

A Brief History of Deden Tashi Choeling Temple

From the expanse of primordial purity and the emptiness of
Dharmakaya,
Pure Buddhafields of the three kayas spontaneously arose,
In the infinite purity of the primordially pure phenomena,
All are but the immortal innermost secret, the Hidden Land.

Embodiment of immeasurable Buddhas, Padmasambhava,
With His great compassion for beings in these degenerate
times,
In various significant places on the face of this planet,
Innumerable treasures were concealed, thus blessing the
world with the Hidden Lands.

The King of all Hidden Lands is Pemakod, Array of Lotuses,
Which is the shape of the body of Vajravarahi, in the form of
taming Naga beings.
Her five chakras are the five supreme sacred sites of
Pemakod,
Along with other immeasurable holy sites radiating
blessings.

In the sacred lands, the Regent of the Lotus Born, supreme
savior in this degenerate time,
The ultimate refuge, His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche,
Established two centers, the foundation for the Buddha
Dharma,
Known as the sanghas of monks and tantrikas.

In these centers, the old translation school with six great attributes,
Particularly the true chariot's upper and lower treasures of the Dudjom lineage,
These unstained pure lineages and traditions were preserved here as their main seat in Pemakod,
From these centers the pure lights of the blessings radiated in all directions.

The disciple of His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche, a great yogi in the truest sense,
Named Togden Kunzang Longdrol, The One Who is Liberated in the Expanse of Kuntuzangpo,
The great light of the Dharma that shined from His Holiness, Togden was designated as the one who would spread the teaching to all directions.

In Yang Gon Rikhrod, the retreat land of Togden,
And by his disciples in various places,
The yearly, monthly, and daily practices were performed
In which the lower and upper treasure teachings were much emphasized.

In accordance with the prophecies of Padmasambhava, and upon the infallible advice of his Guru,
Togden arrived in the Hidden Land.
Upon his arrival in these centers, Togden was appointed head of the glorious sangha of Tantrikas,
With much admiration and rejoicing of the gathering Tantrikas.

As time passed, changes occurred, as is the nature of impermanence.

The darkness which obscured the land of snow was on the rise,

So Togden received the advice that the sangha and the sacred objects of three wisdom representations

Must be relocated to the lower part of the Hidden Land.

The Hidden Land of lower Pemakod,

Among the array of five sublime chakras,

Is the secret Chakra of Maintaining great Bliss,

Thus, known by its name as the immortal inner most sacred land.

In this sacred land, long ago, under the rule of King Kanam, Grandpa Dorjee Dragpa was the head of the Pemakod region.

As both an official and a Dharma master, Dorje Dragpa made the light of Buddha Dharma

Shine forth for the first time, and great benefit to beings was achieved.

Upon His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche's advice, the Tantrika sangha members,

Enduring great hardship on passage through rugged mountains,

Transported here the sacred objects of the three representations and various ritual items,

As the sublime material means of accumulating merit for the people of Pemakod.

At the request of Togden's disciple, Lama Tsering Chodrak,
Along with the benefactor Tashi Rabten,
And all residents of Yoldong, upon such auspicious
circumstance,
Togden found this joyful retreat land as a unique place.

The retreat land with spaciousness and panoramic view,
In the front, the unceasing river of blessing flows from the
three holy sites,
And with the smile of mountains and valleys around ever
gracing the land,
It is a significant place where samadhis spontaneously arise
and ever flourish.

Togden's disciples from Powo region, yogins from Tantrika
sangha,
Including their administrators and benefactors from upper
Pemakod,
Once Togden made his descision to settle on this retreat land
of lower Pemakod,
The aspirations made in the past -- of forever being gathered
as one mandala -- came to fruition.

The ones who were always dear to Togden himself and
shared much interests,
Garwang Sangay Dorjee, great Terton Chhoje Lingpa and so
on,
The great masters, who accomplished and attained high
levels of realization,

Graced their lotus feet upon the land, and blessed the land with their aspirations for the future.

Most of the transported sacred objects were offered to His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche.

The remaining sacred objects, such as the stupa holding remains of His Holiness's root teacher Ngedon Wangpo, And other holy objects along with ritual performing instruments,

His Holiness declared were to remain as the Hidden Land's shared fortune.

All the sacred objects for the Deden Tashi Choeling Temple, As the precious objects for the yogis and yoginis from upper Pemakod,

Along with a clearly explained letter sealed with His Holiness's fingerprint, with aspirations,

Were given to Togden with assurance of great significance for the times to come.

In order to fulfill the sublime aspiration of his root guru, the Lord of the Mandala,

And to enable positivity of the Hidden Land to ever grow and flourish in this degenerate time,

Togden built the main three sacred statues of the three kayas, and also

the deity Dorje Drolod, Senge Dradrok and Simhamukha.

A Wisdom Dakini who had manifested in the form of human being,

His Holiness's mother Yum Namgyal Dolma –
A stupa to hold her remains, and various sacred objects of the
three representations,
Were built by Togden for the limitless accumulation of merit
and wisdom of future beings.

The events which were held on the Yang Gon retreat land
times in past,
And the yearly, monthly, observed days of the Tantrika
sangha in upper Pemakod,
Including one hundred thousand Tsog accumulations with
T'hroma practice,
Through these, yet again the pristine light of such precious
activities were made to shine forever in this place.

Especially, the text assembly of Vidyadhara known as
Embracing the Great Bliss,
The sacred treasure sadhana revealed in Kongpo Drasum,
Tibet,
As the shared fortune Dharma of Tantrika sanghas – with this
unique sadhana,
The Tsog offerings were made on the 10th days of the
waxing moon.

At the end of group practices, reciting Vajra Guru Mantra in
special melody,
And then after, yogins blessing the conches by blowing while
standing on each side of the temple door,
Yogins blessed the conches, blowing them by two yogins
while s

Such were the unique traditions of the masters in Tantrika sanghas of the past.

Preserving such teachings and traditions to this day is unique to Deden Tashi Choeling Temple.

In the immortal innermost sacred land of lower Pemakod,
The holy sites which liberate upon seeing, touching and remembering,
Are the Crystal mountain Padma Shri, Riwo Tala, and Citta Puri,
The real pure realms of the three kayas.

The one which embodies blessings of three holy sites is Dewa Kota,
Along with innumerable minor holy sites also shining their infinite blessings, and
Every sound of the rivers, air, and birds resonates with sacred sound of the Dharma,
All blessed mountains and valleys are embraced by multi-colored rainbows.

In the King of Guru Padmasambhava's Hidden Lands, with five sacred chakra holy sites –
Particularly on the very place where three kayas' holy sites are found –
To have constructed a Temple of the Glorious Copper-Colored Mountain, the pureland of the Guru's three kayas,
With its complete contents, is Supreme Wonderment!

Outwardly, by such merit, the qualities of the three kaya holy

sites will ever flourish.

Inwardly, obscurations arising from the three poisons will be purified in all beings.

Secretly, in all beings will awaken the union of expanse and wisdom, the three kaya pure realms.

Such auspicious causal circumstances are created by this three-story temple.

Not only magnificent to gaze upon as a feast for our eyes,
Liberation-upon-seeing, radiating unceasing blessings to all directions,

Such temple came into existence by the reincarnation of our
Guru Togden Kunzang Londrol,

With his profound positive karmas of the past and his great aspirations for all beings.

In the past, you built the three main sacred statues,
Consecrating them with profound aspiration from the virtuous deeds of the past.

And now in these fortunate times, in this generation, the meritorious results are yielding,

Thus fulfilling significant prophecies and great aspirations of masters of the past.

By the merit of creating this temple, to the beings and the environment in the Hidden Land,

May whatever deteriorations occurred in the time of degeneration be pacified,

May all prosperity and auspiciousness ever increase like a lake in summer time,

May we throughout all our lifetimes be held always in the infinite compassion of the Lotus Born!

May this place be a true center where the profound teachings of Ati, the Great Perfection,
The Lineages and their teachings, be genuinely practiced and taught.

Particularly for the profound treasure teachings of lower and upper Dudjom lineage,

May this temple be a place where such teachings will flourish til the end of existence!

May all beings, and particularly those who are related to this temple and its construction,

In the sublime palace of the Copper-Colored mountain,
Zangdok Palri,

Amidst the assembly of Vidyadharas, Dakas and Dakinis,

May the only Father, the enlightened face of the Guru Padmasambhava be seen!

At the request of Tulku Orgyen P'huntsok, I, the old father Rigzin P'huntsok, told this past story related to the temple of Deden Tashi Choeling. May whatever merit is acquired from this narration be a cause for your long life, and may the light of your Dharma activities for the benefit of all beings always illuminate the world!