

COMMUNIQUE

A Newsletter for the Khyentse Foundation Community Summer 2003

Rinpoche on the Core Purpose of the Khyentse Foundation

It is without a doubt that the past glory of Buddhism is due to its followers' courage in seeking the true meaning beyond a material life. But one should never forget that this glory was also due to the support provided by people and nations who saw value in such pursuits. Even great kings and warlords have put aside their usual ambitions in the interest of supporting the buddhadharma. It is in these footsteps Khyentse Foundation wishes to follow.

Buddhism has enjoyed many golden eras - the age of Ashoka's Mauryan Empire (3rd century B.C.), the Chinese Tang Dynasty (8th century A.D.), Japan's Tendai Dynasty (9th century A.D.), Kublai Khan's reign (12th century A.D.), and pre-invasion Tibet. During those times, Buddhism suffused all parts of society. Just as people nowadays worship Ivy League graduates, Hollywood stars, and football players, the general public had tremendous respect for professional renunciants. They saw the value in investing in the enterprise of seeking enlightenment.

In a last few remaining places like Bhutan and Thailand, one can still find that same sort of veneration for enlightenment seekers. A renunciant can decide to do a nine-year retreat without much worry. Or a dharma student can find easy access to a monastery and a school for however long he or she wants to study. Giving is a very natural part of life in these places. Buddhism is kept alive in this way. Besides these few examples, the modern age has lost this habit.

Buddhism has been introduced and is growing in the West but support systems for spiritual pursuits are scarce. Only after buying a new Macintosh, going on vacation, taking out gym membership and so forth, do we find some leftover pocket change to donate. Conversely, many western Buddhist students find retreat and renunciation difficult because of the continual need to support themselves on a material level. They lack institutions such as shedras (Buddhist colleges) and monasteries where they might simply walk in and request teachings. They must satisfy their interests individually, perhaps by going to Nepal or India to study language and scriptures on their own.

If we sincerely want to carry on the traditions of Buddhism, if we are talking about *establishing* Buddhism in the west, we need to think ahead to the next generation. This means creating lasting structures that foster practice and make the dharma available to anyone who is interested. We cannot sit back and wait until America or France becomes a Buddhist country. During his time, King Ashoka built many shrines and monasteries, he inscribed Buddhist teachings on rocks and pillars. He sent missionaries to countries as far as Greece and Egypt. His own son, a monk, carried Buddhism to Sri Lanka, where it is still the major religion. So we are starting small by doing things like publishing texts, sponsoring a three-year retreatant in France, feeding and housing seven hundred monks in India and Bhutan. The whole purpose of the Khyentse Foundation is to create a system of support for the continuing study and practice of the dharma.

Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche July 2003

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Rinpoche's Commentary on Chandrakirti's Madhyamakavatara Published

In a series of annual events between 1996-2000 Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche gave extensive commentary and teachings on Chandrakirti's Madhyamakavatara at Chanteloube, Dordogne, France. The fully revised and annotated text of these teachings was completed thanks to the painstaking work of Alex Trisoglio. In accordance with Rinpoche's wishes, the Khyentse Foundation is proud to have sponsored the initial publication of this text. Rinpoche began a new cycle of teachings based on this text in San Francisco this June, and has asked that copies be made available to students attending the teachings upon formal request. The texts were distributed upon registration at the Seven Hills Conference Center at the San Francisco State University.

This valuable commentary is now in the process of being translated into French and Chinese and will be available soon.

Students who did not attend the San Francisco teaching can request for a pdf file of the English version of this text by emailing info@khyentsefoundation.org. All French and Chinese speaking students are requested to wait for their respective versions.

Longchen Nyingtik Practice Manual: Some Advice on How to Practice

Khyentse Foundation is also delighted to announce the forthcoming publication of the Longchen Nyingtik Practice Manual, based on Khyentse Rinpoche's previous teachings, which is being compiled by Chanel Grubner. This Practice Manual is now in the final editing stage and will soon be available upon request.

Regular Donations Matching Fund Program

We are very fortunate that an anonymous group of sponsors has offered to match scheduled, recurring donations made to the Khyentse Foundation. For example, a pledge of \$100 per month made on an ongoing basis will be matched dollar for dollar for as long as the donations continue.

Should you wish to take advantage of this program to double your contributions to the Foundation, please contact and arrange your regular donations with your respective country representatives listed at the end of this Communique.

The Auction Option

We are beginning to develop a service to sell items donated to the Khyentse Foundation on EBay. We are doing a trial run to test the viability of this service, so if you have any name-brand or easy to sell items that you wish to donate to the Foundation, please email auctions@khyentsefoundation.org

Update your Email

Please help us save communications cost by providing us with your email address and updating your contact information. Please send an email to: communique@khyentsefoundation.org

For further information please contact the Khyentse Foundation at:

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Have a good summer!