

His Holiness the Gyalwa Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje

Visit to Shimla, July 5 to July 9, 2003

His Holiness the Seventeenth Gyalwa Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Dorje, supreme head of the Kagyu Lineage, was invited to Shimla, capital of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, by the Indo-Tibetan Friendship Foundation as well as by various organizations and offices of the Tibetan government, monasteries and schools.

On July 5, 2003 at 6 a.m., His Holiness along with a small personal entourage departed from Gyuto Monastery to take a ferry to Shimla, where he arrived at 12:15 p.m. He was first welcomed at Baluganj, where he was received with welcoming scarves by local officials of the Tibetan government. From there His Holiness traveled to Thubten Dorje Drak, the Nyingma monastery that was the center of preparations for His Holiness' visit. Tsetrul Rinpoche, the head of Thubten Dorje Drak, received His Holiness with welcoming scarves. This was followed by lamas and monks from the monastery performing an elaborate traditional welcoming ceremony for His Holiness, which was also attended by local government officials and patrons of the monastery. Tsetrul Rinpoche then offered His Holiness a mandala ceremony along with body, speech, and mind representations, followed by the formal offering of tea and rice. His Holiness spent the rest of the day resting.

On July 6, at 9:40 a.m., His Holiness departed from Thubten Dorje Drak monastery for the Central School for Tibetans of the Tibetan government. There he was received as the guest of honor for the celebrations of the birthday of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The local Tibetan government officer Kunga Dorje gave a speech that offered words of welcome and an introduction to the anniversary. Other welcoming speeches included that of Professor V.S. Negi, the general secretary of the Indo-Tibetan Friendship Foundation. His Holiness was offered performances by fine arts troupes of local schools as well as by the local Tibetan women's group. His Holiness then kindly bestowed an address of advice to the audience gathered there. At 12:15 p.m., the anniversary ceremonies were completed and His Holiness returned to Thubten Dorje Drak. At 3:00 p.m. His Holiness visited the Home for Tibetan Senior Citizens in response to its invitation. There, in addition to giving a reading transmission for Avalokiteshvara, he gave a speech containing profound advice on what to accept and reject in this and future lives, which pleased the hearts of those in attendance.

After performing a consecration ceremony at the seniors' home, His Holiness visited the temple of Takten Phuntsok Ling, the main monastery of Gyalwa Jonangpa. The Abbot of the monastery offered to His Holiness a mandala ceremony along with representations of body, speech, and mind, followed by tea and rice. In accordance with the supplications of the heads of the monastery, His Holiness then taught on and gave a transmission in connection to a text composed by the 13th Karmapa Dudul Dorje entitled *A Song of*

Understanding, Experience, and View (Tib. go nyams lta ba'i glu). He also gave a profound address about the ways of dharmic and temporal living. The audience in attendance then offered His Holiness a recitation of the prayer composed by Jamgon Kongtrul Lodro Thaye entitled *An Aspiration for the Expansion of the Jonang Teachings (Tib. jo nang bstan rgyas smon lam)*. His Holiness then retired back to Thubten Dorje Drak for the evening.

On July 7, at 9:00 a.m. His Holiness very kindly bestowed a long-life empowerment of the buddha Amitayus along with related teachings. In the afternoon, His Holiness visited the Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Handicraft Society where he gave consecration blessings. After that he was offered a tour of the state government's Indian Institute for Advanced Studies, which concluded the day's events.

On July 8, at 9:00 a.m., His Holiness departed the Dorje Drak monastery, after which he engaged in sightseeing at Naldehra, Kufri, and Chail. He was served lunch at the Chail Palace Hotel. At that time His Holiness was greeted by the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Vishnu Sadashiv Kokje.

On July 9, at 6:30 a.m., His Holiness departed from Shimla and on his return route to Gyuto Monastery dined for lunch at Hamir Himachal Tourism. He arrived back at Gyuto Monastery at around 2 p.m.