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AWAM CHANDRA KIRTI LING IN PERTH INC.
Registered under the Associations Incorporation Act 2015
Registration No: A1046642P



Biography of Awam Pelden Dawa Dakpa

Early Life and Spiritual Lineage

Awam Pelden Dawa Dakpa was born in the Water Monkey Year, on the tenth day of the eighth month of the Tibetan lunar calendar, in Tashi Thangay, a serene village in Samdrup Jongkhar, Eastern Bhutan. He was born into the spiritual lineage of Penchen Tongla Katshelpa.

The village of Tashi Thangay itself carries a significant spiritual legacy. Its name was bestowed by Dawa Dakpa's great-great-grandfather, Katshelpa Rinpoche, a revered spiritual master. At that time, the village suffered from a severe shortage of water. Through profound meditation, prayers, and sacred rituals, Katshelpa Rinpoche invoked blessings that brought forth a spring, providing the villagers with a lasting source of water. Remarkably, the spring continues to flow and serve the community to this day.

Another sacred legacy associated with the family is Gomchen Ree, a holy spring offered to the community by Dawa Dakpa's grandfather. It remains a revered sacred site among the local villagers.

His father, Tenzin Gyurmed, was a devoted Ngakpa (yogic practitioner) who dedicated much of his life to meditation and retreat. His mother, Yangdon, was likewise a devoted Dharma practitioner, with a particular commitment to Ngöndro and Guru Yoga. Growing up in such an environment, Dawa Dakpa was immersed from childhood in faith, spiritual discipline, prayer, and contemplative practice.

He is the second eldest of five sons, all of whom chose the monastic path. His father passed away when Dawa Dakpa was fifteen years old, and his mother passed away in 2023, leaving behind a profound legacy of faith and Dharma practice.

Journey into Monastic Life

From a remarkably young age, Dawa Dakpa displayed an intense devotion to spiritual life. At only six years old, he repeatedly asked one of his uncles to take him to a monastery. His father, however, believed that he was still too young and did not give permission.

Undeterred by his young age and driven by a deep inner aspiration, Dawa Dakpa secretly followed his uncle on a journey to India. Recognising the young boy's determination and sincere devotion, his uncle eventually took him under his care and brought him to Jangsa Dechen Choling Monastery in India.

Established in 1678, Jangsa Dechen Choling Monastery is an important centre associated with the Dudjom Tersar tradition of the Nyingma School of Tibetan Buddhism. Dawa Dakpa came under the guidance of Venerable Kunzang Dorji Rinpoche, head of Jangsa Goenpa, the Vajrakilaya Temple, and the Jangsa Animal Saving Trust, and a cousin of His Holiness Trulku Jigme Choedra, the 70th Je Khenpo of Bhutan.

Thus began a lifelong journey devoted to Buddhist study, contemplation, meditation, and service to the Dharma.

Monastic Education and Academic Training



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Under the guidance of his teachers, Dawa Dakpa spent approximately eighteen years engaged in extensive study and training in the Sutras and Tantras. His education encompassed Buddhist philosophy, meditation, logic, Tibetan language and grammar, ritual practice, sacred arts, and traditional sacred mask dance.

At the age of twenty-two, in recognition of his academic accomplishments and spiritual training, he received the title of Lopen (Teacher). He subsequently spent one year teaching younger monks and guiding them in their studies and Buddhist philosophy.

Following this period of teaching, Dawa Dakpa served for three years as the personal writer and assistant to Venerable Kunzang Dorji Rinpoche. In this capacity, he assisted with the writing and preparation of sacred texts and contributed to the preservation and continuation of important Dharma teachings.

Seeking to further broaden his academic education, he later pursued higher studies at the Central University of Tibetan Studies in Sarnath, Varanasi, India, where he completed two bachelor's degrees: a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education.

Following his academic studies, Dawa Dakpa devoted several years to intensive meditation retreats at various sacred locations. His practice took him to mountain caves, cremation grounds, and other holy places, where he deepened his experience of contemplative practice and continued his spiritual training.

Formal Studies and Teachers

Throughout his education and spiritual training, Dawa Dakpa studied under numerous accomplished teachers.

He studied The Thirty Verses of Sambhota under Trulku Dawa Zangpo, Khenpo Jigme Wangdi, Lopen Tshewang, Lopen Lhundrup Namgyel, and Lopen Tashi Tsering.

Under Venerable Kunzang Dorji Rinpoche, he completed the Preliminary Practices (Ngöndro) according to the tradition of Patrul Rinpoche and studied the Nine Successive Vehicles to Enlightenment, together with Buddhist philosophy and related subjects.

At Jangsa Dechen Choling Monastery and the Vajrakilaya Temple, he undertook advanced studies in Sutra and Tantra, including Buddhist philosophy, meditation, logic, language, grammar, ritual practice, and sacred mask dance.

These years of disciplined study established a strong foundation for his subsequent meditation practice, teaching, and Dharma activities.

Major Empowerments, Oral Transmissions, and Teachings

Over the course of his spiritual journey, Dawa Dakpa has received numerous empowerments (wang), oral transmissions (lung), instructions, and teachings from distinguished masters of the Nyingma, Kagyu, and Sakya traditions.

- Nyingthig Yabshi from H.H. Dodrupchen Rinpoche in Sikkim, India.
- Teachings on the benefits of chanting the mantra of the Buddha of Compassion from H.H. Jadrel Sangay Dorji Rinpoche.



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As a further expression of this spiritual connection, H.H. Khenchen Lama Rinpoche composed a Long-Life Prayer for Dawa Dakpa, bestowing his blessings and aspirations for the continuation of Dawa Dakpa's Dharma activities.

Establishment of Awam Chandra Kirti Ling in Australia

In accordance with his teacher's instruction and aspiration, Dawa Dakpa established Awam Chandra Kirti Ling in Perth, Western Australia.

The centre was founded to provide a place for the study, preservation, practice, and continuation of the Awam Lineage, while creating opportunities for practitioners to engage in meditation, prayer, teachings, retreats, and traditional Dharma practices.

Through the establishment of Awam Chandra Kirti Ling and his work on the Awam book publications, Dawa Dakpa continues to fulfil the instructions and aspirations of his teacher, working to preserve the authenticity and continuity of the Awam Lineage in Australia and beyond.

Awam Publication Projects

Under the guidance and blessings of H.H. Awam Maha Pandrita Khenchen Lama Rinpoche, Dawa Dakpa has also undertaken two significant Awam publication projects dedicated to the preservation, compilation, and transmission of precious lineage teachings.

The first, Project I, is tentatively entitled "The Treasure of Tertön Dragngag Lingpa" (རིག་འཛིན་ལྷ་མའི་བརྒྱུལ་པ་དགོངས་བཟུང་གི་ཐོན་ཀློང་གི་ལཱ་). The purpose of this project is to gather, carefully edit, organise, and preserve the precious teachings and practice texts associated with Tertön Dragngag Lingpa, bringing these materials together into a carefully prepared publication for the benefit of present and future practitioners.

The second, Project II, is entitled "The Collective Words of H.H. Awam Maha Pandrita Khenchen Lama Rinpoche." This project is devoted to collecting, compiling, editing, and preserving the teachings, writings, instructions, and other Dharma works of H.H. Awam Maha Pandrita Khenchen Lama Rinpoche, ensuring that his precious teachings and instructions remain available for future generations.

Through these two publication projects, Dawa Dakpa seeks to fulfil the vision and guidance of his teacher while contributing to the preservation and continuation of the Awam Lineage and its textual heritage. Together with the establishment of Awam Chandra Kirti Ling in Australia, these works form an important part of his continuing commitment to preserving and making authentic Dharma teachings available for the benefit of practitioners and future generations.

Continuing Dharma Activities

Having dedicated his life from childhood to study, contemplation, meditation, retreat, and service, Awam Pelden Dawa Dakpa continues his Dharma activities with devotion to his teachers and lineage.



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His journey—from a young boy who longed to enter monastic life, through many years of rigorous Buddhist and academic education, to periods of intensive retreat and his eventual journey to Australia—has been shaped by a continuing aspiration to practise and preserve the Dharma.

Guided especially by the instructions and blessings of H.H. Awam Pandrita Khenchen Lama Rinpoche, he continues his work through Awam Chandra Kirti Ling, with the aspiration that the authentic teachings of the lineage may flourish and that the wisdom and compassion of the Buddhadharma may benefit beings for generations to come.

May the activities of the lineage flourish, may the lives of the great masters remain firm and enduring, and may all beings encounter the causes of wisdom, compassion, and liberation.