas to Tara.

Please call Jamyang at 323-428-8366 for interviews or questions.

Dagmola is looking forward to see you all.

Tara Ling  
65 N. Raymond Ave., Suite B-001  
Pasadena, CA

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### The History of the Sakya Tradition: An Ongoing Series

The Sakya tradition of Tibetan Buddhism has a long and illustrious history dating back ten generations before the arrival of Padmasambhava. The Sakya Khon family are said to be descendents from a family of celestial beings that left the clear light heavens in the realm of form to come and dwell in the mountains of Tibet for the benefit of all beings. At this time, they were known as Lha Rig. Later on after eight generations in Tibet, the Lha Rig quarreled with a Yaksha leader and the Lha Rig came to be known as Khon, which means dispute.

Buddhism arrived in Tibet with Padmasabhava in 750 A.D., who subdued the unruly mountain demons harassing the Tibetan people. The Khon family soon became

students of Guru Rinpoche and for thirteen generations kept the teachings of the Buddha and Padmasambhava while practicing the Tantras of the early translation school. They became important guardians of the Nyingmapa teachings, especially in the province of Tsang.

One of the Khon family sons was ordained as a monk by Shantirakshinta at Samye monastery, and became one of the first seven monk translators in Tibet. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century A.D, a member of the Khon family, Sherab Tsultrim realized that there had been a degeneration of the Buddhist teachings in Tibet, due to the obscurations of beings, and he thought that new teachings and Tantras should be sought in India. Guru Rinpoche prophesized that an emanation of the great Indian yogi Virupa would appear, with the name Drogmi Lotsawa or Drogmi the translator. Sherab Tsultrim's younger brother Khon Konchog Gyalpo began to study with Drogme Lotsawa, gaining knowledge of newly revealed Tantric teachings and practices from India.

In 1073, Khon Konchog Gyalpo established a Sakya (which means white earth) monastery in the central Tibet. The white patch of earth in this area was considered an auspicious place.

Several decades earlier, the Sakya area had been visited by the great Indian pandit Atisha. While Atisha was there, he had a prophetic vision in which he saw future emanations of Mahakala, Mahjushri, Avalokiteshvara, and Vajrapani taking birth in the white area to spread the dharma and perform miraculous activities of compassion to benefit all beings. Atisha set up a temporary shrine at Sakya and made offerings to the deities, which arrived to the area in future.

This is how the holy family, the hereditary inheritors of these precious teachings came to be known by the three names of Lha Rig, Khon and Sakya...

To be continued!

Written by Jamyang Gyatso

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### **H.E. Luding Khen Rinpoche's visit to Tara Ling**



On June 12<sup>th</sup> of this year, Tara Ling was honored to be visited by H.E, Luding Khen Rinpoche, the abbot of the Ngor lineage of the Sakya order

of Tibetan Buddhism. H. E. Luding Khen Rinpoche was in Los Angeles giving teachings and empowerments at Tsechen Kunchab Ling, H.H Sakya Trizin's Los Angeles center. Rinpoche is currently on an extended tour of the United States, and the world, visiting many Sakya centers.

H.E Dagmo Kusho and Tara Ling's members requested that he visit and consecrate the space. He is one of many high Lama's to visit our center in the past – giving blessings and consecrations. Previously, the center has been consecrated by H.H. Jigdal Dagchen Sakya (the centers founder, along with H.E. Dagmo Kusho), H.H. Sakya Trizin, and Khamtul Rinpoche.

H.E. Luding Khen Rinpoche was greeted by members of Tara Ling, as well as by H.E. Dagmo Kushola. Rinpoche, Lama Kalsang, who is the spiritual director of Tsechen Kunchab Ling, several monks, and then consecrated the temple and thanked the members of Tara Ling for their invitation. He also encouraged all the members of our center to continue our efforts in spreading the Dharma teachings, stating that he was very happy that we had been able to start and maintain our center in Los Angeles.

After the consecration ceremony, H.E. Luding Khen Rinpoche along with his party joined H.E. Dagmo Kusho for dinner with other members of Tara Ling, as well as members of Tsechen Kunchab Ling at Yujean Kang's restaurant. Yujean, who is president of Tara Ling's board of directors, prepared a delicious vegetarian meal for everyone. As it turns out, it was H.E. Luding Khen's birthday, so birthday greetings were exchanged, along with sincere wishes for H.E. Luding Khen's very long and healthy life. After birthday cake, Rinpoche thanked all the members of Tara Ling again for their hospitality.

H.E. Lading Khan Riposte has recently taken over the throne of Nor Edam Chosen, the chief monastery of Ngor from his uncle the previous Ngor abbot Jamyang Tenpai Nyima, who is now retired from active service. Ngor monastery is the principle seat of the Ngor Sakya tradition; H.E. Luding Khen Rinpoche is the son of H.E. Jetsun Chimey Luding, the sister of H.H. Sakya Trizin and Sei Kushog, the brother of the previous abbot of Ngor. H.E. Luding Khen spent his formative years in India, learning all the common and uncommon teachings of the Sakya tradition and receiving initiations from his both of his uncles, H.H. Sakya Trizin and the former abbot of Ngor.

We were very happy to host H.E. Luding Khen Rinpoche for his birthday celebration and we are extremely grateful to his kind and generous blessings for Tara Ling.

Written by Jamyang Gyatso

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### Tulku Nyima Rinpoche at the Mother Tara Sakya Center

Tulku Nyima Rinpoche, the abbot of Dokho Monastery in Derge, Eastern Tibet, visited Mother Tara Sakya Center and gave a Dharma teaching to its members on January 19, 2005.

Born in Tromtar, Eastern Tibet, Tulku Nyima Rinpoche was recognized as a reincarnated Lama when he was a small child by the great Jamyang Khyentse Choki Lodro. At age of 12, he went to Nyoshul Monastery to study and began his long and arduous training under many highly renowned masters. During the time of the Cultural Revolution in Tibet while many monks were forced to give up their vows, he kept cultivating the Dharma by hiding himself in caves to avoid being arrested and living on rare offerings of food from the farmers in the nearby village.

In 2002, he became the abbot of Dokho Monastery, and in the following year, His Holiness Sakya Trizin Rinpoche recognized him as “a genuine reincarnated Lama of the Sakya tradition.”

Tulku Nyima Rinpoche’s teaching at Mother Tara Ling covered both common and non-common practices of Buddhism. He began the teaching with the explanation of the Tibetan word “*Sang Gye*” (Buddha) and the importance of ending samsara and achieving enlightenment. In the non-common aspect, he taught disciples the breathing method of Nyingma tradition.

This auspicious teaching was concluded with a Tsok Offering conducted by the Rinpoche.



Written by Jeffrey K Cheung

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Please send any update on personal information (address, phone, etc.) to the following email address <[info@taraling.org](mailto:info@taraling.org)>.

NEWS: On September 18<sup>th</sup> in Topanga Canyon at the Topanga community house Tara Ling will be hosting a booth at the Sounds of the Sacred, Songs of the Earth Concert and Festival. The festivities begin at noon till 9:30pm.

See <[www.soundsofthesacred.org](http://www.soundsofthesacred.org)> and come and support Tara Ling. For discount group tickets for contact Sue at <[crimsondakini@earthlink.net](mailto:crimsondakini@earthlink.net)>.

PEACE TO YOU ALL