

Biography of His Eminence Ling Rinpoche

His Eminence Ling Rinpoche (Ling Tenzin Lungtog Trinley Choephag Rinpoche) was born on 18 November 1985 to a very poor family in the Tibetan refugee camp of Bir in Himachal Pradesh State in northern India. His mother died shortly after his birth, so his father entrusted him to the Tibetan Children's Village of Dharamsala (TCV), where he was recognized in August 1987 by His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama as the reincarnation of his Senior Tutor, the 6th Kyabje Yongzin Ling Rinpoche, who had died in 1983. In October 1987 he was enthroned as the 7th Kyabje Yongzin Ling Rinpoche. At this ceremony all who attended were impressed by his self-control and dignity, even though he was less than two years old.

The young Lama, like many of his predecessors, joined the monastery of Drepung Loseling when he was 5 years old and began studying the great philosophical treatises at the age of 10. He received successive ordinations from the Dalai Lama, firstly (minor) novice monk vows in 1993 to continue a monastic lineage, then (major) full monk or Bikshu vows in March 2004, exactly 50 years after the Dalai Lama had received them from his Senior Tutor. To conclude his studies, in November 2016, after two days of examinations and ceremonies, he obtained the title of Geshe. According to tradition, Ling Rinpoche entered the Tantric monastery of Gyutö in early 2017 to complete his tantric training for one year.

In parallel with his studies, Ling Choktrul Rinpoche has long been carrying out multiple activities for the diffusion and perennity of the Dharma. He presided over the organization of the historical teachings given in 2012 and 2015 by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama who transmitted 18 great texts of Lamrim - The Path to Enlightenment - to an assembly of approximately 40,000 people from all over the world. The day before the opening of the session, 28 November 2012, on his way to Goa airport to welcome His Holiness, Ling Rinpoche had a very serious car accident but this did not affect his determination, or his recovery. He is again participating in international events in India and many other countries. For example, in 2016-2017, he visited Australia, Canada, Korea, Israel, Mongolia, Singapore and the USA.

Like his predecessor, he shows exceptional intelligence and a no less exceptional sense of humour, he distinguishes himself from his predecessor is his loquaciousness. Since his early childhood, he receives his visitors himself and holds conversations with them: the young lamas of his generation are generally content to give their blessing, but leave any questions and answers to their assistants. He was not yet eight years old when he impressed everyone by giving a speech to several thousand people in South Korea, he was expected to smile at the people and make kind hand gestures, but he spoke and behaved like in a teaching. A few months in the United States was enough for him to speak English without any difficulties, so much so that since then, he no longer needs an interpreter when meeting with his English-speaking visitors.

We are happy and honoured to receive him in France this year for the 3rd time (the first time was in October 2005 and the second in April 2014.)

In Veneux, His Eminence Ling Rinpoche will teach on 26 and 27 May according to the following programme: (English translation and webcast available)

- Saturday, May 26:
 - 11am - 1pm: long life initiation of White Tara (no webcast)
 - 3pm - 5pm: teaching: The Three Principles of the Path to Enlightenment (webcast)
- Sunday, May 27:
 - 11am - 1pm: consecutive initiation of Je Tsongkhapa in connection with the 3 protectors (no webcast)
 - 3pm - 5pm: continuation of the teaching: The Three Principles of the Path to Enlightenment (webcast)

Information on our site: <http://gandenling.org>

On Tuesday 29 May, His Eminence Ling Rinpoche will teach in Paris, at the great pagoda of the Bois de Vincennes at the invitation of the Tibetan community of France (contact: presidentctf@gmail.com or +33 6 42 44 56 07)

On 2 and 3 June His Eminence Ling Rinpoche will be in Paris at the Espace Charenton at the invitation of the Kalachakra Centre. Information and registration: <http://centre-kalachakra.com/calendrier/37-la-fondation-de-toutes-les-qualites-avec-son-eminence-ling-rinpoche/>