

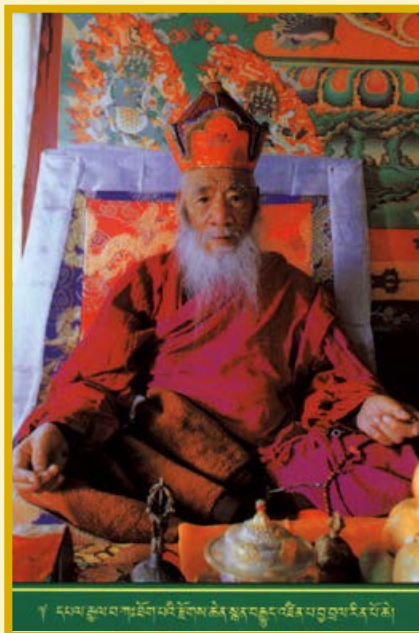


## A Short Life Story of His Holiness Chadrak Gyatso Rinpoche

*Dudjom Buddhist Association*

A renowned great realized **Dzogchen** Master in his mid-90s, His Holiness Chadrak Rinpoche is a "secret yogi" known for his great realizations and strict disciplines. His Holiness was born in the village of Nyarong province of Kham in 1913, and soon migrated to Amdo with his family. At the age of 15, he abandoned his ties with his family, and went to many great masters to study and practice. He insisted on travelling on foot and refused to enter the residences of householders, staying only in hermitages, caves or his own little tent.

His Holiness, being the only living Lineage Holder (chodak) of the very **Special Lineage** of the famed Wisdom Dakini **Sera Khandro** (an emanation of Yeshe Tsogyal), and also one of the very few living disciples of the great master **Khenpo Ngagchung** (Kathok Khenchen Ngagi Wangpo Rinpoche), is widely recognized by most of the Masters in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition as one of the most highly realized living **Dzogchen** yogis.



His Holiness Chadrak Gyatso Rinpoche

In addition to his relationship with the great master Khenpo Ngagchung, H.H. Chadrak Rinpoche also studied with, and also gave back transmissions of important teachings to, some of the last century's most renowned masters, including His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche Jigdrak Yeshe Dorje and Kyabje Jamyang Khyentse Chokyi Lodro. H.H. Chadrak Rinpoche is one of the major Lineage Holders of the **Longchen Nyingthig**, and in particular the lineage line that descends through Jigme Lingpa's heart son Jigme Gyalwai Nyugu, via Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo, Patrul Rinpoche, Lungtok Tenpe Nyima and then on to Khenchen Ngagi Wangpo Rinpoche, who was His Holiness' most beloved Root Guru.

Though his main lineage is the **Longchen Nyingthig**, H.H. Chadrak Rinpoche is also the Principal Lineage Holder (Kyabchok) and the Lord of the Mandala for the **Dudjom Tersar Lineage**. He was authorized and empowered by His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche Jigdrak Yeshe Dorje as the "**Vajra Regent**" (**Dorje Gyaltsap**) of the **Dudjom Tersar Lineage** while they were still in Tibet. To



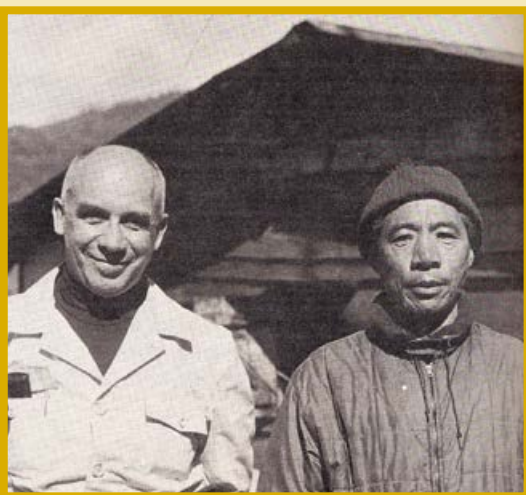


The Wisdom Dakini Sera Khandro

this very day, H.H. Chadrak Rinpoche is currently passing on this precious terma lineage to Kyabje Dudjom Yangsi Rinpoche who lives primarily in Tibet.

Gyaltsep Retring, who was then the regent of Tibet, invited His Holiness to Lhasa and received many transmissions and instructions on **Dzogchen** from him. As a result, many people from all walks of life flocked to His Holiness for teachings with offerings. His Holiness saw this as a distraction from the path and left suddenly to the caves in the mountains blessed by Guru Rinpoche and other masters of the past. He then lived as a hermit for decades and became known as "Chadrak" (a hermit), one who has abandoned all mundane activities.

Back in 1968, there was an incident that an American Trappist monk, Father Thomas Merton, went to



H.H. Chadrak Rinpoche with the late Father Thomas Merton in Darjeeling

Darjeeling, India and met with His Holiness concerning his spiritual experiences. After the meeting, Father Merton mentioned to Mr. Harold Talbott, who was present at their meeting, saying: "That is the greatest man I ever met. He is my teacher."

H.H. Chadrak Rinpoche has shunned institutional and political involvement in his whole life, choosing instead to live the life of a wandering yogi and has thus maintained a hermit tradition all through his life. To this day, despite his great age, he is still very healthy and strong, and continues to move about, rarely remaining in one place for more than a few months, to carry out his Bodhisattva activities for the benefits of all sentient beings. A lay yogi, he is also greatly concerned with maintaining strict disciplines in the context of the **Dzogchen** view.

His Holiness is especially well known for his advocacy of vegetarianism and his yearly practice of ransoming the lives of millions of living creatures in India and Nepal. In addition to his emphasis on the **union of view and conduct**, H.H. Chadrak Rinpoche also stresses the practice of strict retreats. His Holiness has established numerous retreat centers throughout the Himalayas, including those in Pharping, Yolmo and Darjeeling, etc. H.H. Chadrak Rinpoche currently resides in between his monasteries in India and Nepal. His Holiness, with his consort Sangyum Kamala, has two daughters, Tsemo Saraswati and Tsemo Tara Devi.



His Holiness' Root Guru Kathok Khenchen Ngagi Wangpo Rinpoche