

BUDDHIST MONASTERY SCHOOL GANDEN TASHI CHOELING



Gelug-pa Tradition
GANDEN NYENGYU LINEAGE
MAHAYANA VAJRAYANA
BUDDHISM



The Doctrine of the Buddha

Buddhism comprises the teachings of Buddha Shakymuni, the historical Buddha. These teachings are called Dharma, that which “holds back from suffering” or “protects us from suffering”. We can shortly describe it as:

*Do nothing unwholesome,
Do wholesome comprehensively,
Purify and tame your mind completely.
This is the doctrine of the Buddha .*

If we want to put this advice into practice, what should we do then?

*Avoid the unwholesome,
Perform wholesome deeds,
And train the mind.*

These points are the root of our experiences, of how happiness increases and how suffering can be avoided. By adhering to this advice, we will through our own strength succeed in gradually increasing our well-being and we will ascend to higher levels of existence. However, if we don't make the effort ourselves, well-being will be very difficult to reach.

The relationship between the own behavior and the own experience of happiness and suffering should be well understood, and then we should endeavor in the observance of non-harmful behavior, in ethics or moral discipline. As this effort becomes more stable we will be able to concentrate better to understand finally and without mistakes the true nature of things. Therefore, an ethical way of life is necessary for a truly interested one in order to tame the own mind.

When we examine the root of unwholesome actions, we will always find it in our own mind; this is the true source of all problems. For this reason, the teachings are composed of a right view, the right behavior, and the practice of meditation or the habituation to virtue.

Buddha gave these instructions for the benefit of living beings out of pure compassion and all-encompassing wisdom.

Whenever engaging with the teachings, we should think about this very carefully. Similarly, when transmitting these teachings to others, we should do this with the

intention of helping others - without exception - to tame their minds, too. No matter what aspect of the Dharma is being applied, this basic motivation should be provided.



What is Buddhism?

Buddhism has no common supporting organization, no overall leader, no dogmas, no hierarchical priesthood, and no accession in a general sense.

interested ones. The various events can be visited by everyone and do not require a commitment neither to Buddhism nor to any particular tradition.

Buddhism becomes alive when interested practitioners, qualified teachers, and supportive benefactors come together in one place.

If Buddhism has no accession and its teachings are available to everyone, the question may arise what the feature of a person must be, who refers to him or herself as a Buddhist.

The Practitioner

Everyone, regardless of their origin, race or religious affiliation, can be interested in Buddhism and also apply the teachings of the Buddha. The activities of “Ganden Tashi Choeling” are therefore open to all

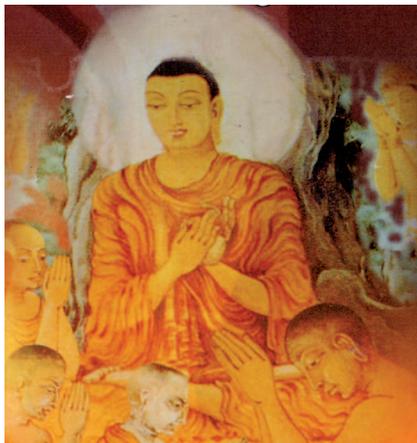
A person may call him or herself a Buddhist, who has first gained a clear understanding of the meaning of Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, and therefore recognizes these three objects as immaculate source of refuge (also by means of the ritual of taking refuge). Second, there should be the conviction of and reliance upon the basic view of Buddhism, which should be subsequently deepened.

Qualified Teachers

Buddhism does not have any higher authority that appoints and examines teachers. Wherever Buddhist teachings are given, the responsibility lies with the audience to critically and respectfully reflect about the speaker and to trust him or her only if, over a longer period of time, the person's knowledge, character, and motivation have proven morally convincing!

Nowadays in the western world many sincere students have been asked by their teachers to support them in giving Dharma teachings; since already such qualified masters have shown their trust in this way, practitioners should also develop respect and trust. Trust, however, is no one-way street; there are some specific criteria to help us identify a qualified teacher as such.

Here, the principle of applied moral is valid, meaning an ethical way of life, as well as other nine main points, which can serve as a guide, some of which are mentioned here.



A qualified teacher of Buddhism is a person

1. *who intensively applies the teaching of the Buddha himself;*
2. *who transmits the teachings to others in a clear manner, free of mistakes, regardless of their appearance, gender, language, nationality, whereby a single sentence of the doctrine can be of utmost importance.*
3. *A qualified teacher should also be in contact with a qualified master.*
4. *The only intention for teaching should be to demonstrate the listeners the means for overcoming suffering and achieving a lasting happiness and this only out of compassion. Every word of the Dharma will become medicine in this way - NgaiSo!*
5. *The behaviour of such a qualified buddhist teacher should be humble and restrained. Such a teacher will likewise only speak the teachings of the Buddha when he is asked to do so.*

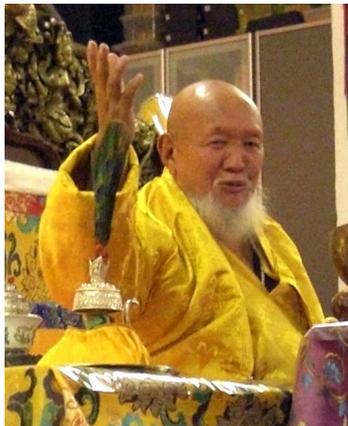
Lama Dechen Losang Chöma Rinpoche

Founder and spiritual head of
Ganden Tashi Choeling
Monastery School



**Mahasiddha
Lama Gangchen Rinpoche**

The principal spiritual
tantric master of
Lama Dechen Rinpoche



Kyabje Dagom Rinpoche

Ordination master
and spiritual
patron of our Monastery School
until his passing away in 2007



Sherab Rinpoche

Ordination master of
our Monastery School
since November 2012



**Thirteenth
Kundeling Rinpoche**
Permanent teacher



Mili Tulku Rinpoche
Regular teacher



**Geshe
Konchuk Gyaltzen**
Permanent teacher



From left to right: Geshe Tenzin Lama, Geshe Konchuk Gyaltzen,
Thirteenth Kundeling Rinpoche, Lama Caroline, Kuten (Chojin) Lama,
Lama Dechen Losang Chöma Rinpoche, Mili Tulku Rinpoche,
two abbots from Mongolia

These are our educational instructors.



Losang Kyinzum



Gelong Losang Kyabchok



Gelong Losang Jamyang



Gelong Losang Trinley



Sherab Yarphel



Sherab Palden



Sherab Döndrub



Gelong Losang Dawa

Activities at

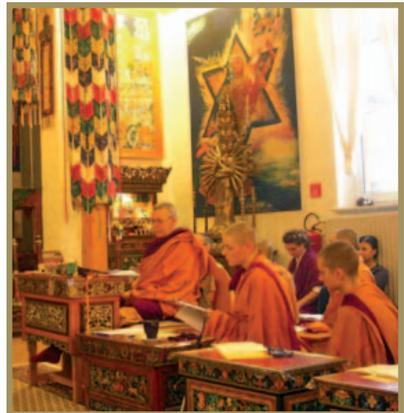


Our monastery school was founded in 2002 with the aim of living and preserving the pure teachings of Buddhism. Their spiritual roots lie in the reliable tradition of the great Tibetan master Je Tsongkhapa, which has been retained until today in the pure lineage of Ganden Nyengyu.

Fifty ordained people, lay persons, monks, and nuns currently live in the Ganden Tashi Choeling Buddhist Monastery School together with guests from Mongolia and Tibet, all of whom received the Vinaya ordination from highly

qualified masters of the Gelug / Ganden Nyengyu Lineage.

His Holiness Dagom Rinpoche, Khen Rinpoche Losang Pendre,



Ganden Tashi Choeling

officiating abbot of Shar Ganden University and His Eminence Sherab Rinpoche, who is officiating abbot of Ganden Tashi Choeling Monastery School, are directing the Sangha in this function. Venerable Lama Dechen Losang Chöma Rinpoche was asked by her students and her own masters to coordinate and provide guidance in all training programs as principal teacher. The education is also guaranteed through the support of other great masters, such as Lama Gangchen Rinpoche, the Thirteenth Kundeling Rinpoche, and a close network of related Lamas and Geshes who regularly teach at the monastery school.

Some of our dedicated monks and nuns, who have studied for more than ten or fifteen years under the guidance of many prominent masters themselves and who now live inside the monastic community, the Sangha, are teaching as educational instructors and meditation guides to Dharma friends and interested ones in many German

cities. Through an active exchange with and the loving guidance of our masters, we experience a vital and thriving Dharma live. Lama Dechen Losang Chöma Rinpoche, for example, has been accompanying Lama Gangchen Rinpoche for more than ten years to many countries, like Tibet, Thailand, Nepal, India, Vietnam and Indonesia, in order to „bring the transmission lineage to us“, as Lama Gangchen Rinpoche has told us.

Moreover, numerous school classes, associations and educational institutions visit us. These visits last at least two hours and usually end with a shared meal. Some of our monks also provide advice at social organizations and institutions.



Study and

The Focus of the Studies



The entire study program, which includes the main classical texts and aims at providing a “Geshe”-like degree, originates in the formal classical scriptures of the Asian Classics Institute, in the study and practice materials of Shar Gaden Monastery, and in some additional authentic sources, which have been translated and adapted to the German language by our years-long experienced team of translators.

All teachers studied or still study at one of the three great monastic universities and transmit the teachings to the Western disciples now. Lama Dechen Losang Chöma Rinpoche (Dr. hc.) was appointed and honoured as principal teacher of Gaden Tashi Choeling Monastery.



The education program has also been made available to lay practitioners and interested people in other cities. The contents may be requested at our educational office.

SYSTEMATICAL LAMRIM STUDY-COURSE

The traditional Study of Lamrim The Gradual Path to Enlightenment

A systematical presentation of the classical text
“Liberation in the Palm of Your Hand”,
an authentic commentary from
Pabongka Rinpoche on the “Lamrim Chenmo”
from Je Tsongkhapa



This study is ideally suited for,
those who honestly want to
deepen their Buddhist
knowledge and practice.
Traditional recitation of the
Gaden Lhagyama - reading
and commentary - debate groups.

After prior agreement,
guest auditors are welcome!

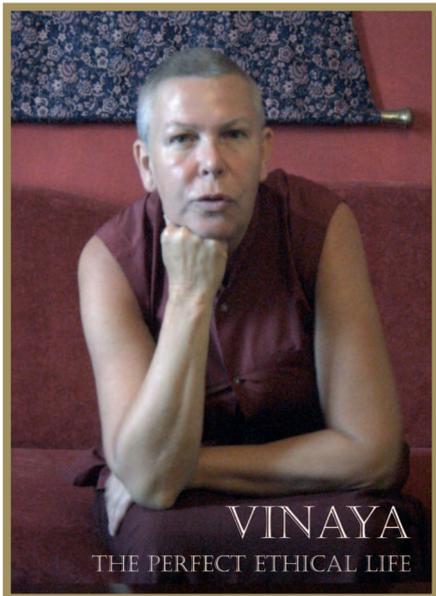
Study groups in Berlin, Erfurt,
Hannover, Magdeburg,
and Stuttgart.

Buddhistische Kinderhochschule Gaden Tashi Choeling - Gadenmastr. 111 - 1. OG - 10663 Berlin - Telefon: (03 0) 38 30 2 99 85

Practice

Furthermore, all study texts of the NgalSo transmission lineage from Mahasiddha Lama Gangchen Rinpoche (Geshe) are transferred into the German language and are considered rather non-formal studies from the healing tantric lineage of Buddhism. All ritual prayers (pujas) and ceremonies were granted to our monastery by the Kundeling Monastery and transmitted under the guidance of experienced monks and masters of the Ganden lineage.

Through constant dialogue with a number of diverse scholars from around the world, through which the



„A GUIDE TO THE BODHISATVA'S WAY OF LIFE”

(BODHISATTVACHARYAVATARA)



Under the guidance of
Lama Dechen Losang Chöma Rinpoche

Buddhistische Klosterschule Ganden Tashi Choeling - Gneisenaustr. 111 - 1.06 - 10961 Berlin - 03 38 38-3 09 05

community receives a lot of practical instruction, training in rituals, pujas, ceremonies, etc., “the garden of Dharma is flourishing”, as was poetically expressed by H.H. Kyabje Dagom Rinpoche in the long life prayer for our Venerable Teacher. During the consecration of our monastery he encouraged us with the words:

You all have arrived. Now the only question still to clarify is who will reach the goal first.”

Overview of Our Open,

Introductory Lectures in Sutra and Tantra

These contain inspiring **Lamrim, Lojong, and Mahamudra** introductions and overviews as well as special courses on **self-healing and yoga** of the tantric NgalSo lineage. These introductions are suitable for everyone, whether beginner or advanced, and are also held by experienced practitioners in various centers and groups.

Hatha Yoga Classes, Reiki Chagwang and NgalSo Trulkor

for tantric practitioners

These courses are regularly held under the guidance of qualified instructors and are particularly suitable for Buddhist practitioners.

The healing lineage of **Reiki Chagwang**, which was transmitted to the monks and nuns of “Ganden Tashi Choeling” by Lama Gangchen Rinpoche, derives from the healing teachings of Buddha Shakyamuni.

NgalSo Trulkor is based on the advanced yogas of great Mahasiddhas from ancient India and Tibet and includes the explanation of the generation and completion stages of the “Highest Yoga Tantras”.



Educational Program

General Program



Energy Work, Astrology and Healing

Muli Tulku Rinpoche mainly teaches us NgalSo Trulkor and gives teachings on healing.



Meditation Workshops, Pujas, Death Rituals, Ceremonies, and Special Dedications

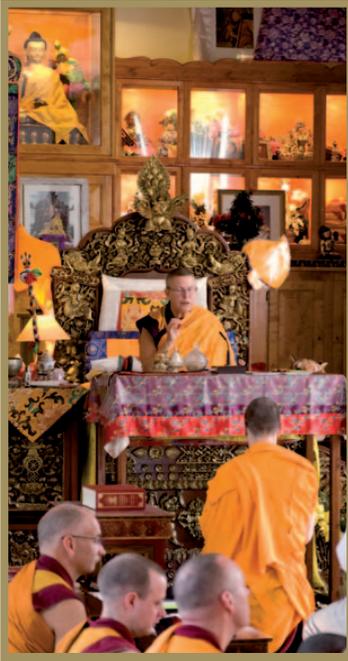
are regularly held on designated special auspicious days, especially on the tsog days of Guru Puja (Lama Chöpa).



Formal Studies of Sutra and Tantra

Please ask for the current program or possibilities of participating in the courses at our educational office (Phone: 0049-(0)3 38 38-3 09 85 - Losang Wangchen).





Daily Life at the Monastery

All monks and nuns gather every morning and evening for prayer meetings in the prayer hall. Meditations, discussion groups, study groups, lectures, pujas, and seminars are the focus of the institution. Extensive prayers and ritual practices are held on special calendar days. Visitors are always welcome at public courses.

Yet guided visits should always be previously arranged so that the monastic life is not interrupted.



The overview of our events is published quarterly in program flyers. These flyers can be sent free of charge to anyone interested. Please, feel free to call us, sign in displayed address lists, or download the flyers from our website.



Supportive Benefactors

Buddhism is no church organization. Accordingly, there are no taxes and no common property. Whether Buddhism exists in one place or not depends therefore not only on qualified teachers and practitioners, but also on supporting benefactors.

The emergence of monasteries and study centers, as well as the abidance of great masters at one particular place goes back, in the history of Buddhism, mostly to the determinati-

on and dedication of private individuals or groups.

In the case of our Monastery School “Ganden Tashi Choeling”, there were several dedicated interested practitioners of the doctrine who had previously experienced various Buddhist schools, as well as several benefactors who wanted to promote

its work and had gained extraordinary experiences during the teachings.

The fact that the Monastery School could be established in Päwesin was also due to a sympathetic man of independent means. The entire

renovation and expansion of the eight buildings on the premises was also carried out and covered only by means of private funding. Lama Gangchen Rinpoche acknowledged this diligence and virtue in 2011 in a moving speech to five hundred guests with the words:



*„Here, the perfections,
such as generous giving,
moral discipline, patience, effort,
concentration and wisdom,
are not only being taught,
but are already being lived.*

*Please support this monastery and its
residents; become a peace village!“*

Working Holidays

A good way to get acquainted with our monastery is to stay with us as guest for working holidays. You can contact us and arrange a time period - usually a few days or a week. During this time you attend the pujas, meditations, discourses, studies, and also our activities. These activities especially belong to the fields of construction or garden as well as of our publishing house. If you are interested, please call us.



Projects in Pāwesin



Above:
“Backwahn”, the bakery

Middle:
“Hairstyle & Wellness“

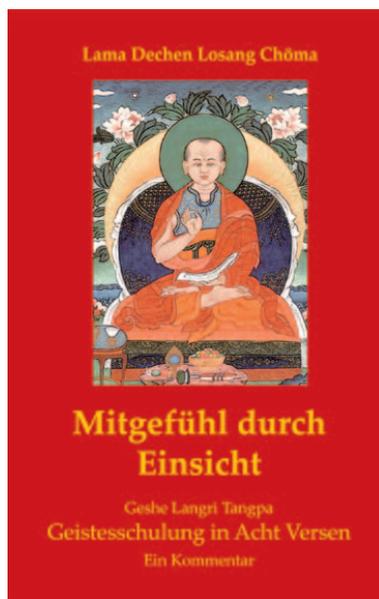
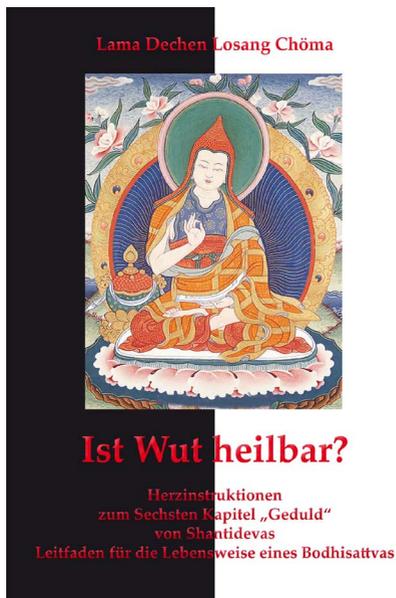
Below:
“Potala arts & crafts”,
where we supply
dharma literature and
crafts.



Drolma Publications

This publishing house Drolma Publications was founded in 2001 as part of our Buddhist Monastery School Ganden Tashi Choeling with the purpose of making available the authentic teachings of the Buddha in German language, as practice guide and also to preserve these teachings for future generations. The main focus and sources are the classical scriptures of sutra and tantra as practiced and taught at the great monastic universities, as well as the commentaries and pith instructions of our masters, especially of Lama Dechen Losang Chöma Rinpoche., our principal master. The publishing program comprises a vast range of fundamental works, instructions for meditation and practice guides, texts for study, sutras, prayers, up to audio books, audio records, and movies. Our staff is made of Buddhist monks and nuns. They do not only translate the texts into the German language, but also do the layout and pagination work, as well as the graphic design and binding work.

The most recent books by Lama Dechen Losang Chöma Rinpoche:



Potala arts & crafts

This shop has been existing since the year 2000. Many Sangha friends initially found their way to “Potala” and came only afterwards to our monastery school.

You can look around in our shop in a casual, relaxed way and get inspired. Many high-quality thangkas, statues and precious incense of Lama Gangchen Rinpoche will impress you, as will our selection of books, mostly from our own publishing house. The assortment is regularly extended.

Berlin,
Gneisenaustr. 111 - D-10691 Berlin
Germany

Päwesin,
Brandenburger Str. 12 - D-14778 Päwesin
Germany



Ganden Tashi Choeling

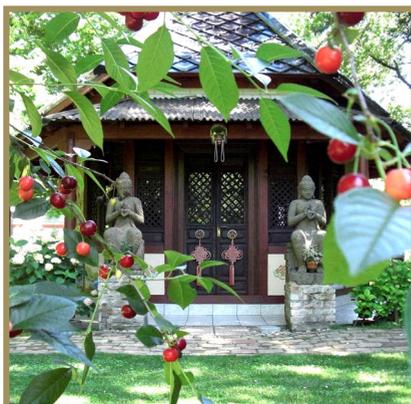
Monastic residence - Study centers Meditation groups

Residence of the Monastery

Ganden Tashi Choeling,
Päwesin



Above: Main building - Below: Park with temple and stupa.



Study and Meditation Groups in Germany of Ganden Tashi Choeling Monastery

Our study groups and meditation centers

Ganden Tashi Choeling,
Berlin

Norbu Choeling,
Erfurt

Chintamani,
Oranienburg

Jetsün Milarepa,
Dresden

Arya Tara,
Magdeburg

Sumati Kirti,
Stuttgart

Kailash Guesthouse, Sankt Georgen

Meditation groups and discourses in:

Berlin, Brandenburg, Chemnitz, Cottbus, Dresden, Erfurt, Frankfurt a.M.,
Frankfurt/Oder, Hannover, Karlsruhe, Königs Wusterhausen, Leipzig,
Lindenfels, Lauchhammer, Magdeburg, Meerane, Nauen, Nürnberg,
Oranienburg, Päwesin, Potsdam, Sankt Georgen, Stuttgart.

If you are interested, please call us or visit our website.



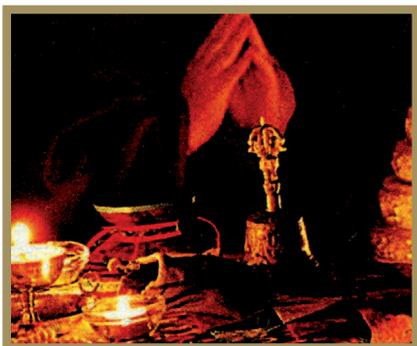
Ganden Tashi Choeling Funding

Who owns Ganden Tashi Choeling, if one can speak of a property at all? For legal reasons the entire property is currently held by the nonprofit organization “Ganden Tashi Choeling e.V”. The establishment of a foundation is however intended.

The financial burden for the acquisition of the property is attended to on a monthly basis by the permanent members of the association. In addition, this monthly burden can be covered to a certain extent by the study and course fees. This administration would however represent a significant monthly payment without the donations of sponsors and benefactors; thus we sincerely thank in this way all friends

of Ganden Tashi Choeling for their benevolence.

Thus “Ganden Tashi Choeling” has been able to emerge and flourish for the good of countless creatures that experience through it the greatest benefit.



The Supporting Association – How can I Participate?

1. Working holidays - Please check the details with Gelong Losang Kyabchok.
2. Donations -
Donation receipts approved for tax purposes can be issued for domestic donations.
3. Project support (see announcements)
4. Support for teachers and educational instructors
5. Support for monks and nuns.

Society of Friends and Sponsors of Ganden Tashi Choeling Buddhist Monastery School

Brandenburger Str. 12 - D-14778 Päwesin - Germany - Phone: 0049-(0)3 38 38-3 09 85
email: info@tashi-choeling.de – Contact person: Losang Gamo

Bank account for donations:

Commerzbank BIC: COBADEFFXXX – IBAN: DE22 1604 0000 0254 8584 00

Bank account for offerings to Lama Dechen Losang Chöma Rinpoche:

Commerzbank BIC: COBADEFFXXX – IBAN: DE92 1604 0000 0254 8584 01



Ganden Tashi Choeling Buddhist Monastery School
Mahayana Vajrayana Buddhism
Gelug-pa Tradition / Ganden Nyengyu Lineage
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www.tashi-choeling.de - info@tashi-choeling.de