

The Ceremony of Welcoming and Opening of the Golden Kagyur

In Tibetan Buddhism there are more than one hundred volumes of Kagyur (bka' 'gyur), Buddha's teachings, and more than two hundred volumes of Tangyur (bstan 'gyur), the works of Indian masters, translated from Sanskrit into Tibetan language. They are available in various editions such as of Dege, Coni, Lhasa, Nathang etc.

Regarding the current reprint of Golden Kagyur, the Emperor China order to commission a set of Golden Kagyur in Tibetan Language which started in the year 1666 CE and completed in 1669 CE, within three years. They preserved it in China until there was the danger due to rising control of mainland China by communist reign led by Mao. The Chinese leadership led by Gomingtang escaped and brought some invaluable artefacts with them including this very complete set of Tibetan Golden Kagyur to Taiwan. It is currently housed in the Taiwan National Museum as one of the most important artefacts. Not only the calligraphy, but also the great details of artwork reflect the high level of artistic skills. The present reproduction of the Golden Kagyur consists 108 volumes excluding a volume of catalogue and two volumes of mandalas and deities pictures.



The Dakshinavan Bhikhuni Sangha Ashram, Taiwan, has very generously gifted a complete set to Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies. This would be a very valuable addition to the existing Kagyur collection of the library. At present library has eight different editions of the Kagyur in book, Deb-Chen and Pothe formats which includes Dege, Narthang, Urga, Ladakh Tog, Lhasa, Tselpa, Golden Mss and comparative editions of the Kagyur.

On arrival of the Golden Manuscript, a ceremony was organised for “Welcoming and Opening of the Golden Kagyur” in the library Central hall on 27th March 2021 in Tibetan tradition wearing traditional brocade robes and hats, bearing traditional incense bowl, blowing traditional monastic flutes, circumambulating the set of Kagyur as well as Buddha statue, offering of Tibetan scarves (Khatags) by all the staff monks and Departmental Heads and Faculty Deans including senior administrative officers.

Prof. Geshe Ngawang Samten explained about the Golden Kagyur and the donor organisation and its arrival at the Institute. Thereafter, Geshe Ngawang Tenphel, the chanting master, led the prayers. Later, every volume was distributed among participants and all randomly read some pages from every volume as an auspicious sign of receiving blessings of the Buddha's teachings at Sarnath where Buddha gave his First Dharma Sermon.

Some of the main participants were Prof. Geshe Ngawang Samten, the Vice Chancellor of the Institute, Prof. Tashi Tsering, the Librarian, Prof. Geshe Lobsang Gyaltsen, the Head of Gelug School, Dr. Ransheel Kumar Upadhyay, the Registrar, Dr. Himanshu Pandey, the Deputy Registrar and Mr. Pramod Kumar Singh, the Assistant Registrar.



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The entire family of the university expresses its gratitude and appreciates the generosity of authorities and the members of the Dakshinavan Bhikhuni Sangha Ashram, Taiwan. The merits of reading and studying Golden Kagyur earned and to be earned are dedicated to the Bhikuni Sangha members and all the sentient beings.



