

Once, when he was fifteen, he was overcome by intense devotion for the Dzogchen teachings and especially for Jamgön Mipham Rinpoche, who appeared to him in a vision, and granted his blessings so that H. H. Jigme Phuntsok Rinpoche experienced the nature of mind.

From the age of eighteen, he studied with the great Khenpo Thubga Rinpoche at Changma Hermitage in Dzachukha, receiving teachings on Mahayoga, Anuyoga and Atiyoga. At twenty-two he received full monastic ordination and at twenty-four he was enthroned as the abbot of Nubzur Monastery, which is a branch of Palyul Monastery. Starting in 1950, H. H. Jigme Phuntsok Rinpoche withdrew increasingly from normal monastic life until in 1959 he took to the remote mountains, herding a small flock of goats and sheep. There, for the next twenty years, he secretly engaged in meditation and occasionally taught small numbers of disciples, often basing his instructions on the Seven Treasures of Longchenpa.

Then, in 1980, he founded Larung Gar in accordance with the prophecy of the First Dodrupchen Rinpoche. It went on to become the largest Buddhist teaching centre in the world. In 1987, H. H. Jigme Phuntsok Rinpoche led hundreds of his disciples from the Institute on a pilgrimage to the sacred mountains of Wu Tai Shan in China's Shaanxi Province. En route in Beijing, he met the Tenth Panchen Lama, Chökyi Gyaltzen, and gave teachings on the *Thirty-Seven Practices of the Bodhisattvas* to a crowd of over 5,000 people, including Tibetans, Chinese, Mongolians, and other Buddhist practitioners. At Wu Tai Shan, the audience for his teachings swelled to 10,000 on occasions. He also undertook retreats at sacred locations and caves. There are accounts of many extraordinary occurrences during this pilgrimage.

H. H. Jigme Phuntsok Rinpoche made extensive travels across Tibet and China, teaching and revealing terma. In 1990, at the invitation of Kyabjé Penor Rinpoche, he visited India, where he taught at various monasteries, including the Nyingma Institute in Mysore. At Dharamsala, the Dalai Lama resumed the connections he and H. H. Jigme Phuntsok Rinpoche had in their previous lives by receiving teachings from H. H. Jigme Phuntsok Rinpoche for two weeks. In the summer of 1993, he visited various Dharma centres in India, Bhutan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, USA, Canada, and France, including Lerab Ling, where he gave empowerments and teachings including the empowerments of Tertön Sogyal's termas, Tendrel Nyesel and Vajrakilaya, as well as his own terma treasures of Manjushri and Vajrakilaya, and Dzogchen teachings.

Finally, at the age of 71, on the fifteenth day of the eleventh Tibetan month, of the Water Sheep year (7th January 2004), he passed into parinirvana while seated in the posture of meditation.