



Biography Chödpa Norbu Renzin NORCHUNG

Chödpa Norbu was born in U-Tsang, Tibet. When he was a small child, he left Tibet with his father to attend the first Kalachakra empowerment given by HH Dalai Lama in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, India in December 1985. They traveled together on this difficult and dangerous journey without his father knowing the way from

Tibet to India and not knowing how to speak the different languages along the way. When the empowerment finished, HH Dalai Lama announced that any child that had escaped from Tibet could receive education and blessings under the protection of HH. It was an emotional and difficult time for father and son to say goodbye. His father returned to Tibet and Norbu went to Dharamshala to study at TCV (Tibetan Children's Village School) founded in 1964 by HH sister, Jetsun Pema. TCV was a well-rounded education that included Tibetan based classes on language, culture and teachings and with blessing from HH. While in school, Norbu was not a good student but much more interested in sports. After 15 years of schooling there, Norbu moved to Nepal and completed an electronic course in Nepal. Norbu would never see his parents, family or birth place in Tibet again.

In 2003, Norbu met his root guru, Mahasiddha Lama Tsering Wangdu Rinpoche in Nepal. Lama Wangdu Rinpoche is a lineage holder of the Longchen Nyintig, Shije and Chöd traditions. Norbu stayed with Rinpoche as a monk for one year at Pal Gyi Tingri Langkor Jangsem Kung Ling (Rinpoche's monastery in Nepal). After one year, due to life circumstances, Norbu had to leave the monastery but never stopped his chöd practice. Norbu shed many tears while he was far away from his Teacher, remembering him every time he did chöd, while he lived his life and especially at night. He thought of his Guru as he practiced in cemeteries and did pilgrimages. Many times he went without food, shelter and in very harsh conditions, but still would bring his Guru to mind. During this time away from his Teacher, Norbu completed the traditional preliminary practices which increased his devotion and faith in his Teacher, making the connection stronger and stronger.

After six months of being away from his Guru, Norbu was doing prostrations at the Great Stupa in Boudhanath, Nepal when he saw his Guru. Norbu ran to his Teacher and did prostrations in front of him with a heart full of joy. Lama Wangdu looked at him and said, "How are you?" Norbu Renzin was so overwhelmed and full of tears of joy that he could not answer. Lama Wangdu told him, ' he had come to his gompa (Pal Gyi Langkor Jangsem Kunga Ling Monastery) to perform the monthly chöd tsok.' Lama Wangdu invited Norbu to come and see him, which he did. Lama Wangdu gave him instructions on his chöd practice. Norbu followed those instructions precisely in his practice. He practiced exactly as his Teacher instructed him in cemeteries and on pilgrimages.

In 2009, Norbu had very strong experiences while practicing chöd. He became afraid and even believed he might be following the “wrong path” of practice. These unusual experiences forced him to meet with his Guru and ask for advice. Lama Wangdu did a “mo” (divination) and told him that his experiences were actually a blessing from both Machig Labdrön and Yumchema (Prajnaparamita). In the past Lama Wangdu had encouraged Norbu to teach others about chöd and help them to learn the traditional way of practice. After the “mo”, Lama Wangdu commanded Norbu to teach. From that day on, Norbu has been guiding students in the practice of chöd according to his Guru’s advice. The lineage has been unbroken and Norbu continues to share his knowledge and experience to this day.

Besides teaching, Norbu goes into a yearly summer retreat for several months in different holy places and cemeteries. Norbu helps those in need that have sickness or obstacles due to harming spirits and is well-known as a healer.

For 18 years, Norbu has been following the advice of his Guru Lama Wangdu. It has strengthened his devotion to the Guru and to the practice of chöd. Norbu says, “It is my responsibility to help new students, especially when I am requested to help.” There is not a day that goes by that Norbu does not teach chöd in some fashion. Norbu has devoted himself to teaching others the view, mediation and conduct for chöd for the past 12 years.