

Amitabha Meditation Centre

BODHGAYA, INDIA



HIS EMINENCE AYANG RINPOCHE TEACHING



ABOVE: AMITABHA BUDDHA TEMPLE, NEPAL
BELOW: TRADITIONAL TIBETAN DETAIL



LIMITLESS LIGHT

Amitabha Buddha is revered throughout Asia as the Buddha of Limitless Light. Light here is a metaphor for boundless love, compassion and wisdom. It also represents the “inner light” possessed by all beings: the true nature of our minds, according to Buddhist teachings.

THE AMITABHA FOUNDATION

The Amitabha Foundation is an international network of groups founded by senior Tibetan Buddhist Lama His Eminence Ayang Rinpoche to express the light of the love and wisdom of Amitabha Buddha throughout the world. “Rinpoche” is a rarely-bestowed title meaning “Precious Teacher”, and Ayang Rinpoche is widely known as a Bodhisattva: a person who has abandoned all selfish and personal aims to devote their life to others.

CHARITABLE PROJECTS AND TEACHINGS BY AYANG RINPOCHE AND THE AMITABHA FOUNDATION

Rinpoche and his Amitabha Foundation have already accomplished many practical charitable projects such as hepatitis immunisation, education sponsorship, safe roads, fresh water supply and the provision of safe childbirth facilities in Nepal, India and Tibet/west China. Rinpoche has also travelled widely at the request of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, other great Masters, and thousands of students all over the world, to teach some of the highest meditation techniques within Tibetan Buddhism. He has particularly specialised in teaching Phowa (a highly effective practice to ease the passing of the dying) and in introducing students directly to their own “inner light” or True Nature of Mind.

Now aged 80, he is also one of the last remaining high Lamas (traditional Buddhist Masters) to have been brought up in “old” Tibet and to possess extensive personal knowledge of its finest traditions of temple construction, art, sculpture and design. Hence he is one of the very few now able to preserve these traditions authentically as a living form of spiritual inspiration, which is their true function.

AMITABHA BUDDHA TEMPLES

Drawing on his rare heritage, Rinpoche has designed two unique Amitabha Buddha temples. One, situated high over the Kathmandu valley in Nepal and pictured at left, is now complete. Its inspirational beauty is such that it features prominently in Nepalese tourist publicity, and was described as “like the Sistine Chapel of Asia” by one awe-struck visitor.

The second (pictured page 2) is under construction in Bodhgaya, a World Heritage site sacred to all Buddhists as the holy place of the Buddha’s enlightenment. Here, Rinpoche has begun to create a large temple complex including accommodation, a library, and a conference centre to host international events for ecumenical harmony. The complex will also provide a long term home for Rinpoche’s specialist Tibetan Buddhist teachings concerned with the needs of the dying.

It is this visionary temple complex in Bodhgaya for which we are now seeking funding.

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ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF AMITABHA BUDDHA TEMPLE, BODGHAYA



THE SPECIAL ROLE AND SPIRITUAL POWER OF THE AMITABHA TEMPLE, BODHGAYA

Like the Nepal temple, the Amitabha Temple in Bodhgaya is actually a uniquely special building. It is a "rupa": an object that has the ability through its spiritual power to introduce a sensitive, open person to the true nature of reality and their own mind. It is said that even when the Buddha's written and spoken teachings have faded from this earth, they will still be represented by "rupas" such as this temple which will continue to comfort and inspire suffering beings.

FUNDING THE BODHGAYA PROJECT

Rinpoche's "temple in the clouds" in Nepal was partly financed by his own students all over the world, but principally by a generous sponsor in Taiwan.

After this sponsor was badly affected by the global financial crisis, the sole supporters of the Bodhgaya temple have been Rinpoche himself through his international teaching tours (drastically curtailed by COVID 19) and his Amitabha Foundation students. Rinpoche and we have made determined efforts to raise the necessary money, and have managed to fund the "shell" of the building (pictured above).

FUNDING SHORTFALL

With all expenses rising in India, costs to complete the Bodhgaya project are now approximately \$USD3,500,000.

Ayang Rinpoche is now 80 years old. As the sole repository of the necessary expertise and wisdom to finish this project, it is essential that it is completed in his lifetime.

WHO MIGHT HELP – AND WHY?

Buddhists believe that anyone who helps a Bodhisattva achieve his or her aims shares in the spiritual merit of the Bodhisattva's vision – and the grander the vision, the greater the merit or virtue to be shared. The special spiritual power of this temple puts it in a very rare category.

We are now pinning our hopes on the wise kindness of others to bring it to completion.

FINANCIAL PROBITY AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Donations can be made through Amitabha Foundation Australia, a registered charity, or through Amitabha Foundation USA (likewise a registered non-profit charity). We transfer funds to Rinpoche's registered charity in India, the Drikung Charitable Society. Alternatively we can forward the necessary information to donate direct to the Drikung Charitable Society.

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