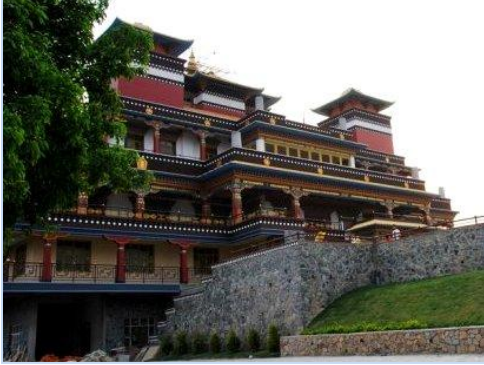


THE AMITABHA FOUNDATION RETREAT CENTER  
OPAK KYILKHOR CHÖLING



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The Amitabha Foundation Retreat Center is presently being built on a mountain top in Kopan, located approximately 8 km from Boudhanath Great Stupa, in the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal. It will be open to Buddhist practitioners of all paths.

The main structure is built upon the highest point on the hill, designed like a mandala. This, as well as the registered name of Amitabha Foundation, is the reason for the retreat center's special name "**Opak Kyilkhor Chöling**" (**The Amitabha Mandala Dharma Center**). Within the retreat center, there will be a total of sixteen temples both large and small.

The following is a detailed description of each temple's dharma objects and of each temple's daily, monthly and yearly rituals.

#### 1. TSOKHANG TASHI GOMANG - THE MAIN TEMPLE

The **Tashi Gomang Main Temple** will have *Buddha Amitabha* as its main deity at the center, with *Guru Padmasambhava* to the right and *Kyobpa Jigten Sumgön*, the founder of the *Drigung* order, to the left.

There will be two stupas, The *Namgyal Chöten* or "Victory Stupa" to the right and the *Changchub Chöten* or "Enlightenment Stupa" to the left. Above the *Namgyal Chöten* to the right there will be images of *Buddha Vajradhara* with *Tilopa* and *Naropa*, and to the left there will be the deities of Long Life: *Tsepame*, *Namgyalma* and *White Tara*. Above the *Changchub Chöten* there will be *Marpa*, *Milarepa* and *Gampopa* to the right and *Avalokiteshvara*, *Manjushri* and *Vajrapani* to the left. There will also be the *Sixteen Arhats* with *Buddha Shakyamuni* in the center on the wall to the right of *Amitabha* and the *Twenty One Taras* with a large *White Tara* in the center, to the left.

The *Kangyur* will be kept on the right side of the Enlightenment Stupa and the *Tengyur* on the left side of the Victory Stupa.

Paintings will adorn the area above the Jamthong, "colonnade window". The center wall painting will depict the *Sukhavati* Pure Land. The right wall will portray the eighty four

mahasidhas and the *Kagyudpa* Golden lineage will be depicted on the left wall. Between the windows there will be paintings of the eight bodhisattvas on one side and the eight offering goddesses on the other. On the ceiling between the beams there will be mandalas of the four yidams and the dharma protectors.

In the Tashi Gomang Main Temple, the following offering prayers and rituals will be performed by eight monks on a daily, monthly and yearly basis, according to the Tibetan calendar.

#### **Daily Prayers and Rituals:**

- Morning:** *White Tara* ritual according to the *Drigung* tradition  
Smoke offering (*Riwo Sangchö*)  
Smoke offering (Sang) to the three Dharma Protectors of the *Drigung* tradition, *Achi*, *Mahakala* and *Tsi'u-marpo*  
Ritual cake offering prayer (*Torma Gyatsa*)
- Evening:** Offering prayers to the Dharma Protectors  
Smoke Offering for holy beings and spirits (Sur)  
General Dedication Prayer (*Ngowa Monlam*)  
On alternate days, the Great *Sukhavati* Prayer according to *Chagmey Raghase* and the Pureland Aspiration Prayer according to the *Drigung* tradition.  
Prayers for the long life of: *H.H. the Dalai Lama*, *H.H. the 17<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Karmapa Orgyan Trinley Dorje*, *H.H. Drigung Kaybgon Chökyi Nangwa in Lhasa, Tibet*, *H.H. the Drigung Kyabgön Kunsang Trinley Lhundup in India*, *H.E. Palchen Galo Rinpoche* and *H.E. Ayang Rinpoche the principal master and founder of the retreat center*  
Prayer for the flourishing of the Teachings according to the *Drigung* tradition (*Tengyay Monlam*)  
Prayer for the General Flourishing of Buddhism written by *H.H. the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama* (*Tengyay Monlam*)

#### **Monthly Prayers and Rituals:**

(According to Tibetan Calendar)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prayer for the purification of all negative actions according to the *Drigung* tradition (*Nyepa Kunsel*)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Alternately, the Offering Prayer to the *Drigung* Lineage and the *Guru Yoga* offering prayer to *H.H. the 16<sup>th</sup> Karmapa (Lama Chöpa)*
- 9<sup>th</sup> Great Offering Prayer to the *Drigung* Protector Deities (long version and short *Mahakala Bernagchan*)
- 10<sup>th</sup> *Tsok* offering to the Innermost Profound Three Roots (*Yangzab Tsasum*)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Alternately, the *Namchö Amitabha Tsok* Sadhana Offering according to *Chagmey Raghase*, and the *Yangzab* Innermost Profound *Amitabha* Sadhana according to the *Drigung* tradition
- 18<sup>th</sup> *Tsok* offering to *Chakrasambhara*
- 19<sup>th</sup> Offering prayer to the *Drigung* Dharma Protectors (long version)
- 25<sup>th</sup> *Tsok* offering to *Vajravarahi*
- 28<sup>th</sup> *Medicine Buddha* ritual according to *Drigung* tradition
- 29<sup>th</sup> Offering prayer to the *Drigung* Dharma Protectors (long version and short *Mahakala Bernagchan*)
- 30<sup>th</sup> Ritual Prayer for the 16 *Arhats* according to the *Drigung* tradition

There will also be, according to *Vinaya* rules, the *Sojong* ritual for mending vows and purifying breaches for monks and nuns, as well as eight consecutive days of alternate feasting and fasting during the “White *Nyungney*” fasting period. This will be open to the public.

#### **Yearly Festivals:**

**First Month - The Month of Miracles (*Chotrül Dawa*), according to the Buddhist calendar, also called The Hundred Thousand Month (*Bumgyur Dawa*) because all practices are multiplied by 100,000.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ritual Offering to the 16 *Arhats* (*Neten Chudruk Choga*)  
Prayer for the flourishing of the Buddhist teachings (long version, *Tengye Monlam*)
- 6<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> Recitation of one billion *Amitabha* mantras (*Tungdrup Drüpchen*)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Last day of *Drüpchen: Amitabha* Empowerment (All *Tungdrup Drüpchen* open to the public)  
Liberation Prayers for dead beings (*Nedren*)

**Fourth Month – Month of the Birth, Enlightenment and Parinirvana of *Buddha Shakyamuni* (*Saka Dawa*)**

- 6<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> Recitation of one billion *Avalokiteshvara* Mantras (*Drüpchen*)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Festival of the Birth, Enlightenment and Parinirvana of *Buddha Shakyamuni* (*Saka Dawa Düchen*)  
Last day of *Drüpchen: Avalokiteshvara* Empowerment (All *Drüpchen* open to the public)

#### **Fifth Month**

- 15<sup>th</sup> Festival of World Purification (*Zamling Chisang Düchen*)  
Smoke Offering Prayer for the Purification of all Negative Actions according to the *Drigung* tradition (*Sang Nyepa Kunsel*).  
Offering Prayer for the Purification of all Negative Actions according to the *Drigung* Tradition (*Sang Nyepa Kunsel*)

#### **Sixth Month**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Festival of the Turning of the Wheel of Dharma (*Sangye Chökhör Düchen*); the first sermon by *Buddha Shakyamuni* in the Deer Park in Sarnath, India.
- 4<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> Recitation of one billion *Guru Rinpoche* Mantras (*Drüpchen*)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Last day of *Drüpchen: Padmasambhava* Empowerment and Long Life Empowerment (open to the public)

#### **Ninth Month**

- 13<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> *Vajrasattva Drüpchen*  
Recitation of one billion *Vajrasattva* Mantras (*Drüpchen*)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> **Festival of the Buddha’s Descent from the God Realm (*Lhabab Düchen*)**  
Last day of *Drüpchen Vajrasattva* Empowerment (All open to the public.)

#### **Tenth Month**

- 30<sup>th</sup> Fasting begins with the 16 days of alternate feasting and fasting *Namgang Nyüingnay*; ends on 15<sup>th</sup> of 11<sup>th</sup> month  
(Open to the public)

## Twelfth Month

23<sup>rd</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> Ritual for Removing Obstacles in the New Year (*Gutor*).

On alternate years:

1. Red Wrathful *Guru* according to the Treasure Text of *Padma Lingpa (Guru Drakmar)*
2. Blue Wrathful *Guru* according to the Treasure Text of *Chögyal Dorje (Guru Drakthing)*

## Birthdays:

Offering Prayer for the Purification of all Negative Actions according to the *Drigung* tradition (*Sang Nyepa Kunsel*)

Above prayer for the Birthdays of: *H.H. the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama*, *H.H. the 17<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje*, *H.H. Drigung Kyabgon Chökyi Nangwa*, *H.H. the Drigung Kyabgön Kunsang Trinley Lhundup*, *H.E. Palchen Galo Rinpoche* and *H.E. Ayang Rinpoche the principal master and founder of the retreat center*.

## Anniversaries:

There will be Special *Guru* Offering Prayers (*Lhadrü*) for each of the following:

*Marpa* Anniversary: Accordingly, *Damngak Zö* for the Kagyu lineage *Guru Yoga Tsok* Offering Prayer (*Tashi Dakpi Dayang*)

*Milarepa* Anniversary: *Milarepa Guru Yoga Tsok* Offering Prayer

*Gampopa* Anniversary: *Gampopa Guru Yoga Tsok* Offering Prayer

*Jigten Sumgön* Anniversary: *Jigten Sumgön Guru Yoga Tsok* Offering Prayer

*H.H. the 16th Gyalwang Karmapa Rangjung Rigpe Dorje*: Four sessions of *Guru Yoga* and *Guru Yoga Tsok* Offering Prayers

## 2. GYUDHEY LHAKHANG: THE TANTRIC TEMPLE

This will be situated above the **Tashi Gomang Main Temple** and will contain representations of the four *Yidam* Deities: *Kalachakra*, *Chakrasambhara*, *Hevajra* and *Guhyasamaja*. There will also be an image of *Yamantaka* (according to the *Drigung* Tradition), a White *Zambhala* (according to the Treasure Text of *Chögyal Dorje*), and a figure of Golden *Vaishravana*, the wealth deity. Additionally, there will be a sand mandala for each deity.

## Daily Prayers and Rituals:

Four monks will recite the medium length version of the ritual for each of the *Yidam Deities*.

## Monthly Prayers and Rituals:

Four monks will recite the long version of the rituals for each of the *Yidam Deities*.

## Yearly Prayers and Rituals:

There will be one week in each year of *Drüpchö* Offering Prayers dedicated to each of the *Yidam Deities* (seven days for each).

## Twelfth Month

23<sup>rd</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> *Yamantaka* Ritual to expel all negative forces and actions of the New Year (*Shingjey Tordok*)

### **3. GYALWA RIG NGA'I LHAKHANG: TEMPLE OF THE FIVE BUDDHA FAMILIES**

This will be situated above the *Gyudhey Lhakhang*. In the center of the temple there will be a *Buddha Amitabha* statue and mandala. Surrounding him on all four sides will be images of the four *Buddhas* of the four directions: *Vairocana*, *Akshobhya*, *Ratnasambhava* and *Amoghasiddhi*, all facing *Buddha Amitabha*.

#### **Daily Prayers and Rituals:**

Each day there will be a recitation of the medium length version of the Offering Prayer to the five *Dhyani Buddhas*.

#### **Monthly Prayers and Rituals:**

Each day there will be a recitation of the long version of the Tsok Offering Prayer to the five *Dhyani Buddhas*.

#### **Yearly Prayers and Rituals:**

Each year there will be one week of *Drüpchö* Offering Prayers dedicated to each of the five *Dhyani Buddhas*.

### **4. TENSUNG KHANG: TEMPLE OF THE PROTECTOR DEITIES**

This will be a separate section of the Main Temple, behind the *Pure Land* paintings. There will be statues of the main dharma protector deities of the *Drigung* lineage (*Tensung*): *Achi Chökyi Drölma*, *Four-armed Mahakala (Gönpo Chakshi)*, *Two-armed Mahakala (Bernagchen)* and *Chökyong Ts'u-mar*. There will be additional statues of *Shingkyong Yab-yum* (special protector of *Sukhavati*), *Rahula (Kyabjök)*, *Damchan Dorje Lekpa*, *Tseringma* and *Pehar Gyalpo*.

#### **Daily Prayers and Rituals:**

Each day there will be a recitation of the medium length version of the Offering Prayer to the Dharma Protectors.

#### **Monthly Prayers and Rituals:**

Each month on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> days there will be a recitation of the long version of the Offering Prayer to the Dharma Protectors.

#### **Yearly Prayers and Rituals:**

Each year there will be one week of the long versions of the Great Fulfillment Prayer dedicated to the Dharma Protectors. The seven day *Achi Kangdö* ritual the seven day *Kangwachemo* Offering Prayer will be performed.

### **5 – 8. THE FOUR TEMPLES AT THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE MAIN TEMPLE**

These will be dedicated to the following *Yidam* Deities:

**5. South-East Temple:** *Vajrakilaya (Dorje Phurba)*

**6. South-West Temple:** *Red Wrathful Guru (Drakmar)*

**7. North-West Temple:** *Blue Wrathful Guru (Drakthing)*

**8. North-East Temple:** *Dorje Drölo*

**Daily Prayers and Rituals:**

Each day there will be a recitation of the medium length version of the Offering Ritual for each of the *Yidam* Deities.

**Monthly Prayers and Rituals:**

Each month, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a recitation of the long version of the Offering Ritual for each of the *Yidam* Deities.

**Yearly Prayers and Rituals:****Twelfth month:**

23<sup>rd</sup>–29<sup>th</sup> *Tordok* Ritual for each of the four *Yidam* deities to expel all negative forces and actions for the New Year.

**PROTECTORS OF THE FOUR DIRECTIONS**

On each balcony on the four sides of the main temple, there will be statues of the Great Protector Kings of the Four Directions (*Gyalchen Deshi*).

Each of the temples outlined above will have shrine cabinets. There will also be special quarters (*Zimchung Kunsig Chöling*) exclusively for *H.H. the 17<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje*, *H.H. Drigung Kyabgön Chökyi Nangwa*, *H.H. the Drigung Kyabgön Kunsang Trinley Lhundup*, as well as for other High Lamas. These quarters will have statues and shrine cabinets.

**OPAK KYILKHOR CHÖLING RETREAT SECTION**

Within *Opak Kyilkhör Chöling* there will be a retreat section called ***Drubdhey Samten Gatsel Ling*** (The Garden of Happiness Meditation Center). It will consist of eight clusters of eight cottages, each arranged in the eight directions, to represent the eight sections. Each cluster will have a special name according to the practice for which it is reserved. They will also have a special shrine temple for the teachings and prayers corresponding with each cluster's particular practice.

The retreat cottages will be self-contained independent units that will include a bedroom, kitchen and bathroom on the ground floor and a shrine and practice room on the top floor.

**1. CHAKCHEN CHÖLING: MAHAMUDRA SECTION**

Here there will be representations of *Buddha Vajradhara*, Tilopa, Naropa, Nagarjuna, *Saraha*, the 1<sup>st</sup> *Gyalwang Karmapa Dusum Kyenpa*, the founder of the *Drigung* lineage *Jigten Sumgon* and *H.H. the 16<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Karmapa Rangjung Rigpe Dorje*. These images will be painted in traditional thangka style and hung on walls.

**2. NARO CHÖLING: THE SIX YOGAS OF NAROPA SECTION**

Here there will be images of *Buddha Vajradhara*, Tilopa, Naropa, Marpa, Milarepa, Gampopa, Phagmo Drupa, Nagarjuna, and Jigten Sumgon.

**3. NEGU CHÖLING: THE SIX YOGAS OF NEGUMA SECTION**

This will have paintings of the *Negu chödruk*, the *Shangpa Kagyu* refuge tree and the *Guru Yoga* lineage masters.

#### **4. DZOGCHEN CHÖLING**

This will have *Buddha Samanthabhadra* and the twelve original *Dzogchen* masters.

#### **5. NGÖNDRO CHÖLING: PRELIMINARY PRACTICE SECTION**

This will have the refuge tree and *guru yoga* lineage masters, as well as a painting of the traditional mandala offering.

#### **6. SHINAY CHÖLING: SHAMATHA (CALM ABIDING) PRACTICE SECTION**

This will have an image of *Buddha Shakyamuni*, the six students (*Thokmed, Yingnye, Choklang, Choedak, Nyenthü Shiwawoe, Shakyawoe*) and the two supreme ones (*Nagarjuna* and *Aryadeva*). There will also be a painting of the *shinay* drawing illustrating an elephant and a monkey.

#### **7. YIDAM CHÖLING: DAILY DEITY PRACTICE SECTION**

This will show the Five Buddha families, *Chakrasamvara, Kalachakra, Hevajra, Guhyasamaja, Yamantaka, Vajrakilaya, Red Wrathful Guru, Blue Wrathful Guru and Dorje Drölo*.

#### **8. LU- JIN CHÖLING: OFFERING THE BODY PRACTICE SECTION**

This will have the Chöd practice refuge tree.

#### **CONFERENCE HALL**

There will be a conference hall where discussions and talks will be held with the purpose of cultural exchange between the Western and Eastern worlds.

#### **LIBRARY**

There will be a general library which will contain books in various languages. This will be situated below the front balcony of the Main Temple and will be for the general public use. Additionally, there will be the H.E Palchen Galo Dharma Translator Training and Research Center.

#### **MEDICAL CLINIC**

There will be a Medical Clinic providing general medical treatment.

#### **CHARITY SECTION**

A Charity section will provide clothing, food, money etc. to the local people in need

The entire Center and surrounding grounds will be a refuge of compassion to all animals in promoting animal liberation. Programs to actively liberate captured wildlife and fish will be encouraged. The building of birdhouses will be also be promoted.

*Opak Khilchor Chöling's* wish is that compassion and loving kindness will extend past our local boundaries to promote world peace and that all beings will be freed from the oceans of samsaric suffering by achieving Buddhahood.

Donations of any size are gratefully accepted. To receive a US tax deduction make your check payable to Amitabha Foundation and mail it to:

109 Irvington Road  
Rochester, NY 14620 USA

Donations may also be made directly to the Amitabha Foundation, Nepal bank account:

Bank Name: Standard Chartered Bank

Branch Name: Naya Baneshwor Branch

Bank Address: Naya Baneshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal

Swift Code: SCBLNPKA

Account (Beneficiary) Name: Amitabha Foundation

Beneficiary's Address: P.O Box 21055, Ward No 6, Kapan VDC, Kathmandu, Nepal

Account Number: 01-1040987-01

Contact Name: Lobsang Gyaltsen

