
**COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY OF JONANGPA DOLPOPA'S
660TH NIRVANA ANNIVERSARY
12 DECEMBER 2021, at the
"JONANG THREE VEHICLES DHARMA CONTINENT"**

(Changhua County, West Coast of Taiwan)

Prayers for blessings by Han Mahayana Sangha Members; Mangala Sutra; Tree Planting

SPEECH BY

KATHOG RIGZIN CHENPO PADMA WANGCHEN RINPOCHE



Amitufo, I will not be taking too much of your time. Let me just say a few words.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the President, Buddhist Association of the Republic of China, Venerable Jingyao for his speech earlier on.

Also, many thanks to Venerable Dahui, Venerable Zhaohui as well as all monastic and lay persons of the Han Buddhism. Also, from the Tibetan Buddhism, Gyaltsab Rinpoche, the Dharma Kings of the various lineages, tulkus and khenpos. Thank you all for coming, and for your speeches at today's commemorative ceremony of Dolpopa's 660th nirvana anniversary.



*Rigzin Chenpo Rinpoche
thanked supporters*

A VIRTUOUS SOURCE AND DEPENDENT ORIGINATION

This commemorative ceremony of the Jonangpa's Dolpopa is very important, because today is the 660th anniversary of the nirvana of this great master. 660 is also an auspicious number to the Kalachakra Lineage. Different places in the world are also having their own Dolpopa commemorative ceremony this time.

On an annual basis, monasteries will organise their own commemorative ceremonies. Seldom do you see them doing it together. This time, the whole world is doing it together...especially the Jonangpa monasteries in the Tibet.

Not many people in Taiwan know about the Jonang lineage although there are 100 over monasteries in Tibet, and millions of monastic. Globally, there are Jonangpa centres all over the world.

THE VIRTUOUS EXISTENCE OF DOLPOPA IN TIBETAN LINEAGE

This time, the main reason why we are gathered here to commemorate Dolpopa's nirvana is because he was the one who first combined the non-esoteric and esoteric aspects of the nature of tathagata.

Dolpopa had great influence on Tibetan Buddhism. Tsongkapa was a student of Dolpopa's student. In fact, two of Tsongkapa's most important gurus were students of Dolpopa.

Also, there are either Dolpopa's teachings or some element of influence from his lineage, in all Tibetan lineages. In particular, the Kalachakra, as we may say, is the only one lineage in this world with a complete set of traditional lineage practice for empowerment, explanations and practice, for retreats of duration three years and three months.

In all lineages, there are empowerments, explanations and oral transmissions. But the Jonangpa is the only one with a complete set of practices for accomplishments, for the generation and completion of tantric yoga. This is, Dolpopa's lineage!

Other than this, speakers earlier on talked about the three turnings of the dharma wheel, such as the Avatamsaka Sutra, the Sandhinirmocana Sutra, Lankavatara Sutra and others. The explanations and elucidations of the 21 sutras of definitive meaning are truly flourishing in the Jonangpa. For other lineages, we only see brief introductions and not targeted research in this area, in their discourses. We should therefore respect this great master who founded the lineage, and to commemorate his nirvana.

In regards to the writings by the great masters of Jonangpa, there are far too many. They carry some influence on Tibetan Buddhism. In the interest of time, I will just give a summary of them here.

THE DEPENDENT ORIGINATION OF THIS COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY IN TAIWAN

The main reason is because Gyaltsab Rinpoche is here (in Taiwan), and this temple is rendering support to Rinpoche. This ceremony is made possible because there is a venue, the guru, and the encouragement and support from followers.

Jonangpa's Gyaltsab Rinpoche needs little introduction. There are not many rinpoches of this young age who has such adherence to precepts and of his level of practice. You may read the brief introduction about him on your own.

HISTORY OF THE JONANGPA IN TAIWAN

Long ago, there were some Jonangpa gurus who came from Tibet to practise in Taiwan. However, Tashi Jyamsang Rinpoche was the first to

set up an official Jonangpa association. We also participated in setting it up. The few gurus who are present today, as well as Thubten Norbu Rinpoche, Sakya Rinpoche, and many other great masters also played a part in it.

However, setting up the association is not without issues. We started the process of application round about 1995-1996, but it was only approved after a long time, in April 1999. During which, the Mongolian-Tibetan committee members thought this lineage had disappeared from this world. They had such a notion. So, they didn't specifically recognize the Jonang lineage at first, and requested for countless documentary proofs (that the lineage exists).

So, some 30 over Buddhist associations in Taiwan submitted letters of recommendation. They also sought advice from Penor Rinpoche and others if the Jonangpa still exist. All these great masters are actually aware of the existence of Jonangpa. In fact, it has been flourishing in the Eastern Tibet. It doesn't only exist, there are also many monasteries and scholars. The number of people teaching, debating and practising are also no less than other lineages. For all these reasons, we decided to officially set up a Tibetan Buddhist association of the Jonang lineage in Taiwan in 1999.

These are important factors because in the approval document issued by the Ministry of the Interior, it stated that the application had been approved on the basis that its purpose of the association is for the continuation of the lineage. In this regard, since 2000, there had to be a representative from the Jonangpa at every event and forum.

There are many Jonangpa monasteries in India, Nepal and the Tibetan region. But most gurus couldn't secure visas to enter Taiwan. For this reason, I was entrusted with the duty of being a representative and had attended many forums, and major events etc, for about 18 years.

After Gyaltsab Rinpoche came in 2018, there has been support from associations and temples, which helped in the Jonangpa flourishing in Taiwan.

CONCLUSION

I would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank the greatly virtuous masters such as Venerable Jingyao of the Buddhist Association of the Republic of China for their immense support that helped the Jonangpa and the Tibetan Buddhism to flourish, and giving space to this “guest” to grow. It is through their magnanimity that the Jonangpa and Tibetan Buddhism exist here, and directly develop. I am deeply appreciative of the great masters of the Han Mahayana Buddhism, and all other benefactors. Amitufofo.



Two Dharma Kings : Gyaltsab Rinpoche & Rigzin Chenpo Rinpoche



Group Picture 12 December 2021

Watch the video recording of the ceremony on:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibbThp3AqCA>

The ceremony was jointly organised by :

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- Theg Chog Ling 妙乘法苑
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Translated from the transcript of the speech in Chinese, by volunteers

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