



May 18, 2019

Full Moon

Birthday of Machig Labdrön

Dear Dharma Friends,

Before Lama Tsultrim went into retreat February 19, 2019, she had the blessing of meeting Lama Tshering Wangdu Rinpoche again. Lama Wangdu was born in Tingri Langkor in pre-communist Tibet, at the seat of Machig's teacher Phadampa Sangye. He did a three-year retreat in her cave there, and after doing the 108 Nyensa (Difficult Places) Chöd pilgrimage traveled to Nepal where he lived as a yogi. In Nepal he eventually established the only monastery dedicated to Machig's Chöd lineage. His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama personally encouraged him to establish this monastery and offered a Buddha statue for the temple, and His Holiness Sakya Trizin Rinpoche and Chatral Rinpoche wrote a long life prayers for him as well.

In 2007 in Tibet, Lama Tsultrim was recognized as an emanation of Machig Labdrön at Machig's main monastery Zangri Khamar, by the resident Lama there. He had dreams of a white Dakini sounding the damaru (the drum used in Machig's Chöd practice) loudly coming from the West and numerous other signs, such as a circular rainbow around the sun for four hours on the day of the recognition and rain after a very long drought.. Afterwards Lama Tsultrim returned to Nepal with her group of thirty students, carrying Machig's relics.

Three days before she arrived in Kathmandu, Lama Wangdu had a dream in which Machig Labdrön and her entire lineage appeared before him. Machig said, "I will be coming in three days." Then three days later Lama Tsultrim and her group arrived at his monastery in Kathmandu from Tibet. After several other dreams and signs appearing, Lama Wangdu also recognized Lama Tsultrim as an emanation of Machig Labdrön.

While visiting Tara Mandala in 2008, Lama Wangdu wrote a beautiful long life prayer for her, and he also bestowed on her the title of Lama and insisted that everyone use it when addressing her, stating it was for their benefit not hers. He also wrote an informal recognition letter. In 2016 when she was visiting him in Portland, Oregon he gave Lama Tsultrim his own golden empowerment torma, which he had used for many Machig Labdrön torma empowerments, to use when she gives the empowerment.

However he had not written an official recognition letter until now. Because he is quite elderly, now in his eighties, there were concerns that if he did not write an official letter; some people might say this never happened. He wanted to fully support her and have his official letter

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recorded and widely distributed. For this reason, he wrote this beautiful letter officially recognizing Lama Tsultrim as Machig Labdrön's emanation, including a description of her spiritual journey in this life. After he wrote the letter he was videoed reading it outloud so there could be no doubts.

We thought the birthday of Machig Labdrön would be an auspicious time to release the new formal recognition letter. May it bring blessings to all sentient beings. We pray for Wangdu Rinpoche's long life and send him much appreciation for his lifelong dedication to the Chöd lineage and his recognition and support of Lama Tsultrim Allione.

Yours in the Dharma,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dorje Lopön Chandra Easton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dorje" being the most prominent.

Dorje Lopön Chandra Easton and the Tara Mandala Team