

Short Biography of Geshe Losang Ténzin Lags



Geshe Losang_Ténzin Lags was born in 1982 in Dagpo county, Lhoka region in South Tibet. His birthplace stands two minutes away from Thösamling philosophical college, one of the first dwelling place of Dagpo Dratsang monks. Not far from his birthplace either, Gomchén Ngaggi Wangpo wrote the Gomchen lamrim.

Geshe Lags was four years old when he met Venerable Dagpo Rinpoche for the first time, although he has no recollection of this first encounter. In 1987, when Rinpoche went back to Tibet for the first time, he visited Geshe lags' grand-parents' house, where he had been several times in his youth. Losang Ténzin lags's family had close ties with both the monastery and Rinpoche, because Geshe lags' grand-father was one of Losang Rikzin lags' brothers.

Following the advice of Kyapjé Ngawang Lodreu, a former abbot of the monastery, Geshe Losang Rikzin lags had been asked to take care of Rinpoche when he joined Dagpo Dratsang. Geshe Losang Rikzin lags looked after Rinpoche and bore the heavy responsibility to ensure that his course of studies at the monastery went well.

When he was around eight years old, Losang_Ténzin lags was going to a school located two hours walk from his home, which hosted about one hundred students. There he studied mainly writing and calculus. He was diligent in his studies and always ranked first or second of his class. So much so that his professors, although they knew he wanted to become a monk, insisted that he changed his mind and pursue lay studies instead.

In 1992, at 10 years old, Losang_Ténzin lags joined Dagpo Shedrupling, where until 1997, he learned the melodies and rituals of the monastery, including the “South Lineage Six Preliminary

Practices” and the “Six Preliminary Practices” known as “The Necklace of the Fortunate”. He also memorized several treatises such as, among others, the “Abhisamayalamkara”, the “Madhyamika-avatara”, the “Abhidharmakosha”. Besides, he studied one of the yikcha (textbook) of the monastery on the paramitas (Perfections).

Facing stronger and stronger obstacles due to Chinese occupation, knowing that he would only be able to study seriously in India rather than in Tibet, in 1997, he decided to leave for India. He was only 15 years old when he fled with Samdroup Lags, another monk from the monastery, who is still at Kaïs now. After several weeks on foot, he arrived in Nepal and then to Dharamsala when he was granted an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Soon after, he met Venerable Dagpo Rinpoche in his monastery which had been rebuilt at Mainpath, in Central India. Losang Tenzin lags was very moved to meet again with Rinpoche and to receive from him a teaching on the South Lineage Lamrim. He was also deeply moved through the recitation of the South Lineage Jorchoe. At this time, following Rinpoche’s instruction, he memorized the outline of the Lamrim, known as the Precious Master’s Instructions.

Later, he left for Drepung Gomang in South India, where he studied the Five Great Treatises. There also he excelled in his studies and always ranked among the first of his classes. At the end of the full curriculum, he studied six more years and obtained the Geshe Lharampa degree, once again at the top of his class. He completed his studies in 2018.

At Gomang datsang, his main teachers (some of whom, we have met either at Veneux or in Kaïs) were: Geshe Yonten Gyatso lags, Gomang Khensur Rinpoche Losang Ténpa Lags, and Geshe Jampa Lags.

In 2019, Geshe Losang Tenzin lags joined Gyumed Tantric College, in South India, where he studied the mantrayana, and ranked first at his exams.

After having completed this long course of studies, Geshe lags returned to Kaïs, where is now on the permanent faculty, teaching several classes of the monastery curriculum to some hundred students.

Even before completing his studies, Geshe Lags started early to teach younger monks, first at Gomang Datsang while studying there, and at Kaïs when he was returning for the holidays. In 2005, soon after the inauguration of the new temple at Kaïs by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Geshe lags was among the first to reinstate the classes in the new building, and he even took a break from his own studies at Gomang Datsang to do so.

Geshe Lags received many public teachings from Rinpoche at Kaïs on the lamrim or other subjects, as well as private instructions. In 2016, during 80 days, he received a transmission of the Téngyur from a renowned Gelugpa teacher, Trayap Tokdèn.

Today, at the invitation of Venerable Dagpo Rinpoche, Geshe Lags is staying with us in France until the end of July.