

Biography

The 11th Kirti Rinpoche

His Eminence the 11th Kirti Rinpoche Lobsang Tenzin Jigme Yeshe Gyamtso Rinpoche was born in Thewo Takmoe Gang in Amdo, Tibet in 1942. In 1945, many leading lamas including Jamyang Shepa Rinpoche recognised him as the reincarnation of 10th Kirti Rinpoche, and he was subsequently enthroned at Taktsang Lhamo Kirti monastery in 1946. Thereafter, Rinpoche pursued his monastic education from his tutors Gonpo Ludup Tulku Thardo Gyurmey Gyatso and Je Kunchok Sherab. Rinpoche received his vows of novice monk and Getsul ordination from Yongzin Gonpo Ludup Tulku in 1948. In 1954, Rinpoche started learning five major Buddhist texts as a panel of seven best *Geshes* were appointed as his Tsenshap (debating partner).

In 1957 as per the wish of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Rinpoche came to Lhasa and received teaching at Drepung Loseling monastery. The Central Government of Tibet, thereupon, conferred on him an honorary title, equal in prestige to the Tulku Namsum (Three Principal Tulkus).

Following the Chinese invasion of Tibet, Rinpoche followed H.H. the Dalai Lama into exile to India in 1959. From 1960 onwards, Rinpoche pursued higher studies in Buddhist religion and philosophy at Buxar and later at Dalhousie, both in India and received the higher vows of Buddhist monkhood from H.H. the Dalai Lama in 1962.

In 1965, through popular selection conducted by the Tibetan government, Rinpoche joined a Teacher's Training program and thereafter sought higher training in Buddhist and Tibetan Studies at the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies at Varanasi for nine years and was duly awarded the degree of Shastri and Acharya.

For a decade since 1978, Rinpoche worked as a Research Scholar at the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, Dharamsala. In 1984, as a Representative of the Tibetan Government in exile, Rinpoche visited Tibet and China, where he met many Chinese dignitaries and high Tibetan Lamas including the Panchen Lama.

In 1986, undergoing a strict traditional examination and debating at the three great monasteries of Sera, Drepung and Gaden in South India, Rinpoche was honored with the highest degree of Geshe Lharampa, equivalent to PhD.

From 1987 onwards Rinpoche served in various important offices of Tibetan Government in exile such as the office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Political Committee, constitution Re-drafting Committee and also of member of Public Service Commission at the appointment of H.H. the Dalai Lama.

In 1992, Rinpoche reestablished the Kirti Japa Dratsang (Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies) at Dharamsala.

Rinpoche issued thirteen point statement of advice for the Kirti Monastery in Tibet in 1993, as a result of which many monasteries in Tibet turned vegetarian.

In 1997, Rinpoche was elected to the office of Kashag. He took the oath of office of Kalon of Department of Religion and Culture of Central Tibetan Administration. In 2001 Rinpoche wrote a book titled *druk cu rgan po'i re'dun* as an advice for the Kirti Monastery in Tibet and brought reforms in monastic education system and regulations.

Rinpoche went into retreat for three years in 2005 at Bodhgaya, and later in 2008 he changed the Kirti ladrang to Kirti Getsa Tsokpa (Kirti Charitable Society). Rinpoche also issued a thirty two point statement of advice for his followers in Tibet in 2009.

Presently, Rinpoche is the Head of Kirti Charitable Society.