



Big Love - Lama Zopa Rinpoche

OBITUARY

to our precious immensely kind and unsurpassable guru,
founder and teacher,
from the Panchen Losang Chogyen Gelug Center Vienna

Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche

It is with deep sadness that we announce that our revered spiritual leader of the FPMT organization, our precious Guru, Lama Zopa Rinpoche, entered into final meditation on April 13, 2023 at 9:30 am Nepalese time.

Although as Buddhists we meditate on death and impermanence again and again, the shattering news hit us like a shock.

Nevertheless, in times of crisis, the strength of one's faith, and the power of community, becomes apparent:

Prayers and pujas were immediately organized in the many centers worldwide, and we, Rinpoche's students, are all intimately united in our grief and precious remembrance of our great master, Lama Zopa Rinpoche - personified compassion and the wisdom.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche was born in Thami, Nepal in 1946 and was recognized at the age of three as the reincarnation of the Sherpa Nyingma Yogi, Kunsang Yeshe, also known as Lawudo Lama. At the age of ten, Rinpoche went to Tibet and studied and meditated at the monastery of Domo Geshe Rinpoche until the Chinese occupation of Tibet in

1959 forced him to leave Tibet. Rinpoche then had to go to the Tibetan refugee camp in Buxa Duar, in West Bengal, India, where he met his closest teacher, Lama Thubten Yeshe.

In 1967, the two lamas went to Nepal and over the next few years built Kopan and Lawudo monasteries.

In 1971, Lama Zopa Rinpoche gave the first of his famous annual lam-rim retreat courses (November courses), which are still held in Kopan today.

In 1974, Rinpoche began traveling the world with Lama Yeshe to teach and establish Dharma centers.

In 1984, when Lama Yeshe died, Rinpoche assumed spiritual leadership of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition (FPMT), which has flourished under his incomparable leadership - currently there are 141 centers and study groups in 34 countries.

Sources: FPMT.org, <http://lawudo.com/Teachers.html>

Further: Biography book BIG LOVE <https://www.lamayeshe.com/article/big-love-life-and-teachings-lama-yeshe>

Lama Zopa Rinpoche was and is the embodiment of Bodhicitta, the pursuit of Buddhahood, for the benefit of every being.

Through his life and actions, Rinpoche directly exemplified to us the comprehensive bodhisattva actions. He tirelessly gave teachings, whether in large or small events around the world, to which Rinpoche traveled, as well as by personally receiving students, giving them advice, or answering written inquiries in detail.

Over and over again, he pointed out to us in no uncertain terms that self-centeredness is the cause of all our problems, and that if we put the happiness of others above our own, this is the source of happiness for everyone.



As a great tantric master with supreme experience and realizations, Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the original founder of our center, gave us initiations, vows and commentaries, such as in 2017 when Rinpoche conferred the great Medicine Buddha initiation to 3-400 students in Vienna, giving us all a great step on the path to enlightenment through his unsurpassable generosity.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche fully embodied all ten qualities of an eminently qualified Mahayana teacher as described in the Staged Path to Enlightenment (Lamrim) and was an outstanding personality not only for his students:

Rinpoche engaged in numerous charitable projects to create a more compassionate world (see fpmt.org/projects/fpmt-projects-news), supported the wishes of his guru SH Dalai Lama with full devotion and vigor, and took on with full joy all the tasks assigned to him by His Holiness.



SEINE HEILIGKEIT DALAI LAMA UND LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE IN DHARAMSALA, November 2022

The outstanding importance that Lama Zopa Rinpoche holds in the world of Tibetan Buddhism is evident in the many heartfelt and warm international condolences and obituaries.

Our precious teacher and spiritual guide Lama Zopa Rinpoche has left his human body, but will always be with us.

Rinpoche left us so many teachings through books and videos and through his personal advice for every life situation and help for the practice of Sutra and Tantra, that one life is not enough to internalize it, but we will do our best to try.

(<https://www.lamayeshe.com/advice/lama-zopa-rinpoches-online-advice-book>)

Now it is up to us, Rinpoche's students, to continue his work and to actually implement everything he tirelessly exemplified and taught us.

This is the greatest tribute we can pay him and the greatest joy we can give him:
To support and fulfill Rinpoche's wishes and those of His Holiness.

Because the Buddhas and our teachers want only one thing: that we all be happy by
implementing the teachings.

We all pray for the speedy return of our beloved guru, Lama Zopa Rinpoche, and
rejoice in the support of SH Dalai Lama for the recovery of reincarnation.

*'May the smile of a new reincarnation
quickly shine in glory
For the happy disciples.'
HH, Dalai Lama*



Panchen Losang Chogyen
Gelug-Zentrum für
Buddhistische Studien und Meditation
Servitengasse 15/2+4
A-1090 Wien
GelugWien.at

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