



སྐུ་བ་དཔོན་བསོད་ནམས་ཉི་མ། 竹奔索南尼瑪 Ven. Drupon Sonam Nyima

Drupon Sonam Nyima, became a novice monk at the age of 11 at Lho Palme Gon Monastery, taking his vows from His Eminence Lho Kunzang Rinpoche. He studied diligently, memorizing texts and learning Drikung Kagyu ritual ceremonies including lama dances, constructing mandalas, and using instruments. Subsequently he went into retreat at Awam Gatseling under the guidance of His Eminence Lho Kunzang Rinpoche, Druptul Karma Thinley Chokyi Nyima, Choktul Rinpoche, and Drupon Sherab Phuntsog. Here he received all the empowerments, transmissions and oral instructions and completed the Five-fold Mahamudra and Six Yogas of Naropa during the traditional three-year retreat.

In 1991 he travelled to India and studied Buddhist philosophy for more than eight years at Drikung Kagyu Institute in Dehra Dun. While at the Institute he received vinaya vows, Bodhisattva vows and tantric vows from His Holiness Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche. Additionally, he received the complete Drikung Kagyu empowerments and transmissions from His Holiness. From Khenchen Konchog Gyaltsen Rinpoche he received The Gong Chig (the Single Intention), Tenying (Essence of Buddha's Teachings) and other teachings. From Khen Rinpoche Togdrol he received instructions on the Madhyamakavatara by Chandrakirti, the five collections of Madhyamakavatara by Nagarjuna, Shantideva's Way of Bodhisattva's Conduct and other teachings. From Khenpo Konchog Monlam he received Shantarakhshita's Ornament of the Middle Way and the Gateway to Knowledge by Mipham Rinpoche (Khejug) and other Nyingma teachings. From Khenpo Konchog Tashi he received Vinaya, Abhidharma, and the Five Dharmas of Maitreya.

After completing his studies, he went to the Palme Center in Taiwan and have been the resident master there for 18 years. During his stay in Taiwan, he worked generally for the benefit of the Buddhist tradition and specifically for that of the Drikung Kagyu and Lho Palme monastery. He served the Dharma by instructing the Taiwanese sangha in many practices. With rejoicing and appreciation of all these activities, he was appointed as a Retreat Master (Drupon) in 2013 with Holiness' great prayers for the benefit of all sentient beings. Later in 2016, he was appointed as Vajra Master by Holiness.

In recent years, he has participated in the preparation of some major dharma events that Holiness bestowed important teachings in several Asian countries. In the Great Shravasti Buddhist Cultural Assembly (2015) in India, Thousand Offering Namgyalma Puja in Malaysia (2015), Amitabha and Powa empowerment in Hong Kong (2016), he contributed to designing and constructed the mandala shrines and dolma. In the auspicious fire monkey year in 2016, he led the students of the Taipei Pal Me Buddhist Association to organize the first Longevity and Powa empowerment puja bestowed by His Holiness in Taiwan. In the 800th Maha Parinirvana Commemoration of Lord Jigten Sumgon organized by the International Drikung Kagyu Council in Dehra Dun in 2017, he acted as the Director of the mandala and stage design leading a team of monks coming from 14 Drikung monasteries to complete the construction and decoration.

Currently Drupon Sonam Nyima mainly resides in Taiwan to provide dharma teachings, lead ritual ceremonies and continue benefiting sentient beings all around.