

## **YUTHOG NYINGTHIG EMPOWERMENT AND ORAL TRANSMISSION**

**BY VEN. TAKLUNG TSETRUL RINPOCHE**

Yuthog Nyingthig Empowerment and Initiation remains one of the most sacred and esoteric practice of Buddhist Tantric Traditions capable of rewarding complete enlightenment in one's life time for the most fortunate and dedicated practitioners. It falls into the sublime category of Nyingmapa's rZogs-chen or Great Accomplishment Tradition. Yuthog Yonten Gonpo, the Father of Tibetan Medicine who attained rainbow body while on his final departure to the glorious land of Medicine Buddha, transmitted this sacred knowledge to his chosen disciple Sumton-Yeshe-zun. Sumton in turn nurtured and cherished this practice like a jewel from the heart of his own Guru and, very secretly passed the precious knowledge down through the centuries of legendary spiritual Masters and physicians to maintain the continuum of its sacred lineages. It is said that Yuthog, throughout his lifetime, practiced and cherished two jewels from his own heart: Yuthog Nyingthig and Sowa Rigpa( Tibetan Medical System) hand in hand together.

Realizing the great need of such a profound empowerment and Initiation in today's degenerating era, and particularly for the practitioners of Tibetan Medicine, the members of the Central Council of Tibetan Medicine (CCTM) made a fervent and repetitive request to Kyabje Taklung Tsetrul Rinpoche, one of the rare Buddhist Spiritual Masters who holds the precious lineage of this sacred Initiation, to bestow the empowerment and oral transmission to our Tibetan doctors for the glory of Sowa Rigpa. Our prayer was answered when Rinpoche, disregarding his age, health and all the travel hardships, on the most auspicious date of 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> day of celestial star 'Wo' month of Tibetan Earth Ox Year( 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2009),blessed and satisfied all the fortunate devotees numbering about 400( including many devoted practitioners of Tibetan Medicine in the Himalayan regions of Ladakh, Spiti, Bhutan and Nepal).

Kyabje Taklung Tsetrul Rinpoche is the throne-holder of the Dorje Drak Monastery, and the head of the lineage of the Northern Treasures, the tradition which originated from the treasures of the great Tertön Rigdzin Godem. Rinpoche is renowned as being the holder of all the great Kama and Terma traditions of the Nyingmapa, as well as being a great exponent of the Rime (non-sectarian) tradition. Currently, Rinpoche is one of the senior-most teachers in the Nyingma school of Tibetan Buddhism. When Rinpoche was fifteen years old, the elder Khenpo from Gotsa monastery, who was a personal disciple of the previous Dordrak Rigdzin, gave empowerments and transmissions of the Jangter lineage to the current, great Dordrak Rigdzin Namdrol Gyatso. At that time, Rinpoche was fortunate to have received most of these empowerments and transmissions, as well as other Zogchen instructions.

Our Rinpoche was born in central Tibet in the year 1926. He was recognized, at the age of five, as reincarnation of the great Master Ngok Chöku Dorje. He began his studies at Taklung Tse monastery and was appointed as the throne-holder of Dorje Drak monastery at the age of eight. Rinpoche underwent rigorous training at Dorje Drak monastery, and having gained proficiency in all rituals and arts, he mastered all the teachings and empowerments of the Northern Treasures. At fourteen, he began his

studies on the major canon of Buddhism with Pawo Rinpoche, who was a student of Khenpo Thupten Gyaltzen, a personal student of the great Dzogchen Khenpo Shenga.

At twenty, Rinpoche received complete empowerment and oral transmission of the Rinchen Terdzöd, as well as other oral transmissions from the previous Kyabje Shechen Rabjam Rinpoche. Around that time, he also received most empowerments and oral transmissions of Padma Lingpa's treasures from the previous Lalung Sungrul Rinpoche, as well as all oral transmissions for the Seven Treasures and other teachings of the omniscient Longchen Rabjam from the Golok Chewo Rinpoche. Rinpoche also received complete empowerment and oral transmission of the higher and lower teachings of Jangter treasure and Kama (oral) teachings and instructions on the nature of mind while he was at Dorje Drak monastery. Rinpoche served as the Khenpo of Dodrak monastery for several years and was later requested to return to Taklung monastery.

After the most unfortunate political event of 1959, Rinpoche was forced to leave Tibet and stayed in Sikkim for two years during which time, he received empowerments and oral transmission of the Treasury of Oral Instructions and Kagyu Mantra Treasury from the Great 16<sup>th</sup> Gyalwa Karmapa at Rumtek monastery. In Kalimpong, Rinpoche received the entire empowerments and oral transmissions of the Great Terma Treasury and the Nyingma Kama, as well as some of the dharma treasures of Dudjom Lingpa from Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche. Rinpoche also received transmissions of collected teachings of Mipham Rinpoche and empowerments and transmissions for the Heart Essence of Longchenpa, and other Dzogchen practices and tantras from Kyabje Dilgo Khentse Rinpoche in Bhutan.

Rinpoche, later, settled in Shimla where a new Tibetan refugee settlement was established. Rinpoche re-established new Dorje Drak monastic seat in Shimla to preserve, develop and expand the teachings of the Jangter lineage. Since then, Rinpoche resides in Shimla where he serves the Tibetan community as well as huge number of Indian populace of Himalayan region who follow Tibetan Buddhism.

## Lineage of the Yuthog Nyingthig Empowerment and Oral Transmission

Following is the transcript of the Rinpoche's own speech regarding the continuum of the source of lineage of this sacred Initiation.

"The Yuthog Nyingthig empowerment is precisely what is found in Rinchen Terzod (Precious Treasury of Terma). I received the first detailed empowerment of Rinchen Terzod from the previous Shechen Rabjam Rinpoche, Kunsang Tenpai Nyima at Vokmin Ogyen Mindroling in Tibet. At that time, I received this empowerment. After I came into exile, I received the full empowerment of Rinchen Terzod from Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche, the main pillar of Nyingma tradition at Kalimpong. At that time, I received this empowerment too. Then again, I received the full empowerment of Rinchen Terzod from Kyabje Dilgo Khentse Rinpoche at Mindroling, Dehradun. At that time also, I received this empowerment one more time. At Tso Pema, I received only the empowerment from Kyabje Dudjom Rinpoche as the oral transmission has already been bestowed. At that time, I received this empowerment once again. This is where my lineage comes from.

"After I came to India, I received the complete oral transmission of the root text of Yuthog Nyingthig published by Chagpori from Kyabje Dilgo Khentse Rinpoche at Tashi Jong, Bir. The lineage from where Kyabje Dilgo Khentse Rinpoche received this oral transmission is, the previous Surmang Dungpa Tulku of the present Surmang Dungpa Tulku who now lives in the United States. Such is the lineage of the empowerment and oral transmission.

"Today the complete empowerment and oral transmission has been bestowed without any interruption. I call upon all the Tibetan medicine practitioners to practice with diligent and moral responsibility. In general, the backbone of the Tantric teaching is based on the empowerment and the backbone of the empowerment is the commitment. Therefore, it is important that various stages of commitments mentioned during the empowerment should be followed as far as possible and then work extensively for the benefit of the sentient beings."