

# Homage to Buddha, Dharma and Sangha



**Dharma Publications of Yeshe De 1963–2021**

**6 Years in India ~ 53 Years in America**

श्री त्रयम्बक्यन्त्रवाङ्मयै त्रयै तत्रयताञ्जवदतो तत्रयत्रयतित्रयवैलात्रीमत्रयवताङ्गुल्लय ॥







ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥





## YESHE DE PROJECT TREASURES OF TIBETAN BUDDHIST KNOWLEDGE

*The Yeshe De Project was created to preserve and protect Tibet's endangered Buddhist literary heritage. Named for a legendary Tibetan translator, Yeshe De collects, compiles, prints, and distributes Tibet's sacred texts to those who need them most—the lamas, monks, nuns, and lay practitioners who safeguard the future of this extraordinary tradition.*



इति श्रीमद्भगवद्गीतायां अष्टादशोऽध्यायः समाप्तः ॥



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## DEDICATION

Ever since the time of the great Dharma Kings who guided Tibet more than 1,200 years ago, a stream of great practitioners, learned scholars, and realized masters has carried the wisdom of Tibet's Dharma traditions down to the present day. As our world endures growing turmoil and uncertainty, I pray that these matchless treasures will bring peace, healing, and the transformation of suffering for all sentient beings.

It is my firm belief that all the Yeshe De Project has accomplished has been made possible through the blessings of the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, and all the great masters of the lineage of wisdom, whose transmitted teachings we have done our best to preserve and protect.

Nourished and strengthened by the nectar of these blessings, many have offered time and energy to our work. I am deeply grateful to my parents and to my precious teachers, who guided and inspired all my efforts. I extend heartfelt thanks, too, to my family, friends, students, and supporters in the larger Nyingma mandala community, and to the tiny staff of Yeshe De. For decades, these typesetters, editors, printers, and bindery workers have quietly dedicated themselves to the preservation of Tibetan knowledge—some of them for more than fifty years. Finally, I thank my adopted country of America, whose precious freedoms of religion and the press have enabled me to devote my life to preserving my homeland's unique heritage.





*Sacred texts, the lifeblood of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition, are treated with reverence by their recipients.*

On the journey we all take as sentient beings, our very best friend is knowledge that can uplift mind, heart, and body. By caring for this knowledge, we make it available to others. I invite you to join us on our mission of caring: together sharing, showing, shining, and growing, for the sake of all the beings of the three times.

Sarvam Mangalam, Jayantu Ho  
Tarthangpa Kunga Gellek Yeshe Dorje  
Head Lama of the Tibetan Nyingma  
Meditation Center

Founder of the Yeshe De Project  
Odiyan Copper Mountain Mandala  
October 20, 2021

1,242 years since the founding of Samye,  
Tibet's first monastery

2,565 years since the Parinirvana of  
the Buddha Shakyamuni according to  
Theravadin reckoning



## MISSION OF THE YESHE DE PROJECT

Tibet was once a land dedicated to studying, practicing, and embodying the wisdom of the Buddha. But in 1959, the Land of Snow underwent a reversal that jeopardized the foundations of Tibetan Buddhism. Since then, as Tibetans both inside and outside Tibet continue to struggle to preserve their inheritance of knowledge, we at the Yeshe De Project have tried to do our part to ensure that their irreplaceable sacred text traditions survive to benefit not only Tibetans, but all the world's people.

Modern knowledge has brought wondrous advances in science, medicine and technology. Yet the grievous events of recent years remind us that despite the almost miraculous character

of our technical know-how, we do not seem to know how to solve the problem of suffering. The troubles that beset the world we share—from environmental catastrophe to global pandemic, from pervasive anxiety to political violence—are growing more and more acute.

We at Yeshe De have chosen to give our time and energy to our task of preservation, for we believe that an antidote to these problems does exist.

Our efforts have persuaded us that a profound and healing wisdom lies at the heart of Tibetan Dharma—a wisdom that is every human being's birthright. We encourage you to join us in making sure this wisdom remains available to the people of the future, both in the East and in the West.



*The words of the Buddha are presented as a sacred offering at the Mahabodhi Temple, site of the Buddha's enlightenment.*



## ABOUT THE FOUNDER

The Yeshe De Text Preservation Project is a creation of the Head Lama of the Tibetan Nyingma Meditation Center, a California Corporation Sole established in 1969 by the Tibetan lama Tarthang Rinpoche as a fully authorized center of the Nyingma lineage of Tibetan Buddhism.



Born in Eastern Tibet in 1935, Rinpoche received a comprehensive traditional education, studying with nearly forty celebrated masters. He first began preserving Tibetan texts as a young refugee in India in the 1960s. For

sixty years he has done his best to help protect the sacred texts and symbols of the Tibetan Dharma tradition while sharing its fruits with the modern world. Through his efforts, five and a quarter million books and four million precious art reproductions have been delivered, free of

charge, into the hands of the Tibetan Sangha in exile. This distribution takes place at the annual World Peace Ceremony he founded in 1989 at Bodh Gaya, India, the site of the Buddha's enlightenment.



*The efforts of Tarthang Rinpoche and his students have replenished the libraries of thousands of monasteries.*



## SAVING ENDANGERED TREASURES OF KNOWLEDGE

More than 2,500 years ago, the Buddha taught a path of peace and freedom from suffering. Many great practitioners and philosophers followed in his footsteps, and Indian Buddhism developed a rich heritage of sacred texts and teachings. Over the next millennia, the Dharma spread throughout Asia. When it came to Tibet in the 7th and 8th century, it was soon embraced, and over the next centuries, thousands of Buddhist texts were translated into Tibetan.

By the 12th century, invasions, political collapse and cultural change had all but eradicated Buddhism in its homeland of India. But within the monasteries and practice centers of Tibet could

be found the most comprehensive collection of translated Buddhist Sanskrit texts in the world, a vast treasury of knowledge that would be unknown to us today were it not for the efforts of the Tibetan masters.

The events of 1959 changed the destiny of Tibet. In the chaotic decades that followed its invasion and occupation, most of its monasteries and libraries were destroyed—an almost unimaginable loss of knowledge on a scale that dwarfs the destruction of the Library of Alexandria.

Desperate to save their culture, Tibetan refugees escaped to India, often bringing their books instead of food. In India, the refugees struggled to



*The sacred texts and images we offer are cherished by their recipients, young and old alike.*

carry on their ancient traditions in the face of illness, poverty, and despair.

As Tibetans re-established monasteries, nunneries, and Dharma centers in India, Nepal, and elsewhere, the fate of their textual heritage remained uncertain. Small presses in India continued to reproduce limited numbers of books, and Western universities held some important collec-

tions. Yet most monasteries in exile had little access to the texts of their own spiritual traditions. Tarthang Rinpoche became convinced that a systematic approach to text preservation was needed. The freedoms and resources he found in his adopted country enabled him to act on a larger scale, preserving the enormous text collections that anchor Tibetan Dharma.



## OUR PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

### THE TIBETAN BUDDHIST CANON

The Tibetan Buddhist Canon consists of the Kangyur, or words of the Buddha, and the Tengyur, the treatises of the enlightened Indian masters. The thousands of texts making up this collection form the backbone of Dharma study in every school of the Tibetan tradition.

In the late 1970s, Rinpoche and his students prepared a new, photographic printing of the Derge Edition of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon, in 120 hand-bound atlas-sized volumes. Released in 1981, the Nyingma Edition currently resides in academic and monastic libraries around the world.

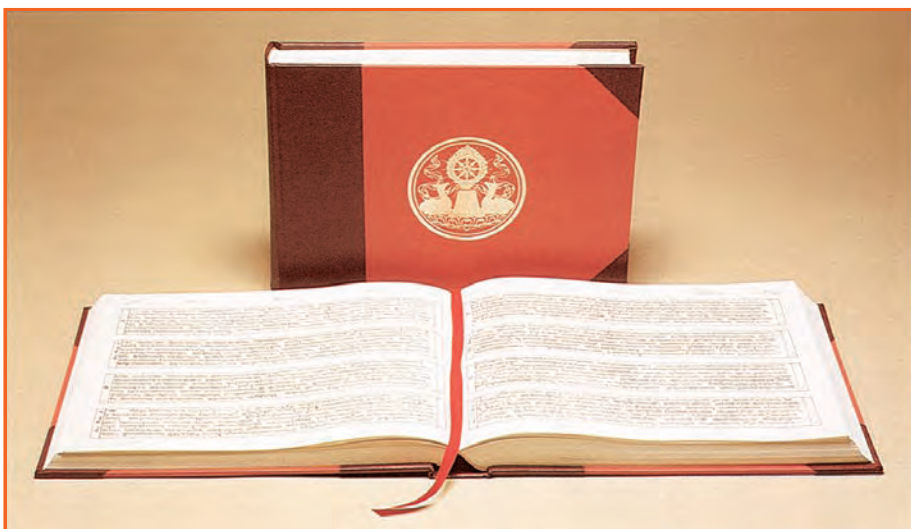
In the ensuing decades, Yeshe De continued to research and prepare several different historic editions of the Tibetan Canon, each one an invaluable addition to a traditional Tibetan course of study. In all, Yeshe De has offered five different complete editions of the Kangyur and three different editions of Tengyur, as well as a broad collection of Tengyur texts selected especially for students in monasteries, nunneries, and Dharma centers.

Since 1981, 10,000 complete sets of Kangyur and Tengyur have been offered to the Tibetan Sangha.





*The Tibetan text tradition is truly vast, comprising thousands of volumes of sacred teachings.*



## YESHE DE OFFERINGS OF THE TIBETAN BUDDHIST CANON

### Nyingma Edition of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon (1981)

This reproduction of the famous and respected Derge Edition of the Canon contains 5,109 texts in 120 hand-bound atlas-sized volumes. The *Nyingma Edition* was accompanied by an eight-volume scholarly catalogue and bibliography, and a two-volume Guide.

### Derge Kangyur and Selections from the Derge Tengyur, Typeset Edition (2000–2011)

Yeshe De's first typeset edition of canon texts from the Derge Edition of the Kangyur and Tengyur was offered in a traditional pothi format.

### Narthatang Kangyur and Tengyur (2010)

Created at Narthatang Monastery between 1730 and 1732, this edition of the Canon was based on two early and historically significant manuscript versions from the 14th and 15th centuries. Reprinted by Yeshe De in 327 volumes.

### The Tog Palace Kangyur (2012)

Based on a Bhutanese manuscript, this edition of the Kangyur was produced in Leh, Ladakh during the eighteenth century. Reprinted by Yeshe De in traditional pothi format: 112 volumes.

### The Yeshe De Edition of the Kangyur and Tengyur (2013–2014)

A new typeset edition of the Derge Kangyur and Tengyur offered in durable Western format, supplemented by additional texts and sixteen historic Kangyur text catalogs to facilitate research: 133 volumes of Kangyur and 275 volumes of Tengyur.

## THE NYINGMA TEXT TRADITION

Yeshe De has also sought to preserve large historic collections of sacred texts specific to the Nyingma tradition, known as the oldest of the Tibetan Buddhist schools.

The textual heritage of the Nyingma traces its roots back to the three great 8th century masters who were instrumental in bringing Buddhism to Tibet: Guru Padmasambhava, a powerful tantric master from Oddiyana, a land to the northwest of India; Abbot Shantarakshita, the learned head of the largest monastic university in India; and Trisong Detsen, the 38th king of Tibet. Brought to Tibet during the period of the first embrace of Dharma and compiled by great masters, these precious teachings have been transmitted from teacher to student in an uninterrupted stream for more than 1,200 years.

During the 1980s and 1990s, the Yeshe De Project researched, compiled, and printed *Great Treasures of Ancient Teachings*, 637 atlas-sized volumes of these rare teachings. In all, the work of more than 400 authors, comprising some 80,000 major and minor texts, has been collected.



It is our belief that we have successfully preserved approximately 75% of all the texts of the Nyingma tradition.

In 2018, *Great Treasures* was purchased by the Library of Congress. Founded April 24, 1800, the Library of Congress is the oldest federal cultural institution in the United States and the largest library in the world, safeguarding 167 million unique items. Residing within this internationally regarded storehouse of knowledge, the *Great Treasures* will remain secure, preserved for the scholars, practitioners, and translators of the coming generations.





*Tarthang Rinpoche personally distributes books to young lamas at one of the earliest World Peace Ceremonies.*

## THE TREASURY OF YESHE DE OFFERINGS

After working to preserve major collections during the 1980s and 1990s, Yeshe De began to shift its emphasis to educating the living Sangha.

“In the late 1980s and early 1990s, I saw that Tibetan students in India were eager to learn, but they had almost no access to the important *sāstra* commentaries and Inner Tantras. It soon became clear that they needed texts that explain what Nyingma is, what special subjects it transmits, and the views and emphases that distinguish Nyingma from other philosophical traditions.

“Seeing the urgency of this need, I shifted the focus of our work from completing *Great Treasures* to providing all serious Nyingma students with their own libraries of essential texts. Yeshe De would soon find a way to channel these crucial books to these students and scholars, the future of our tradition: at the World Peace Ceremony, a prayer gathering I founded at Bodh Gaya in 1989 to help unite the Nyingma Sangha in exile.”

—Tarthang Rinpoche,  
*Great Treasures of Ancient Teachings*

Distributed over the course of the last 32 years at the World Peace Ceremony, the Treasury of



*The texts support the study and practice that ensure Tibetan Dharma will be transmitted into the future.*

Yeshe De Offerings embraces more than 10,000 seminal works of the Tibetan tradition by 771 authors. It includes editions of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon, key Nyingma teachings, the collected works of great Tibetan masters, and classic works of logic, history, poetry and grammar, as well as offerings of the cherished texts of the Prajnaparamita, the Perfection of Wisdom teachings at the heart of the Mahayana tradition, known as the Way of the Bodhisattva.

We have sought to meet the needs of students and scholars, monks, nuns, and lay practitioners, providing the basis for a complete Nyingma education as well as offering foundational texts for all the major schools of Tibetan Buddhism.

*“Knowing that people the world over  
feel lonely and isolated,  
we ask that our prayers  
become the bond that  
unites them with each other  
and with a truth higher than samsara,  
expressed in universal compassion.”*

—Tarthang Rinpoche,  
“The Incomparable Value of  
Prayer at Bodh Gaya”



*Recipients can travel hundreds or even thousands of miles to collect their texts in Bodh Gaya.*

## WHAT WE OFFER TO THE SANGHA

### KANGYUR

The words of the Buddha, preserved in more than a thousand Tibetan texts.

### TENGYUR

The works of great Indian Buddhist commentators on the Buddha's words.

### TIBETAN AUTHORS

Commentaries, treatises, teachings, histories, and biographies of great masters of the Tibetan tradition.

### SUNGBUMS

The collected works of extraordinary masters of all the major schools of Tibetan Buddhism, including Patrul Rinpoche and the Great Fifth Dalai Lama.



*Books are presented to the assembly during the ten-day-long ceremony at the Mahabodhi Temple.*

### INNER YOGAS

Special sacred texts from the heart of the Nyingma tradition.

### PRAYER BOOKS

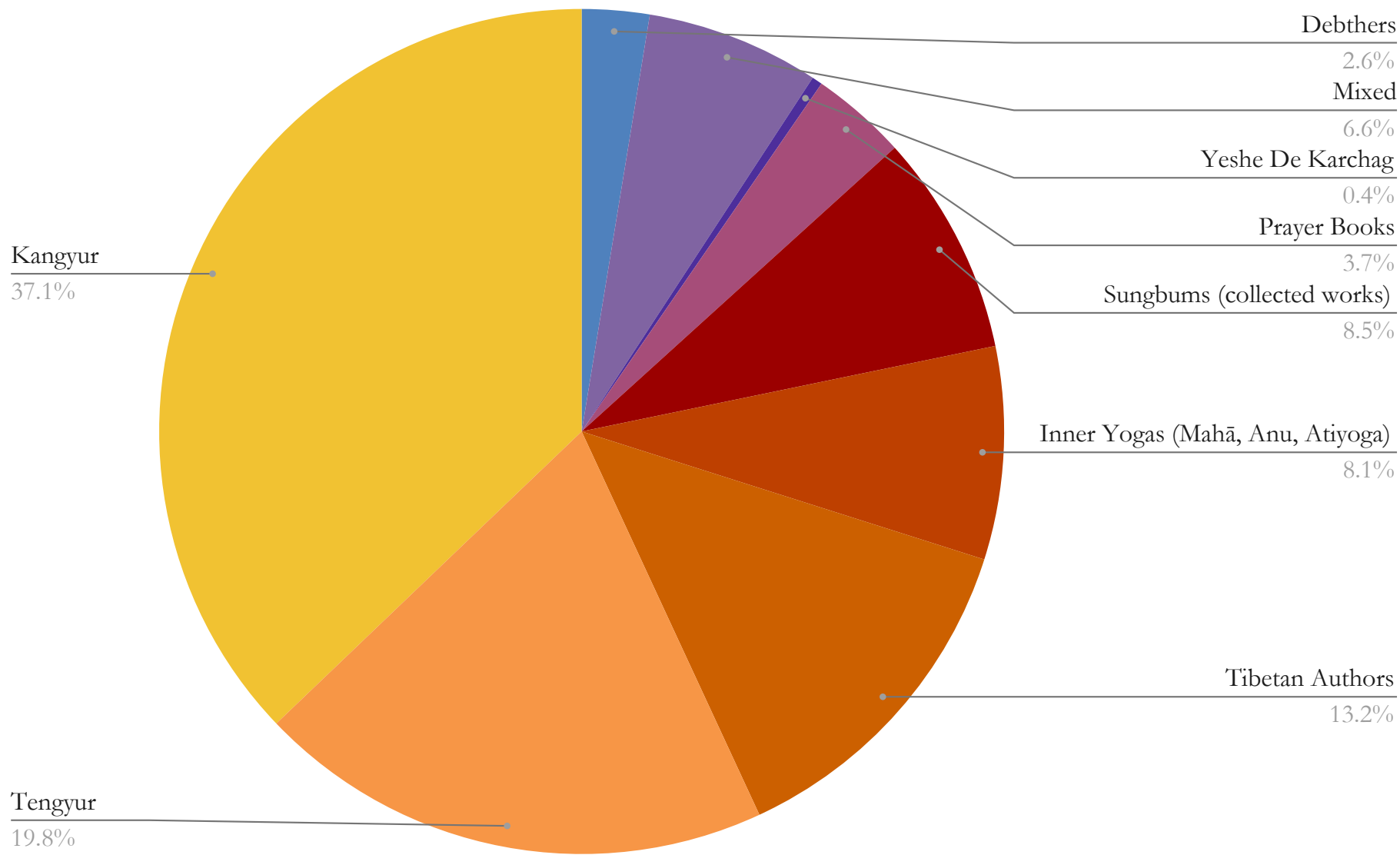
Compilations of widely known and beloved prayers, offered to laypeople as well as lamas, monks, and nuns.

### YESHE DE TEXT CATALOGUES (KARCHAGS)

Complete lists of the thousands of individual text titles that have been offered at the World Peace Ceremony.

### MONLAM DEBTHEERS

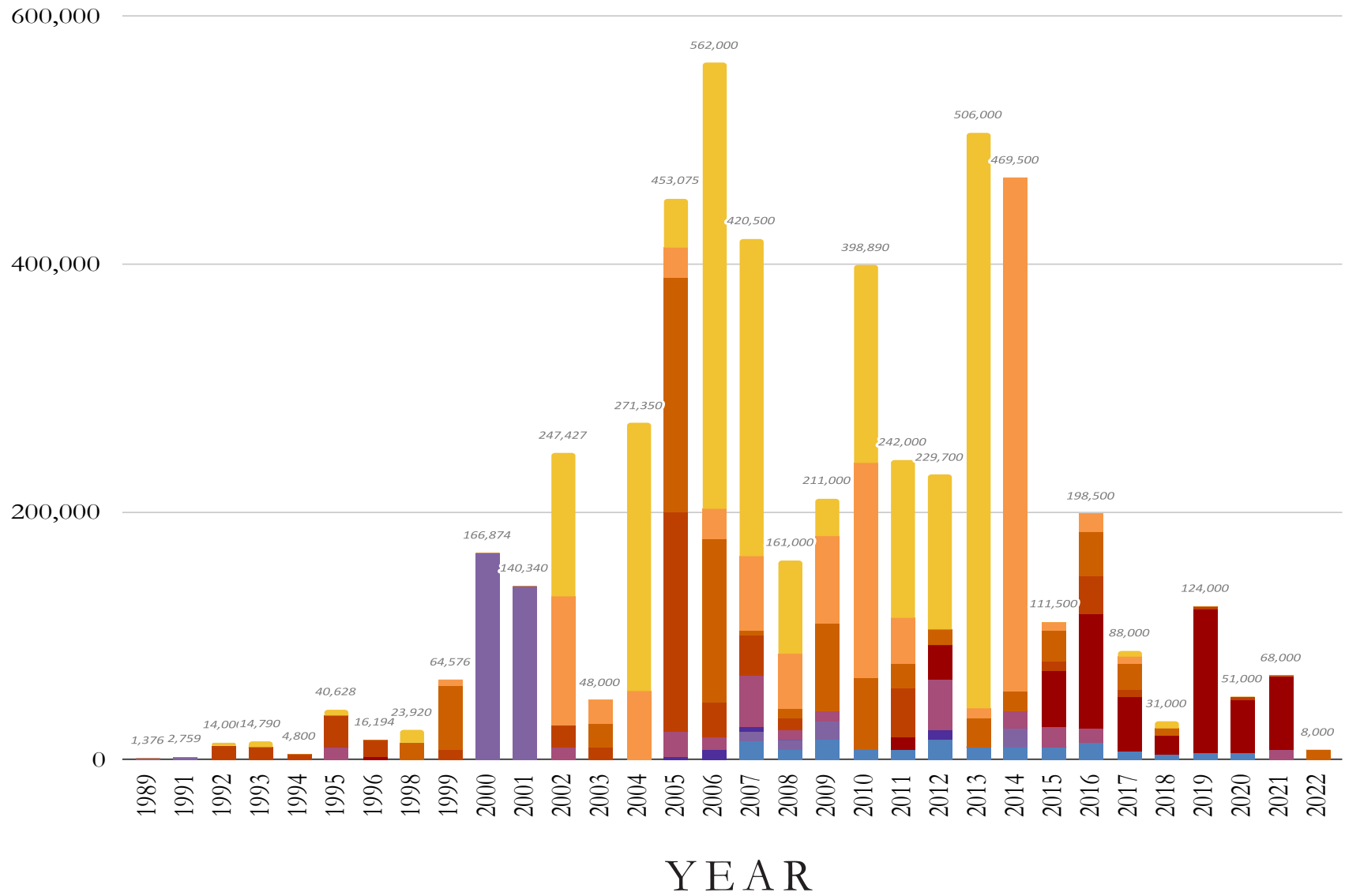
Commemorative volumes containing sacred texts, photos of prior World Ceremonies, reports of the book distribution, and English-language essays on many topics by Tarthang Rinpoche.



CATEGORIES OF YESHE DE BOOKS  
1989-2022



# BOOKS PRODUCED



- Kangyur
- Tengyur
- Tibetan Authors
- Inner Yogas (Mahā, Anu, Atiyoga)
- Sungbums (Collected works)
- Prayer Books
- Yeshe De Karchag
- Mixed or Other
- Debthers



*Yeshe De provides beautiful, full-color reproductions of authentic Tibetan sacred art for meditation practice.*

## SACRED ART FOR THE SANGHA

The Yeshe De Project has also distributed more than four million reproductions of authentic thangkas, Tibetan sacred paintings with deep spiritual significance. Our archive contains images of thousands of ancient thangkas, some of which date back as early as the twelfth century. As well as offering thangka reproductions, we have also collected rare and important paintings and preserved them within our publications.

## PRAYER WHEELS

Beloved by laypeople as well as lamas, monks, and nuns, Prayer Wheels are turned by Tibetans

all over the world as an expression of faith and a powerful form of personal practice. Said to have been invented by the great Indian master Nagarjuna, Prayer Wheels contain miniaturized copies of sacred texts. When they are turned, they put the texts in motion, sending their blessings out into the world.

176,250 Prayer Wheels have been offered to the Tibetan people since 1989. Thanks to innovations developed over decades of production, the wheels offered by Yeshe De are cherished by their recipients for the remarkable number of texts they contain—some hold all the 1,158 texts of the Tibetan Kangyur.



*Lavishly illustrated Debther volumes commemorating the ceremony contain records of the text distribution.*



*Participants at the World Peace Ceremony offer prayers and mantras to ease the suffering of sentient beings.*



*Younger generations have an important role to play in the transmission.*



*One of the offerings to the Sangha of the Kangjur and Tengjur at the Nyingma Monlam at Bodh Gaya.*



*Representatives from thousands of monasteries, nunneries, and Dharma centers wait patiently for books.*



*Over the last 32 years, the size of the distribution has grown dramatically.*





*For the 2007 Monlam, 37 forty-foot cargo containers transported over 300,000 books produced by Yeshe De to India.*



*Energetic young monks assist with the distribution.*



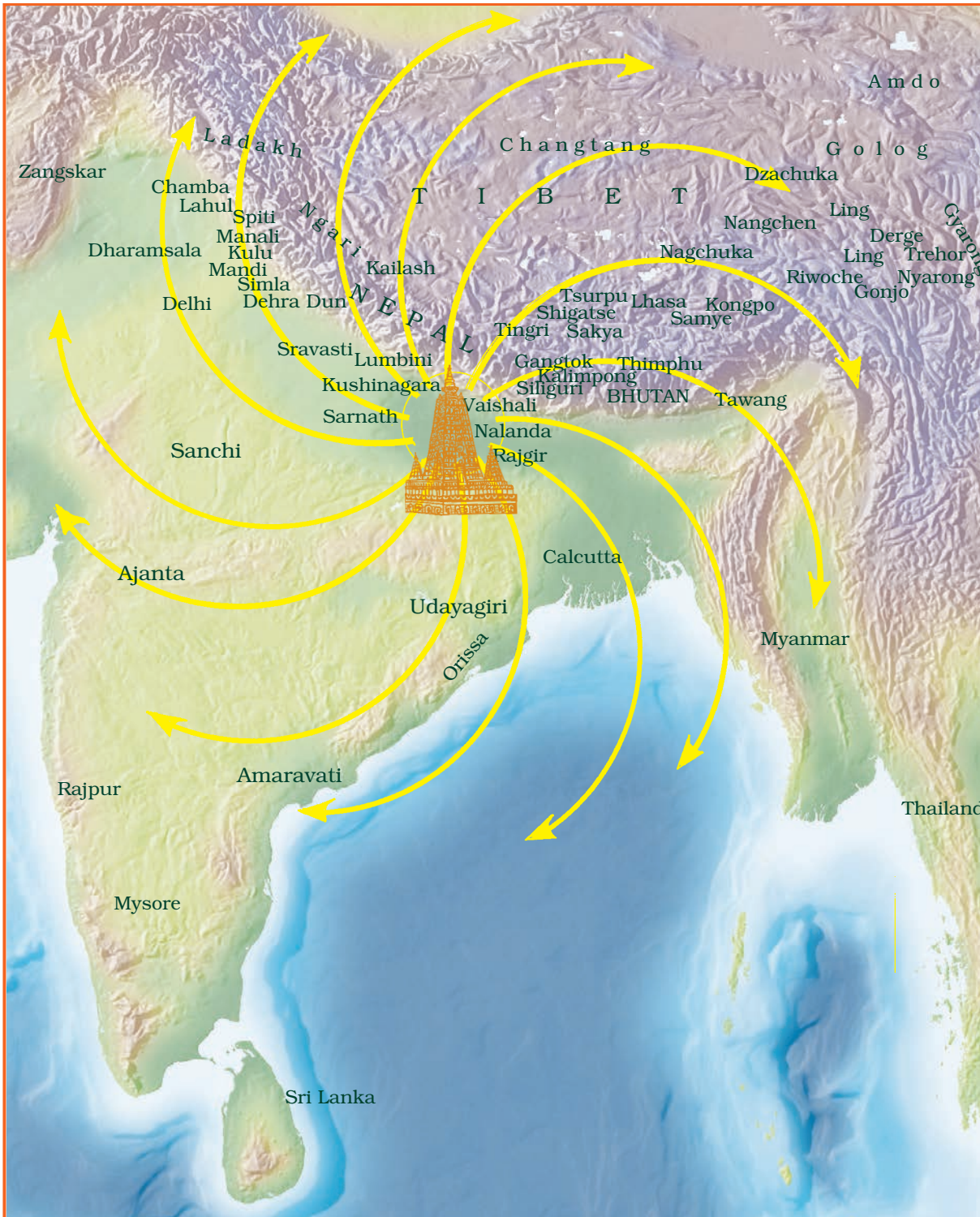
*Considerable planning and organization are involved in assuring the distribution goes smoothly.*



*As texts are shared, the assembly participates in the uninterrupted transmission of sacred knowledge.*



*May the blessings of the sacred texts nourish the future of the Tibetan Sangha.*



## Distributing the Books

Yeshe De Books have reached more than 3,300 monasteries, nunneries, and Dharma centers in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Ladakh, Kinnaur, Zanskar, and all the regions in the Himalayas where Tibetan Buddhism is practiced. While our initial focus was on texts of the Nyingma tradition, we have offered thousands of texts to Dharma centers of every major Tibetan Buddhist school, including the texts of Kangyur and Tengyur. All the major centers of Tibetan Dharma in exile have benefited from our distribution, as well as thousands of small, rural centers.



*Monks and laypeople alike receive treasures of Tibetan Dharma, like the cherished Prajnaparamita.*

## The Impact of Our Work

Yeshe De has created entire libraries full of books for the use of scholars, monks and nuns, covering every subject and topic of a traditional Tibetan Dharma education. Senior participants who have attended every year of the World Peace Ceremony have received a copy of virtually every text that has been offered at the sacred Vajrasana, amounting to more than a thousand volumes. Meanwhile, ordinary monks and nuns have acquired very useful personal collections, making a far cry from the early, difficult period when Dharma study was being established in the exile community, and dozens of students had to share a single, fragile copy of a text.

The restoration of monastic libraries has led to improvements in monastic education, and in particular, expanded educational opportunities for Tibetan nuns. Thousands of laypeople have also received their own personal copies of numerous foundational Dharma texts, including the beloved Prajnaparamita, cherished and recited in Tibetan Buddhist communities around the world.





*Every book and every sacred art image makes a difference in the lives of Tibetans striving to keep their traditions alive.*

## MILESTONES

### 1960s

Tarthang Rinpoche founds Dharma Mudranalaya in India, a printing house dedicated to the endangered Tibetan text tradition. Working on a small hand press, Rinpoche is able to produce about 30 titles.

### 1969

Having relocated to the United States in 1968 and founded TNMC in 1969, Rinpoche goes on to found Dharma Press and Dharma Publishing, one of the first U.S. publishing companies devoted to Tibetan Buddhist teachings.

### 1981

After more than five years of work, the *Nyingma Edition of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon*, a definitive 5,000-text collection of the words of the Buddha and the treatises of the enlightened Indian masters, is released in the U.S.

### 1983

Based on the research that went into the production of the *Nyingma Edition*, the Yeshe De Project is founded in Berkeley, CA in 1983.





*Those who receive the sacred texts today are the teachers, guides, and translators of tomorrow.*

### **1980s–1990s**

The Yeshe De Project produces the *Great Treasures of Ancient Teachings*, a collection of Nyingma sacred texts compiled in 639 atlas-sized volumes.

#### **1989**

Tarthang Rinpoche founds the World Peace Ceremony at Bodh Gaya—a prayer gathering that brings together Nyingma lamas, monks, nuns, and laypeople at the site of the Buddha’s enlightenment. It becomes the site for Yeshe De’s massive text distribution to monastic centers throughout India, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Himalayas.

### **2000–2011**

Yeshe De distributes thousands of copies of texts from the famous Derge Edition of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon.

#### **2010**

900 sets of the 18th century *Narthing Edition of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon* are offered to the Tibetan Sangha.

#### **2012**

Prepared by Rinpoche’s students in Brazil, the historically significant 112-volume *Tog Palace Kangyur* is distributed to the Sangha at Bodh Gaya.



*Despite financial obstacles, Yeshe De is committed to supporting the future of the Dharma.*

### **2013–2014**

The 133-volume Yeshe De Yidzhin Norbu Kangyur and the 275-volume Yidzhin Nangwai Dzö Tengyur, fully typeset and produced in Western-style volumes, are offered to the Tibetan Sangha.

### **2018**

A copy of the *Great Treasures* collection is acquired by the U.S. Library of Congress, safely preserved for future generations.

### **2019**

The Kangyur Encyclopedia Project, a scholarly effort to foster a deep study of the origins of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon, brings together dozens

of eminent scholars from all the major schools of Tibetan Buddhism.

### **2020**

Since 1989, Yeshe De has distributed 5.25 million books to 3,300 monasteries, nunneries, and Dharma Centers in the Tibetan Buddhist diaspora.

### **2021**

On May 26, Tarthang Rinpoche joins representatives from the Theravadin and Mahayana Buddhist traditions in the first Buddhist ceremony ever held at the White House. The Second Gentleman, Douglas Emhoff, is a participant.





*Materials include: paper, plates, ink, cover boards, stamping foil, edge-dye, wrapping cloth, packing boxes.*



*Up to 20 tons of paper equal to 230,000 sheets printed each day are managed in warehouses.*



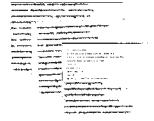
*Dharma Press houses our equipment and materials to produce books for the Monlam.*

## STAGES OF PRODUCTION

Producing the text offerings for the Nyingma Monlam Chenmo is a complex, costly, and time-consuming process. Each of the stages listed below can have a dozen or more individual steps involved.



**1. Planning the Offering** Rinpoche reviews what books are currently available in Tibetan monasteries and determines what books will be distributed in the upcoming year. A master schedule is created, purchasing contracts are negotiated, the budget is determined, and pledges of funding from the mandala of supporting organizations are secured.



**4. Proofreading** Readers correct thirty different types of mistakes in the texts. Queries are marked for Rinpoche to review. Checking is done against at least two existing editions of the text whenever possible.



**5: Corrections** Proofs are reviewed and revised many times over, by both human readers and computerized programs that check for errors in grammar and spelling. Final corrected versions are printed out for editorial review.

**6: Editorial Decisions** Rinpoche reviews the proofs and resolves editorial questions. He adds front and back matter, including introductory remarks in English. He decides on the print run, and composes colophon poems in Tibetan for each large text.



**2. Obtaining Texts** Any texts that are not part of the Yeshe De libraries are sourced all over the world, carefully reviewed by Rinpoche, and catalogued.

**3. Typing the Texts** A small, highly-trained staff inputs the texts, either using a special code that outputs Tibetan characters or using an optical character recognition program, the results of which are carefully checked. Depending on the length and legibility of the text, this job can take several months. The average typing rate is fifty folios per person per day.



**7: Designing the Volumes** The design of each volume is determined by Rinpoche after extensive review of numerous page and cover layouts.



**8: Preparing Art** All art for the volumes is chosen by Rinpoche, who directs the creation of line drawings and other decorative art, and selects thangkas to be included. He also chooses special lantsa letters for printing mantras.



**9: Scanning** All components of the new volumes are scanned, including texts, line art and thangkas. An extensive digital archive of scanned materials is maintained for future projects.



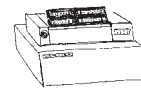
**10: Pre-formatting** The entire text is reviewed for any special characters that may require modification of the custom automated Tibetan typesetting program. Title pages are prepared, and volume sizes are determined.



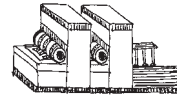
**11: Formatting** The volumes are formatted according to the layout chosen by Rinpoche, and individual elements of text and art are placed. A detailed karchag, or table of contents, is added to each volume.



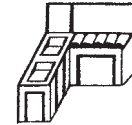
**12: Preparation for Platemaking** The electronic files used to make the plates are finalized. PDF proofs are created, printed out, and carefully checked.



**13: Computer-to-Plate** Printing plates for the volumes are prepared and created. Special software ‘burns’ the contents of the volume onto the aluminum plates using a high-precision laser process.



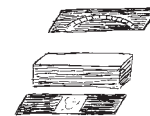
**14: Printing** Printing takes place in a complex fourteen-step process overseen by master-printers with decades of experience. Six different printing presses may be used depending on the type of material being printed.



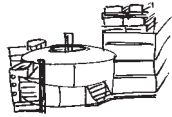
**15: Folding** Automated folding machines are carefully overseen as they fold freshly printed volumes, working at a rate of 9,000 to 12,000 sheets per hour.



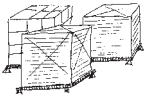
**16: Gathering** After the paper is folded, our team operates special machinery that puts the pages of the book in the correct order. The team can finish as many as five batches of 1,500 books in a single day.



**17: Binding Pothi Volumes** Tibetan-style books are cut to the proper shape on equipment custom-designed to make pothi volumes. Gold-stamped covers are added, and books are edge-dyed, assembled, and wrapped by hand.



**18: Binding Western Volumes** Covers are stamped in gold and cut to fit the size of the books. The automated line glues covers to contents; the books then travel by conveyor through the cooling tower. Glued volumes are trimmed; completed books are edge-dyed.



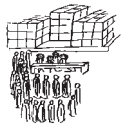
**19: Storage** Printed volumes and stacks of paper are stored in a climate-controlled facility. An extensive inventory of the contents is kept up-to-date.



**20: Boxing and Loading** As the shipment date approaches, volunteers work six days a week to pack up the volumes in sturdy cardboard boxes and ready them for transport.



**21: Shipping and Customs** After months of fundraising by the Tibetan Aid Project, the books travel to India by container ship. From Calcutta, the shipment is trucked to Bodh Gaya. As many as thirty trucks may be needed to bring the books.



**22: Book Distribution** Hundreds of pallets of books are arranged at Kalachakra Ground at the Mahabodhi Temple. More than 3,350 Dharma centers receive boxes of books every year.



## OUR COSTS

Yeshe De spends an average of \$2,218,750 per year to research, obtain, compile, typeset, format, print, pack, ship, and distribute books to the Tibetan Sangha at Bodh Gaya. Depending on the size of the offering, shipping alone can cost us \$250,000 a year.

We bear these costs with no government assistance, relying on small donors and the efforts of our own organizations.

## MATERIALS USED TO MAKE YESHE DE BOOKS, 1989-2020

**Paper:** Nearly 139 million sheets of paper. Laid out end to end, this would make a strip that could wrap around the world 3 times. Piled up in a stack, the paper would reach more than 8.6 miles in the sky.

**Press Plates:** 6,009,500 aluminum press plates have been created. If they were placed in a straight line, this would make a strip more than 3,500 miles long.

**Cloth Book Wrappers:** 2.1 million book wrappers have been created, using eight and a half million square feet, or almost two hundred acres of fabric.

**Printing Ink:** 53,843 gallons of ink have been used.

As far as I know, Dharma Press, whose full-time staff I can count on my fingers, has been able to produce more texts than any other Buddhist publisher.

—Tarthang Rinpoche, writing in 2004

## A SMALL, DETERMINED TEAM

Since its founding in 1983, Yeshe De has operated with only a handful of dedicated staff. Along with the Managing Editor and Operations Manager, Yeshe De rarely consists of more than about 25 full-time workers.

**Text production:** 4 full-time, 5 part-time

**Art:** 1, **English editing:** 1, **Prepress:** 1

**Printing:** 2, **Bindery:** 6

**Shipping:** 1, **Prayer Wheel production:** 3



We offer our heartfelt thanks to all those who have given their help to Yeshe De over the years, especially our gracious patrons, Barr and June Rosenberg.



## TNMC ORGANIZATIONS

The Yeshe De Project receives no outside funding from government grants, NGOs or foundations. Our achievements have been made possible by the generosity of individual donors and more than three decades of support by TNMC's member organizations.

Founded by the Head Lama of TNMC, these organizations were created to support the efforts to preserve and protect the heart of the Tibetan Dharma tradition and to introduce its rich potentials to a Western audience.

**Dharma Mudranalaya: Dharma Press & Dharma Publishing,  
Founded 1969**

35755 Hauser Bridge Rd., Cazadero, CA 95421  
[www.dharmapublishing.com](http://www.dharmapublishing.com)

Dharma Mudranalaya was originally founded in India in the early 1960s. Re-established in the United States, it upholds a dual mission: to help preserve the endangered Tibetan text tradition, and to offer books that showcase teachings designed for Westerners to introduce the benefit and value of Dharma study and practice. It is the only authorized publisher of the teachings Tarthang Rinpoche developed for Westerners. It has produced 288 unique titles in English, and more than 45 titles written by Tarthang Rinpoche.



Tibetan Aid Project, Founded 1969

1815 Highland Place, Berkeley, CA, 94709 (510) 848-4238  
tap@tibetanaidproject.org ~ www.tibetanaidproject.com

The Tibetan Aid Project was created to support the Tibetan Buddhist refugee community as it struggled to retain its culture and traditions in exile. For nearly twenty years, TAP has sponsored “Taste and Tribute,” a celebration and fund-raiser for Yeshe De that brings together world-class chefs for an evening of vegetarian haute cuisine, cultural presentations and talks, and a lively silent auction.

Nyingma Institute, Founded 1972

1815 Highland Place, Berkeley, CA 94709 (510) 809-1000  
www.nyingmainstitute.com

For nearly fifty years, the Nyingma Institute has sought to share glimpses of the healing potential of Tibetan Dharma with the West. Programs based on Tarthang Rinpoche’s unique teachings designed for Westerners include the gentle but effective techniques of Kum Nye Tibetan Yoga, the incisive explorations of the Time, Space, and Knowledge vision, and the creative approach to work offered by Skillful Means. Complementing these courses of study, an introduction to Nyingma teachings designed for modern work schedules encourages students to undertake more traditional study and practice.

Odiyan Retreat Center, Founded 1975

www.odiyan.org ~ contact@odiyan.org

Odiyan has been a living mandala of Buddhist sacred art and architecture for more than 45 years. Located in Northern California, it is one of



the largest Buddhist temple complexes in the United States, its sacred art and architecture a unique expression of the potential of the West to serve as fertile ground for the seeds of Dharma.

### Nyingma Centers International, Founded 1976

Nyingma Centers International was founded to support the growth of TNMC through the creation of international centers of study and practice that seek to uphold the teachings of the Nyingma tradition in the West. Nyingma Centers International has developed a comprehensive educational curriculum for the international centers based on teachings from Rinpoche's many books. Inspired by the Tibetan Buddhist tradition, these teachings were created to be accessible and directly relevant to the lives of modern students.

In Brazil:

Centro Nyingma do Brasil, São Paulo ~ [www.centronyingmabrasil.org](http://www.centronyingmabrasil.org)

Nyingma Rio ~ [www.nyingmario.org.br](http://www.nyingmario.org.br)

Centro Nyingma de Porto Alegre ~ [www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/CentroNyingmaPortoAlegre)

CentroNyingmaPortoAlegre

In Europe:

Stichting Nyingma Centrum Nederland, Amsterdam ~ [www.nyingma.nl](http://www.nyingma.nl)

Nyingma Zentrum Deutschland, Köln ~ [www.nyingmazentrum.de](http://www.nyingmazentrum.de)

In Israel:

Nyingma Israel Study Group updates and information at the Tarthang

Tulku Rinpoche Fan Club: [www.facebook.com/groups/30729315739](https://www.facebook.com/groups/30729315739)



**Ratna Ling, Founded 2004**

35755 Hauser Bridge Rd., Cazadero, CA 95421 (510) 809-4995  
[www.ratnaling.org](http://www.ratnaling.org)

The rural retreat center of Ratna Ling offers education, meditation, and wellness to the public in a beautiful, secluded setting that encourages the integration of spirit into everyday life, with teachings and practices inspired by the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. Programs are based on the writings of the Founding Head Lama.

**Mangalam Research Center, Founded 2008**


2018 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704 (510) 809-1100  
[www.mangalamresearch.org](http://www.mangalamresearch.org)


The MRC was founded to help lay the groundwork for translation of the Tibetan Buddhist written tradition into English. Cooperation with leading academic institutions around the world has led to valuable collaborations with major Western scholars of Tibetan and Indian Buddhism. MRC's groundbreaking Buddhist Translator's Workbench, designed to facilitate the translation and study of the Buddhist textual heritage, has been the recipient of numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Dharma College, Founded 2012**

2222 Harold Way, Berkeley, CA 94704 (510) 809-2010  
[www.dharma-college.com](http://www.dharma-college.com)

Dharma College is a place to explore self-knowledge through innovative courses and workshops based on the recent writings of Tarthang Rinpoche. Programs inspired by his book *Revelations of Mind* challenge students to transform the anxious, distracted, suffering mind through






a direct exploration of experience. Other courses focus on the 2016 release, *Lotus Trilogy*, which seeks to uncover the potentials of body, language, and mind. Dharma College's offerings explore the ways that a committed study of the Tibetan wisdom tradition might engender extraordinary new ways of knowing in the West.

Sarnath International Nyingma Institute, Founded 2013  
SA 14/52 P-2, Baraipur, Sarnath, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India 221007  
[www.sinibridge.org](http://www.sinibridge.org)

SINI creates and promotes dynamic bridges of goodness that are based on timeless Buddhist principles and teachings for the benefit of humanity. Courses include innovative multidisciplinary programs for English speakers, and a multi-year program in English instruction for Tibetan monastics who plan to teach Dharma to Western audiences.

SINI also hosts the Kangyur Encyclopedia Project, a global initiative to study the earliest Tibetan translations of the words of the Buddha. Founded by Tarthang Rinpoche in 2019, this multidisciplinary project has brought together some of the finest scholars of all the major Tibetan schools. High lamas have offered guidance and blessings for the encyclopedia project, including H.H. the 14th Dalai Lama, H.H. Sakya Trizen, H.H. Drikung Kagyu Rinpoche, H.E. Thrangu Tulku, and H.E. Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche. [www.sinibridge.org/encyclopedia/](http://www.sinibridge.org/encyclopedia/)

All of the organizations of the TNMC Mandala support the efforts of Yeshe De in many ways—raising funds, sponsoring costs, and offering time, energy, and expertise to the text production, shipment, and distribution process.



## How to Support Us

Our commitment to preservation remains strong, even as costs have skyrocketed. Would you like to support our work? Your contribution can help us continue to offer Tibetans durable, beautiful editions of their treasures of knowledge.

There are many ways to help support the work of Yeshe De through the organizations of TNMC:

- Sign up for online or in-person programs at TNMC organization centers—proceeds provide crucial support and permit the distribution to continue.
- Donate to TNMC organizations that support Yeshe De—your offering is tax-deductible.
- Volunteer your time, energy, and skills either directly to the Yeshe De Project or to one of our supporting organizations—we would love to work with you.

Explore the worldwide Nyingma Mandala ~ [www.nyingmamandala.org](http://www.nyingmamandala.org)

Discover our online programs ~  
[www.nyingmamandala.org/nyingma-online-offerings/](http://www.nyingmamandala.org/nyingma-online-offerings/)

Enjoy Taste and Tribute ~ [www.tibetanaidproject.org](http://www.tibetanaidproject.org)





## Volunteer at Odiyan or Ratna Ling

We offer a programs for full-time work at the Odiyan Retreat Center and at Ratna Ling. Participants at Odiyan live and work on-site, developing a wide range of skills and learning to create sacred art, help with text preservation, and participate in organic food gardening and temple maintenance. Volunteers at Ratna Ling support the Yeshe De Project by working in the Bindery at Dharma Mangalam Press.

To learn more, visit [www.odiyan.org](http://www.odiyan.org) and [volunteer.ratnaling.org](http://volunteer.ratnaling.org)

## Participate in the World Peace Ceremony, Bodh Gaya, India

Nearly every year since 1989, thousands of monks, nuns, lay practitioners and pilgrims have gathered at the site of the Buddha's enlightenment for ten days of prayers and practices. Participating in this monlam (smon lam) generates powerful merit to strengthen the Dharma as it takes root in the West and in modernized countries around the world. TNMC sends a small number of volunteer participants every year to assist with the book distribution.

Reach out to us at [yeshede@gmail.com](mailto:yeshede@gmail.com) to learn more.

## Learn More About Our Work

If you are interested in learning more about what we do, we offer an extended, 300-page brochure that offers a deeper look at the Yeshe De Project, available upon request with your donation.

For more information, contact us at [yeshede@gmail.com](mailto:yeshede@gmail.com) .



## THE FUTURE OF TIBETAN KNOWLEDGE

Correctly transmitted and understood, the Tibetan wisdom teachings have the potential to open our world view, transform our lived experience, and put a definitive end to our suffering. Great masters like Patrul Rinpoche and Lama Mipham can guide our steps on a path of meditation and orient our efforts to study the rich and ancient world of Buddhist knowledge.

We are glad to see recent efforts to translate the texts of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon into Western languages, but as these precious teachings make their way into modern cultures, it is imperative that the original Tibetan texts remain widely available so that the world's growing understanding can be firmly rooted in the authentic tradition, allowing the creation of translations that can speak directly to the heart. The efforts of the 84,000 Project have already begun to bear fruit. At the same time, the Kangyur Encyclopedia Project, based in India, has gathered traditional scholars from every school of Tibetan

Buddhism to conduct a deep study of the origins of the Kangyur. Their work will serve as the basis for new educational materials for Western and Tibetan students of every age and level of experience.

Once the Dharma came to Tibet from the Aryadesha, the motherland of India. Now it has propagated all over the world. As it gradually takes root in new lands, we can recognize a uniquely American contribution to its survival: the source of self-enlightened manifestation is nourished by the American freedom of religion. The Western expression of the right to worship, to conduct life according to one's beliefs, constitutes important human knowledge. For us Americans, it is our patrimony, our inheritance—and our gift to all sentient beings.

—Tarthang Rinpoche





# FIFTY-TWO YEARS OF DHARMA PUBLISHING & YESHE DE PROJECT WORLDWIDE

## PRESERVATION OF TIBETAN COLLECTIONS

NYINGMA EDITION OF THE BKA'-'GYUR AND BSTAN-'GYUR  
130 VOLUMES, 15,760 BOOKS

TREASURY OF YESHE DE OFFERINGS  
1,926 VOLUMES, 5,847,647 BOOKS

GREAT TREASURES OF ANCIENT TEACHINGS  
637 WESTERN VOLUMES, 34,228 MAJOR TEXTS, 69,006 BOOKS

ANCIENT BUDDHIST TEACHINGS  
151 VOLUMES, 1,589 TEXTS, 523,500 BOOKS

TIBET COLLECTION  
588,641 BOOKS

TOTAL 1,926 VOLUMES, 7,044,554 BOOKS PUBLISHED

5.25 MILLION BOOKS FREELY DISTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN  
3,300 MONASTERIES, DHARMA CENTERS AND LIBRARIES  
THROUGHOUT INDIA AND THE HIMALAYAN REGION

OVER 10,000 SETS OF THE BKA'-'GYUR FREELY DISTRIBUTED TO THE SANGHA

OVER THE LAST 32 YEARS, THE 8,000-LINE PRAJNAPARAMITA HAS BEEN  
FREELY DISTRIBUTED TO THE SANGHA 25 TIMES; A TOTAL OF 92,694 BOOKS.

## DHARMA PUBLISHING COLLECTION

288 PUBLICATIONS IN ENGLISH  
MORE THAN 45 TITLES BY TARTHANG TULKU RINPOCHE



སངས་རྒྱལ་ཀླད་གཉིས་གཙོ་དེ་བདེན་པའི་མཚོགས། ཚོས་ཉིད་ཆགས་དང་བྲལ་དེ་བདེན་པའི་མཚོགས། དགོ་འདུན་འདུས་པའི་མཚོགས་དེ་བདེན་པའི་མཚོགས།



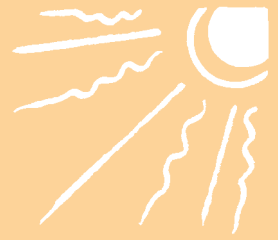
Tarthang Tulku Rinpoche lights the candle with Wangmo Dixey, and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, at the White House on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. Erika Moritsugu, Deputy Asst. to President Biden, Ven. Bhante Uparatana, representing Theravāda Buddhism, Shekar Narasimhan, Pres. of the Dharma in Action Foundation, Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, Ven. Tarthang Tulku Rinpoche, representing Vajrayāna Buddhism, Wangmo Dixey, Pres. of the Int'l. Buddhist Assoc., and Rev. Marvin Harada, representing Mahāyāna Buddhism, at the White House. | The two lower photos are Official White House photos by Cameron Smith.

In a historic first, a candle-lighting ceremony to observe and commemorate the Buddha's attainment of enlightenment, first teaching, and passing into Parinirvāṇa was conducted at the White House in celebration of the day of Vesak. Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff joined representatives of the three main traditions of Buddhism to honor this major world religion.

བདེན་པའི་མཚོན་ཁྱིའི་དཀོན་མཚོན་གསུམ་ཡིན་ཏེ། དཀོན་མཚོན་གསུམ་གྱིས་བདེན་པའི་བྱིན་བརྒྱབ་སྤྲོད་ཀྱིས། བདག་གིས་སློབ་ལམ་ཅི་བཏབ་འགྲུབ་སྐྱུར་ཅིག། ཅེས་གསུངས།



*These precious treasures are carried in procession before they are distributed.*



གདོད་དམར་ཅན་གྱི་ཡུལ་གྱུར་དོན་རྒྱུ་བའི་བསྟན་བཤེས་ལ་སྤོངས་པའི་གཞན་དྲིང་མི་འཛོག་པའི་མཐུ་ཕྱོབ་པ།  
 དར་ཐང་ཀུན་དགའ་དགོ་ལེགས་ཡི་ཤེས་དོན་རྗེས་སྤོངས་པའི་དགོ་ལོ།



Yeshe De Project—Northwestern California, USA