

KHYENTSE FOUNDATION COMMUNIQUE

The Great Patrons of Buddhism Series

PART V: KING SONGTSEN GAMPO

From a series of discussions with Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche

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Songtsen Gampo is the forefather of Buddhism in Tibet. Two generations before King Trisong Detsen invited Shantarakshita and Padmasambhava to Tibet, King Songtsen Gampo cultivated the nation for its transformation, clearing pathways for the dharma to enter and ultimately permeate Tibetan culture. Without Songtsen Gampo there would be no Tibetan alphabet, Lhasa would have no Jokang, and the supreme demoness of Central Tibet might still be roaming the earth unfettered.

Songtsen Gampo reigned from 617 to 650. His Yarlung dynasty was based in Central Tibet during an imperialist period in Tibetan history. Bön was the dominant religion, and Buddhism was only seminally present. No Tibetan translations of the Buddhist scriptures existed and it was Songtsen Gampo who instructed his minister Thonmi Sambota to travel to India, study Sanskrit, and develop a Tibetan script. He then commissioned the translation of several thousand texts.

His celebrated successes in battle expanded the Tibetan empire deep into Nepal and China, and it was during these battles that he gained an appreciation of the neighbouring cultures. As a reminder of the great empire that Songtsen Gampo ruled, a large pillar still stands before the Potala palace in Lhasa, erected during his reign, on which is inscribed the agreement between the Tibetan and Chinese rulers to respect each other's borders. He studied Chinese, became skilled in the art of leadership, and most importantly, he adopted sacred codes of conduct from Buddhist scripture. Under his rule, sacred practices began to replace the shamanistic practices of the Bönpos.

Songtsen Gampo's two queens can be credited for a great part of his cultural awareness. Bhirkuti, from Kathmandu, brought the traditions of Himalayan Buddhism. Princess Wengchin, daughter of the Tang emperor, brought a treasure trove of ancient Chinese wisdom.

continued on inside last page



AND THEY CAME IN THOUSANDS.....

THE INAUGURATION OF CHÖKYI LODRÖ COLLEGE OF DIALECTICS

On the eve of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's arrival at the inauguration of Chökyi Lodrön College of Dialectics, artisans were still painting gold leaf on the face of the main temple's 28-foot Buddha statue. Khyentse Rinpoche was holding a late-night planning session with the Institute's top students and khenpos who were doubling as event coordinators.

Buddha statue. Khyentse Rinpoche was holding a late-night planning session with the Institute's top students and khenpos who were doubling as event coordinators. Under buzzing fluorescent lights, Rinpoche grilled the officers in charge. Were

they prepared to feed seven thousand guests? How would unexpected high lamas be handled? Was the security team coordinating with His Holiness's bodyguards and the Indian police? Accommodation lists were shuffled, entire roads were swept, a thousand marigolds were draped over the gate, and the photocopy machine chugged out programmes in Tibetan, Chinese, and English well into the night. We thought that we were as prepared as we could be.

But we were not entirely prepared. We were not prepared for the unimaginable display of devotion, the amazing spectacle of art and culture, the pageantry of the distinguished guests—lamas, dashos, khenpos, royal representatives, ministers, dignitaries, and rinpoches. Forget showers, it was a hurricane of blessings.

The inauguration took place November 19-21, 2004, in Chauntra Tibetan Colony, Himachal Pradesh, India, the new home of what was formerly



photo by Butsou Lai

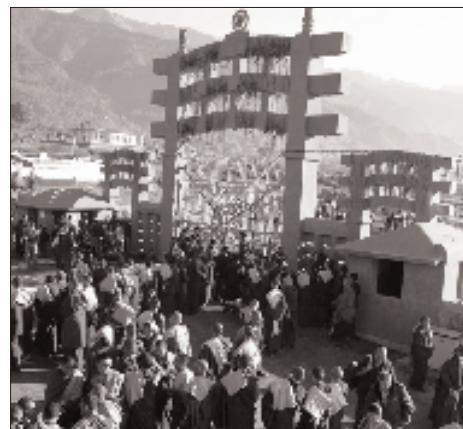


photo by Amelia Chow

known as Dzongsar Institute. Now called Chökyi Lodrön College of Dialectics (CLCD), it is destined to become a major centre of higher learning. Unprecedented support by the international dharma community enabled the construction of CLCD. Under the guidance and support of the venerable Khenpo Kunga Wangchuk, the new monastery comfortably accommodates up to a thousand monks. The compound is staggering in size, with an impressive three-storey dormitory encircling a landscaped courtyard and fountain. There are eleven classrooms, a library, computer and reading rooms, a Tara hall, and a Guru hall, everything constructed with meticulous care. Even the water tower is beautiful!

Early on the first day, as the air filled with aromatic smoke and jubilant trumpets sang, His Holiness the Dalai Lama snipped the ribbon to officially open the Institute. Khenpo Kunga Wangchuk and Rinpoche took their seats with the other lamas in the main hall, followed by thousands of monks, uniformed schoolchildren, and foreign guests.



photo by Amelia Chow

Representatives from across the Himalayan range—Bhutan, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, and of course Tibet—came to pay their respects, most wearing colourful traditional dress. The temple is designed to accommodate four thousand people, but many more squeezed in each of the three days to receive teachings, hear speeches by the special guests, and enjoy cultural presentations. Naresh Mathur, a respected barrister from Delhi's high court, was the English-speaking master of ceremonies, and Khenpo Choying Dorje of the institute did the honours in Tibetan. On day two, His Holiness taught on the Lamp of Enlightenment and awarded khenpo certificates to a select group of new graduates. On the final day he gave a long-life empowerment to the largest crowd of the three-day event.

The entire weekend was subtly infused with the message that Buddha Shakyamuni was an Indian. It was here that Buddhism first took root and where the yogis first wandered. Comparisons

between CLCD and the famous Nalanda University were prevalent. Each evening, as the sun set over the purple hills, the guests crowded



photo by Amelia Chow

around the outdoor stage set up by a top Delhi-based professional production company. A perfect half moon rose above the Ashoka pillar (which inspired the Khyentse Foundation lion logo). The pillar, which was stage lit from behind, was a glorious backdrop to the equally glorious music, dance, and theatre. We witnessed Purvadhanashree's flawless bharatnatyam (classical Indian dance) performance based on Shantideva's Bodhicharyavatara. Every expressive gesture of Poorva's body appeared as a mudra. Vidya Rao, one of the leading exponents of the classical style of Thumri singing, struck heart chords with her enchanting vocal performance based on the Manjushri Namsamgati. His Holiness twice sent his katags to Vidya in praise of her ethereal voice.

The final Indian offering was *A Flowering Tree*, a spectacular original play commissioned by Khyentse Rinpoche, written by Irpinder Bhatia, and directed by Irpinder and Ramesh Batheja. This lively theatre piece was inspired by the Buddha's Dhammapada and a collection of other stories from the Buddhist, Zen, Sufi, and Upanishad traditions. Tibetan cultural performances by the local Derge community and the Suja Tibetan Children Village School lit up the night with thirty-one dances, two bands, a chorus, and one duet.

This feast for the eyes and ears was well matched by the feasts from the kitchen. The in-house catering was put to the test during the inauguration, feeding thousands of guests, both invited and unexpected. Seventy truckloads of vegetables were consumed. Hidden from view of the guests, a flurry of round-the-clock chopping was taking place. Most astonishing was that every meal was sumptuous and free of charge. A feeling of abundance permeated the dining hall. After His Holiness took leave on the final day, we had the opportunity to slow down a bit and

spend some time with friends, old and new. Khyentse Foundation Executive Director Cangioli Che, Board Members Amelia Chow, Phuntsho Tobgyal, and Pema Wangchuk, and many others involved in KF projects had made the long journey to the inauguration. Hundreds of guests attended the Khyentse Foundation presentation in the main hall. As Cangioli shared the vision of the Foundation, Sherab Dolma translated into



photo by Amelia Chow

Chinese and Rinpoche himself acted as translator for the Tibetans ... with hilarious effect. Although the mood was festive, the message was serious. Here we finally had a chance to impress on people the importance of Khyentse Foundation's Endowment for Monastic Education.

Now that this magnificent monastery has been constructed, a system needs to be in place for it to operate, for the monks to be fed and clothed, for texts to be made available, for the health and hygiene of students to be addressed. A clear message was sent that the Endowment is crucial to the enduring success of this and other



photo by Amelia Chow

Khyentse mandala institutions. From the time of the Buddha until the present day, an unbroken succession of great beings have achieved enlightenment and continue to teach this path to others. The Dzongsar monasteries and institutes carry on this tradition. Monasteries and shedras provide an invaluable resource for all practitioners, create the basis for continued study and

practice, provide extensive training for lamas, and ensure the propagation of these profound teachings worldwide. The Endowment ensures that support for this tradition will continue.

For more information about the history of the Institute, the lineage, and more, visit the updated Khyentse Foundation web site, www.khyentsfoundation.org. There you will also find a slide show of images from the inauguration.



KHYENTSE FOUNDATION NEWS . . .



T&M BENEFIT PARTIES AROUND THE WORLD RINPOCHE TO ATTEND ALL FIVE EVENTS



prayer flag pictures

Upon completion of his latest film, *Travellers & Magicians*, Rinpoche announced that all proceeds from the film will go to Khyentse Foundation. Five benefit screenings and premiere parties are on the calendar for January.

Sydney

January 15, 7 pm screening at The Art Gallery of NSW, with drinks, Q & A, and discussion between Rinpoche and Edmond Capon, director of the gallery, about art and film. The Art Gallery is a beautiful space that has hosted many Buddhist exhibitions, including the construction of the Kalachakra sand mandala and performances by the Gyuto monks. The theatre seats 300. Tickets are AUS\$40 each. The screening will be followed by a dinner for 50 guests at Kylie Kwong's Restaurant in Surry Hills. \$250 each.

Contact Jill Robinson (jill@khyentsefoundation.org)

London

Screening followed by a cocktail reception. Details to come. Contact Penelope Tree (penelope@khyentsefoundation.org)

New York

Wednesday, January 26, 7 pm screening at Chelsea West Cinemas, followed by Q&A with the director and a gala reception at the Rubin Museum of Art. Theatre seats 350. Tickets are US\$125, \$250, \$500. Contact Noa Jones (noa@khyentsefoundation.org) or Linda Coelln (linda@khyentsefoundation.org)

Halifax

Monday, January 31, 2005, 7 pm screening at the Empire Parkland Cinema 8, followed by Q&A with the director and a gala party with music and dancing at the Lord Nelson Hotel, 9 pm to

midnight. Tickets are CDN\$40. Charitable receipts given. Contact Lesley Ann Patten (lesley@khyentsefoundation.org).

Vancouver

February 7, 2005, 7 pm screening (to be confirmed). Contact Amelia Chow (amelia@khyentsefoundation.org)

For more information, email events@khyentsefoundation.org or your country representative. Be sure to order a *Travellers & Magicians* book containing the complete screenplay written by Rinpoche, hundreds of lush photos, and all the behind-the-scenes tales of making the film. The book is available exclusively from the Benefits Gallery, at a special predistribution rate. Visit www.travellersandmagicians.com for more information.



RECURRING DONATIONS MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAMME

The most direct and effective way to help the Foundation is to join the recurring donations programme. Regular monthly donations from our supporters form the backbone of the Foundation's fundraising operation. They enable the Foundation to commit to long-term funding projects and help us plan our cash flow and improve the performance of our investments. Please consider joining our group of regular donors and make an ongoing connection with the Foundation. Every drop counts, and no amount is too small. Thanks

The most direct and effective way to help the Foundation is to join the recurring donations programme.

to the matching funds programme, your \$10 monthly commitment quickly turns into \$240 per year, enough to support one monk or nun for an entire year. A contribution of \$50 per month, when matched by our sponsors, becomes an annual \$1,200 contribution to the Foundation.

The matching funds programme is supported by an anonymous group of sponsors. The sponsor group matches all scheduled, recurring donations that are made to Khyentse Foundation, dollar for dollar. To double the effect of your support, please consider setting up regular donations. Scheduled, automatic donations are easily arranged using direct bank deductions or credit cards. For information, contact info@khyentsefoundation.org.



BENEFITS GALLERY: A STORY OF BHUTANESE INCENSE

NEW ITEMS HAVE ARRIVED FROM INDIA AND BHUTAN

Nado's incense is known as the best in the Kingdom of Bhutan. It is produced in a hut high above Thimphu, not accessible by car. Long burgundy ropes of the precious ingredients—a blend of about one hundred aromatic essences, including giwang (bezoar), clove, nutmeg, saffron, red and white sandalwood, and many medicinal substances—lie out to dry before being packed into hand-made paper packages. Because the royal airline Druk Air (the only airline in Bhutan) has such stringent luggage allowances, it is difficult to bring much of anything out of the country without paying huge fees. Luckily, the Foundation has many devoted friends in the Kingdom. Choing Tshomo, who also helped in the making of *Travellers & Magicians*, agreed to export for us. But when she went to purchase the incense, she was



surprised to find that there was a major shortage. It took quite a bit of her Bhutanese ingenuity, and more than a few hikes up to the hut, to acquire the 200 packets we had requested. During the inauguration, several fresh cases were delivered to be sold on the Benefits Gallery. The incense was sponsored by a KF donor, as are all of the items on the gallery.

One hundred percent of all sales proceeds go directly to support the Foundation. If you have any marketable items, hidden treasures, or services that you would like to donate to the gallery, please contact bg@khyentsefoundation.org. Also consider browsing the gallery when you are looking for gifts during the holiday season or for practice materials. Items are constantly updated.



NEW APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Richard Dixey Joins Advisory Committee

In September of this year, Rinpoche invited Dr. Richard Dixey to join Khyentse Foundation as an advisor. Richard has been a student of Buddhism

since meeting Akong Rinpoche and residing at Samye Ling in 1972 during a year off from his scientific studies at Oxford. Since that time, he has worked on the interface between scientific and spiritual perspectives. For 14 years he ran a laboratory at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, researching the biological effects of weak electromagnetic fields. In 1990 he founded Phytopharm plc, a company that develops western pharmaceuticals based on traditional medicine. He is married with two young children and lives in London. Richard joins Gene Smith and William McKeever on the Advisory Committee.

New KF Representatives in Indonesia, Taiwan, and Singapore

Khyentse Foundation sends a warm welcome to three new country representatives, Leokito Hidajat of Indonesia, Kris Yao of Taiwan, and Kwang-Boon Lee of Singapore.



NEW WEB SITE LAUNCHED ONLINE DONATIONS INTRODUCED

Khyentse Foundation's web site has a new look and volumes of new information. Browse the site to find in-depth information about our five projects and the Khyentse lineage, interviews with Rinpoche, slide shows, biographies of our team, and much more. Convenient online donations are also now possible. Many thanks to Randall Koral for his original design of the site, to all of the photographers who contributed their amazing work, all of the designers who gave us their input, and especially to webmaster Dave Zwieback for his tireless and skilful labour throughout this relaunch effort.



BUY BOOKS FROM AMAZON AND HELP THE FOUNDATION

Thanks to everyone who has been using the Amazon link on the KF web site. Our participation in the Amazon.com Associates programme is proving quite fruitful. The programme awards cash bonuses to the Foundation for every book purchased via the KF web site. To order a book online, first go to khyentsefoundation.org and click the amazon.com icon. You are taken automatically to the Amazon site, where you can place your order. A percentage of each sale is directly deposited into KF's bank account. Please tell all your friends about this easy way to help the Foundation.



UP FIVE PROJECT UPDATE

The core purpose of Khyentse Foundation is to establish a system of patronage that supports individuals and institutions engaged in the study and practice of the Buddha's vision of wisdom and compassion. Khyentse Rinpoche has identified and prioritized five projects as the means to achieve this goal. The funds raised by Khyentse Foundation are used to support these five projects.

1. Endowment for Monastic Education

Rinpoche and hundreds of inauguration guests attended Khyentse Foundation's presentation in the main Buddha Hall at the new Chökyi Lodrö College of Dialectics on the last day of ceremonies. Seeing the splendour of the new college inspired many visitors to ask how such an institution sustains itself, and fortunately we had some answers. Thanks to the support of Rinpoche's students and friends worldwide, the KF Endowment for Monastic Education is set to meet its initial goal of US\$2.8 million by the end of 2004.

The investment income from this endowment will provide for the basic needs of up to 700 students in all of the institutes in the Khyentse mandala in Tibet, India, and Bhutan far into the future. Although this income is not enough to cover all the expenses of all the institutes, it will provide for more than half of the students, making sure that basic needs such as food, utilities, medical care, and texts are covered. The KF Investment Committee has been working hard to diversify our portfolio during the last few months in an attempt to generate higher income while maintaining a prudent balance.

In addition to providing funding support, the Foundation is also taking an active role in strengthening the academic and administration aspects of the Institute in the following ways:

- Working with Khenpo Jamyang Losel and other key staff at CLCD to modernize and streamline the administration and accounting systems of the Institute.
- Connecting the Institute to the world by helping to set up English language and computer training curricula at CLCD. Two faculty panels of experts from the international sangha have been formed to tailor the curricula.
- Designing and arranging guest speaker programmes to update the khenpos, teachers, and

senior students on global economy, history, philosophy, science, culture, and so on. Exchange programmes with Indian and American universities are also being planned.

- Conducting research (by sangha member Dr. Rob MacLachlan) on medical facilities, with a view to setting up a clinic at CLCD to meet the health needs of the students and teachers.
- Establishing the digital library with easy access for khenpos and students (see "Publications").

2. Publications

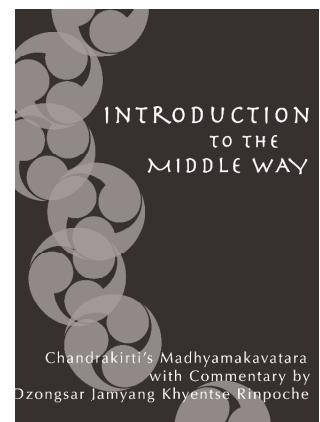
Part One: Preservation of Tibetan Buddhist Texts in the Digital Age

Many ground-breaking discussions about KF publication projects took place in Chastru during the inauguration. Using the digital archive of Buddhist texts developed by the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center (TBRC) under the direction of KF Advisor Gene Smith, and with the support of the Bodhi Foundation, Khyentse Foundation is sponsoring a pilot programme to establish a digital library at CLCD. The first step is to train future digital librarians from Rinpoche's institutes in India and Bhutan. The Foundation funded the purchase of a new computer to be used exclusively for the digital library at CLCD. David Lunsford, founder of the Bodhi Foundation, conducted a three-day intensive training with six members of the Khyentse mandala at Tibet House, Delhi, in early December, 2004.

TBRC has now scanned and archived over 4,500 volumes of Buddhist texts. Gene Smith's collection of about 12,000 volumes in all Tibetan lineages has yet to be digitized. In addition, all the volumes will need to be formatted for print. The remaining software development work is expected to take two to three years to complete.

The ultimate objective of creating a digital library is to enable khenpos and students to access traditional Buddhist texts from archived volumes with a few mouse clicks. Eventually this tool can be made available to Buddhist scholars and students at monasteries and centres around the world.

Part Two: Original Texts



Rinpoche's *Madhyamika* Commentary and *Ngöndro* Manual: Advice on How To Practice are both available for direct download free of charge. To receive the texts, send a request to

publications@khyentsefoundation.org stating your name, city, and country. For the Ngöndro manual, also include the name of the lama who gave you instruction to do the practice.

3. Scholarship Fund

With limited funding at the moment, the Foundation can only consider scholarship grants to institutions. Individual applications may be considered at a later date. The majority of KF support in 2004 has gone to Vajradhara Gonpa in Australia, which was able to award full or partial scholarships to a number of three-year-retreatants. The Foundation is also supporting Cambodian monks to study in their own Theravadan tradition in Thailand. Rinpoche expressed concern that with the political and economic turmoil in Cambodia and some other Asian countries, Buddhist traditions are seriously threatened and in danger of perishing. The study and practice of Buddhism in these countries therefore require support. Upon the impending completion of the Endowment for Monastic Education, all new funds raised by the Foundation will be channelled to creating endowments for the Scholarship and Publication Funds to ensure ongoing support.

4. Schools for Children

The inauguration provided an opportunity for KF Executive Director Cangioli Che to finally meet Australia's Siddhartha's School coordinator Eva Thomas in person. Although this is one of the Foundation's longer-term projects, we look forward to the progress of Siddhartha's School and to the continued confluence of ideas and energy.

The Foundation is now working jointly with Chagdud Gonpa in Brazil to develop a curriculum that could be used in religious classes in Brazilian schools. In the future this could develop into a Buddhist school programme. Teaching religions other than Christianity is required by the Brazilian government. Chagdud Gonpa will start with the training of teachers in the use of Buddhist modules. With the blessing of Chagdud Khadro, Christine Boedler is now contacting officials at the state and federal levels. The Foundation is offering the Shambhala teacher's training manual and networking with Australia and Germany to share their experiences.

KF's Schools for Children initiative is exploring ideas for a new name for this project, perhaps relating to the Vedic traditions. We welcome your ideas.

5. Endowment for Chair of Buddhist Studies

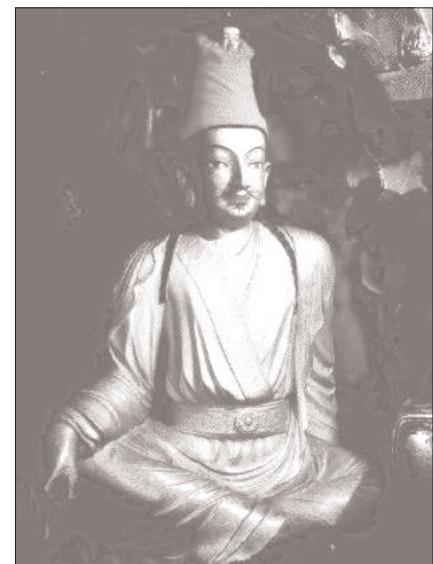
The University of California at Berkeley has officially endorsed the Khyentse Foundation Chair of Buddhist Studies. The Foundation is now seeking a sponsor to

fund this endeavour, which will further establish Buddhism in the West and benefit many sentient beings for generations to come. This is an opportunity for an individual donor, family trust, memorial fund, private foundation, corporation, or other body to make a consequential and far-reaching contribution to Buddhism. In addition, the sponsor will have the option of sharing naming rights. Complete information packets are now available for those interested.

KING SONGTSEN GAMPO CONT.

She travelled across the steppes to her husband with a collection of Chinese classic literature and texts on sacred astrology, geomancy, and medicine.

Many obstacles lay in Princess Wengchin's path as she headed to Yarlung. She had a vision of a gargantuan demoness who lay sprawled across the Himalayas, so large that one limb lay in Paro, Bhutan and another lay in Western Tibet. When she arrived in Yarlung, she shared her vision with her new husband. Recognizing the value of the treasures that his bride brought to him, as well as the importance of her vision, King Songsten Gampo commissioned thirteen demoness-subjugating temples across the land, built over the demoness's vital organs, ankles, wrists, and torso, forever binding her from wreaking havoc. The Lhasa Jokang was built over her heart centre, and Wengchin's Buddha statue was placed inside, where it still resides. Other such temples are Trenduk Lhakhang in Tsetang and Paro Kyichu in Bhutan.



King Songtsen Gampo is considered a human emanation of Avalokiteshvara, and he was the grandfather of King Trisong Deutsen. Songtsen Gampo meditated for several years in a cave that is now at the core of Potala palace, and is revered for his great patronage of Buddhism.

Through his enlightened leadership, the path was cleared for the dharma to be propagated throughout the provinces, and for Buddhism to flourish.

CALENDAR

DZONGSAR KYENTSE RINPOCHE TEACHING SCHEDULE

Diamond Sutra

Taiwan
December 17-19, 2004

Madhyamakavatara

Sydney, Australia
January 7-16, 2005

Vajrakilaya

Halifax, Canada
Jan. 28-Feb 2, 2005

Guru Devotion:

Crying to the Gurus from Afar
Vancouver, Canada
February 4-6, 2005

TRAVELLERS & MAGICIANS BENEFIT SCREENINGS

Sydney: January 15, 2005
London: January, 2005
New York City: January 26, 2005
Halifax: January 31, 2005
Vancouver: February 7, 2005

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The Communiqué is a publication of Khyentse Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded by Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche in 2001 to establish a system of patronage that supports institutions and individuals engaged in the study and practice of the Buddha's vision of wisdom and compassion.

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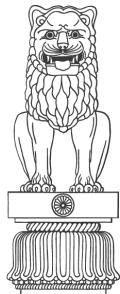
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communique@khyentsefoundation.org

If you do want to hear from us electronically, please make sure that your spam blocker is set to receive bulk mail from khyentsefoundation.org addresses.

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