



## SHAMBHALA THE KALAPA COURT

My Dear Dharma Friends of Shambhala,

I am writing to you concerning something that is close to my heart - that is, the well-being of the monks at Rigon Tashi Choeling, my father H.E. Terton Namkha Drimed Rabjam Rinpoche's monastery in Pharping, Nepal.

Many of the monks at Rigon Tashi Choeling are quite young and need constant attention – in their health and well-being as well as in their spiritual journey. Over the years, I have been involved with their care, and have worked closely with the monastic community. Many of you have asked me how you can help and I am delighted by your interest.

The Ripa Ladrang has a sponsorship program, as most of the monks are individuals who receive no support from family, and so need sponsors. Currently, we have 97 monks, many of whom are in need of a sponsor. The role of sponsor is an ancient one, going back to the time of the Buddha. This role has continued through the centuries. It is a wonderful way to participate in the progress and journey of a young monastic practitioner. Through the generosity of their sponsors, the monks receive good physical care and a strong dharmic education; their practice can then flourish and, in this way, the continuity of Dharma is ensured.

The monks at Rigon Tashi Choeling engage their lives simply wishing well for others by doing prayers and meditation, and developing kindness and compassion. They are dedicated to preserving and promoting living wisdom and compassion for greater world peace, both inner and outer.

In particular, these monks are preserving our shared lineage, the Gesar Lineage, the preservation of which is so important to all of us who are blessed by the power and wisdom of King Gesar of Ling. In fact, Rigon Tashi Choeling holds the first-ever Gesar temple to be built in Nepal, a traditional Tibetan shrine that invokes the magical display of Gesar and his retinue. In the center of the monastery, at the top of its shrine building, this temple is full of beautiful thangkas and vivid, larger-than-life statues representing Gesar in various aspects. This is where the sadhanas in the Gesar terma of my father, which bring forth and connect us to those aspects of Gesar, are performed. King Gesar, as we know, is a principal figure of the Shambhala lineage, a complete example of a universal monarch, a connection to the profound sources and powerful symbolism of the Shambhala teachings, and an inspiration for compassionate leadership in our times. By sharing his lineage, we share a unity of purpose and a connection as vajra family. The monks of Rigon Tashi Choeling are part of this family, and join in our purpose, upholding the tradition of spiritual practice.

Being a sponsor will directly and indirectly affect one's life, helping one to become more calm, caring and compassionate. This sort of patronage also helps to increase prosperity in one's life, and to remove obstacles to health for oneself and one's family. Supporting these monks means embarking on a spiritual journey. One becomes a part of their journey of inner peace and selfless dedication to the well-being of the world. One also becomes a part of the joyous effort to preserve this precious living spiritual tradition.

May all beings be happy!

Khandro Tseyang