

Venerable Geshe Tsewang Dorje Biography

Geshe Tsewang Dorje was born in Stok, Ladakh, India, in 1966. He started school at age 6 in Stok, and at 14 he went to South India for Buddhist studies at Sera Jey Monastery, one of the four great monastic colleges in Tibetan Buddhism. During his time at the monastery, he studied meditation practice as well as Buddhist philosophy. He received full ordination from His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and he took his novice vow from Ling Rinpoche (tutor of His Holiness the Dalai Lama). In 1994 he joined the Gelugpa monastery and received his bachelor of arts in Buddhist philosophy. In 1996 he received his master's, and then in 1999 he was bestowed the highest degree of the monastic college: Geshe Lharampa (PhD). In 2000 he studied at the Gyudmed Tantric College for Vajrayana, which led to a master of Tantric degree. From 2001 to 2003, he was appointed philosophy lecturer in Kopan Monastery, Nepal.



Geshe Tsewang Dorje and Ngari students

From 2004 to 2006, Geshe-la served on the Committee for Sera Philosophical Studies and Board of Examinations. In 2010 he became the first Ladakhi monk to ever be elected to the post of Geko (similar to an academic dean) of Sera Jey Monastery University.

In 2006 he started to travel, and he came to the United States for the first time. He taught at the Vietnamese Buddhist Centers in San Francisco and in Oregon. He has returned to the United States over the years to teach and share his experience at universities like NYU and schools like North Yarmouth Academy, Yarmouth, Maine.

Geshe-la has organized mandala tours and the lama dance in France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Poland. Geshe-la teaches and lectures at several Dharma centers in the international Buddhist community, including Theken Choling in Singapore, and in Jamtseling Dharma Center in Malaysia. He has done a pilgrimage to Indonesia and Thailand.

Geshe-la also founded a small temple in Leh, Ladakh, called Jamtseling Buddha Relic Temple, which exhibits and tours relics. Geshe-la has taught about the Buddha and the relics to thousands of Ladakhis.

At present Geshe-la is the director and president of Ngari Institute of Buddhist Dialectics. He founded Ngari Institute in 2006. Ngari provides a free, modern education for Ladakhi children and young monks who otherwise would not attend school.

In July 2014, Geshe-la became the new director of Siddhartha School in Stok, Leh, Ladakh. He is the hand-chosen successor to the founder Khen Rinpoche Lobzang Tsetan. His vision is to disseminate love and compassion and to teach Buddhist Philosophy.