



# LIBRARY OF TIBETAN WORKS & ARCHIVES

CENTRE FOR TIBETAN STUDIES

## Courses in

- ☞ Buddhist Philosophy
- ☞ One Year Special Buddhist  
Philosophy Course
- ☞ Tibetan Language

2026

11 March - 11 December



**THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESERVATION, DISSEMINATION AND CONTINUATION OF THE UNIQUE CULTURE OF TIBET HAS DEVOLVED UPON THE SHOULDERS OF THE TIBETAN PEOPLE. THE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE FUNCTIONING OF THE LIBRARY OF TIBETAN WORKS AND ARCHIVES ASSUMES THE UTMOST IMPORTANT IN THE PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THAT RESPONSIBILITY.**

**HIS HOLINESS THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DALAI LAMA**



## INTRODUCTION

In the little hill resort of Dharamsala in Himachal Pradesh state of India, stands a large colourful building known as the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives (LTWA), popularly known as Tibetan Library. Designed with an architectural blend of modern and traditional Tibetan styles, it was conceived and founded by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. The foundation-stone of the building was laid on 11 June 1970 and the library officially began to function on 1 November 1971.

It houses cultural remnant of a civilization on the verge of extinction due to ideological encroachment and exile. It was established with the aim of preserving and propagating the rich culture of Tibet to counter the massive destruction it had suffered after the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1959 and the subsequent campaigns to eliminate Tibetan culture. The LTWA stands out as one of the finest examples of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's efforts to preserve, expand and promote Tibetan cultural heritage.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the LTWA are to provide comprehensive Tibetan cultural resources and to promote an environment that encourages research and an exchange of knowledge between scholars and students. These factors are of the utmost importance in a contemporary world shaped by political and spiritual confusion. In trying to fulfill its aims and objectives, the Library's priorities include:

- ✓ Acquiring and conserving Tibetan manuscripts, books, artifacts, and works of art
- ✓ Providing access to books, manuscripts, and reference works (in Tibetan as well as in foreign languages) in study areas within the premises
- ✓ Compiling bibliographies and documentation of the Library holdings and related literature available worldwide
- ✓ Providing copies and prints of the resources and acting as a reference centre for such source materials
- ✓ Publishing books and manuscripts under the LTWA imprint
- ✓ Supporting research scholars
- ✓ Offering Buddhist philosophy, Tibetan language, and culture classes

The LTWA is firmly dedicated to a threefold vision of preservation, protection, and promotion of Tibetan cultural heritage.

## BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY COURSES

The LTWA offers daily Buddhist philosophy classes to help people appreciate and understand "reality" and help them deal with daily life. The classes are taught by qualified geshes in Buddhist philosophy who have dedicated a major part of their lives to study and practice. English translators are provided. Courses focus either on specific

Indian or Tibetan texts or on significant topics of Buddhist philosophy and practice. The texts covered in the classes provide the foundation for a lifetime of meditation practice. Every day fifteen minutes of the class is dedicated to meditation practice, and Buddhist logic and debate is taught every Wednesday in the classes.

**Note:** *Dates and times may change due to scheduled or unscheduled public teachings given by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Such changes will be announced in advance. There will be no classes on Saturday, Sunday, and other official holidays. Occasionally a class may need to be cancelled or postponed. Prospective students are therefore requested to call, email, or visit [www.tibetanlibrary.org](http://www.tibetanlibrary.org) to confirm the schedule before coming to the LTWA. The summer break is from July 14 to 31 and the winter break begins on December 11.*

**Important information:**

- ✓ *All students are requested to attend the opening ceremony in the LTWA Conference Hall at 10 am, March 11.*
- ✓ *Buddhist philosophy students will also receive the LTWA certificate on completion of a Buddhist topic/s or text/s in a semester provided that the students have at least 80% of attendance.*
- ✓ *All the LTWA students will celebrate the closing ceremony together after each semester.*

**FIRST BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY CLASS**

**Time:** 9:00 am to 10:15 am

**Teacher:** Geshe Gyaltzen Tsering

**Text:** ***Blaze of Quotations and Logic***

*(Tib: ལྷ་བ་བཀའ་རྟགས་ཀྱི་ཕྱག་རྒྱ་བཞིའི་གནད་དོན་གསལ་བའི་རྒྱན་མེ་ལུང་རིགས་འོད་འབར། Wylie: *lta ba bka' rtags kyi phyag rgya bzhi'i gnad don gsal ba'i sgron me lung rigs 'od 'bar*) and ***Essence of Superfine Gold*** (Tib: ལམ་རིམ་གསེར་རྒྱན་མ། Wylie: *lamrim gser zhun ma*)*

**11 March – 11 December**

The textbook for this year's class with Geshe Gyaltzen-la is ***The Blaze of Quotations and Logic, a Lamp Illuminating the Significance of the Four Seals of the Buddha's Teachings***, authored by a renowned Tibetan Buddhist teacher Gen Lamrimpa Ngawang Phuntsok and ***The Essence of Superfine Gold*** by the H.H Third Dalai Lama, Sonam Gyatso.

Gen Lamrimpa's *Blaze of Quotations and Logic* is a text written in the classical Tibetan scholastic style; as it explains the Four Seals, it employs scriptural quotations and logical reasoning. During the time of the Buddha, he spoke emphatically about these Four Seals, not just once or twice, but over and over again, and he would often even get up close to dogs, cattle and other animals and whisper into their ears these four points. Sometimes, the Four Seals are counted as three: All conditioned phenomena are impermanent; all phenomena are empty and selfless; and Nirvana is peace and virtue. But commonly we refer to the four points listed as the Four Seals of the Buddhist view.

When it comes to the actual interpretation of the Four Seals, in terms of level of refinement, there are many variances between the different Buddhist schools of thought. Nevertheless, basically the Four Seals are unanimously accepted by all Buddhists and are one of their main subjects of study, contemplation and meditation.

Essence of Superfine Gold is the most famous literary composition of the Third Dalai Lama (1543-1588). It is a condensed but comprehensive commentary on Je Tsongkhapa's (1357-1419) *A Song of Spiritual Experience*, which is the seminal guide on the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment of the Beings of Three Capacities. Although brief, this text summarizes the three principal paths of the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha.

### Recommended texts

- Dharmakirti's Commentary on Valid Cognition (Skt. Pramāṇavārttika, Tib. ཚད་མ་རྣམ་འགྲེལ།), Chapter 2,
- Je Tsongkhapa's *Middle-Length Treatise on the Stages of Path to Enlightenment* (བྱང་ཆུབ་ལམ་རིམ་འབྲིང་བ།)
- Teachings on Je Tsongkhapa's *Three Principal Aspects of the Path*, with commentary by the 14th Dalai Lama, LTWA.
- Dza Patrul Rinpoche's *The Words of My Perfect Teacher* (ཀུན་བཟང་རྒྱ་མཐོང་གསུང་།)
- The Ornament of Liberation (དུགས་ལོ་ཐར་རྒྱན།)

## SECOND BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY CLASS

**Time:** 10:30 am to 11:45 am

**Teacher:** Geshe Lobsang Tsondue

**Texts:** **Thirty Seven Practices of Bodhisattava** (Tib: ལྷན་སྐབས་ལྷག་མེད་ལོ་བདུན་མ། Wylie: rgyal sras lag len so bdun ma) and Nagarjuna's **Letter to a Friend** (Skt: *Suhrllekha* Tib: བཞེས་པའི་བྲིངས་ཡིག།)

### 11 March – 11 December

Before beginning the Thirty-seven Practices of Bodhisattva's, it's important to understand a little about the situation we're in, which is called "Cyclic Existence" or "Samsara" in Sanskrit. Unless we have a general understanding about Cyclic Existence, its causes, nirvana as alternative, and the path to peace, these 37 ways in which Bodhisattva's practice won't necessarily make a lot of sense to us. There are two reasons to teach these practices: the first is to help people solve their current problems and find more happiness in this life. The second is so they can attain liberation and enlightenment. The text is taught to give you tools to help you in this life, as well as to free ourselves and others from cyclic existence. If you aspire for liberation and enlightenment, you need to know from what you want to be liberated. That means you should understand the present situation you are in and what causes it. This is crucial for any deep spiritual practice. Otherwise, it is very easy for our spiritual practice to be defiled by the eight worldly concerns. But when we are aware of what cyclic existence is

and have a sincere wish to be free from it—that is, to renounce suffering and its causes—then the motivation for our spiritual practice becomes quite pure.

After completing the Thirty-Seven Practices of Bodhisattva, Geshe la will teach Nagarjuna’s Letter to a Friend. The teaching gives a concise and comprehensive introduction to the entire path and practice of Buddhism. It guides both householders and the ordained onto the path leading to liberation and enlightenment. The instructions are of special interest to those who wish to take up spiritual activity while continuing to live and work in society; they are meant to convey the whole meaning of the Dharma to the ordinary person in a language and style that are easy to understand.

## AFTERNOON BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY CLASS

**Tibetan language only (no translation will be provided)**

**Duration: 1 Year**

**Dates: 11 March –11 December 2026**

**Class timing: Monday to Friday 2 – 3 pm**

**Teacher: Geshe Lobsang Tsundue**

Topics: **The Compendium of Abhidharma** (*Skt: abhidharma-samuccaya, Tib: མདོན་པ་གུན་བཅུ་ལྔ་པ་*)

Geshe Lobsang Tsundue will begin the year by teaching The Compendium of Abhidharma to those students who really wish to study the text in Tibetan language. The Abhidharma-samuccaya is a systemic explication of the Abhidharma teaching of all core principles of Buddhism. It is one of the important sourcebooks of the Yogācāra and Vijñānavāda schools. The treatise contains two divisions with four sections in each, and is a distillation of the larger contents of the same two divisions of the voluminous Yogācārabhūmi-śāstra. A large part of the contents illuminates also teachings common to the Śrāvakayāna and Pratyekabuddhayāna, while explaining principles that apply to Bodhisattvas. The text analyzes the three classes of phenomena, the thirty-seven factors of enlightenment, and the full range of the mental factors, offering multiple approaches to examine them and apply them effectively in practice, including insight meditation.

### **Admission requirements:**

Admission is open to anyone – Tibetan and non-Tibetan alike – with proficiency in colloquial and written Tibetan. Prospective students should already have a foundation in Dharma terminology. Reading knowledge of *ümed* scripts is also necessary for reading any notes Geshe-la may write on the white board during the class.

## SPECIAL BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY CLASS

The LTWA organizes evening Buddhist philosophy class occasionally. The program is especially aimed at the CTA staff members and other Tibetans living in and around Gangchen Kyishong. However, anyone who is interested may attend the classes. The Director, Geshe Lhakdor, and two other geshees will teach in turn.

## TIBETAN LANGUAGE COURSES

The LTWA also offers daily Tibetan language classes taught by experienced teachers to help people better understand Tibetan culture. Tibetan language courses are taught in two semesters: **March 11 to July 14**, and **August 3 to December 11**. There are three regular Tibetan language classes: basic, intermediate, and higher intermediate; and two regular speaking classes: basic and intermediate. There are two other classes: one basic casual Tibetan language class and one early morning advanced Tibetan language class. The classes are held five days a week from Monday to Friday.

### Note:

1. Serious students who wish to receive the LTWA certificate on completion of a semester must sit for monthly tests.
2. New students who wish to study basic Tibetan language will be admitted to the Casual Tibetan Language Course at any time during a semester. For other Tibetan language and speaking classes, new students will not be admitted after the third week of a semester.

## REGULAR TIBETAN LANGUAGE COURSES

### 1. Basic Tibetan Language Course:

Beginning with the alphabet, vowels, and combinations of letters, students learn the fundamental structure of the language, how to make simple sentences, and so forth. The aim at this level is to train students in reading and simple conversation.

**Time:** 9:00 am to 10:00 am

**Teacher:** Tashi Tsomo

**Substitutes:** Palden Tsomo and Ani Norzom

**Textbooks:** 1. *Colloquial Tibetan: A Textbook of the Lhasa Dialect* (LTWA pub.)  
2. *A Standard Tibetan Pronunciation* (not published yet)

### 2. Intermediate Tibetan Language Course:

The intermediate course is a stepping-stone to the upper intermediate course. Students in this course reinforce and extend their command of Tibetan grammar and idioms. The main aim of this class is to help students become confident in Tibetan.

**Time:** 9:00 am to 10:00 am

**Teacher:** Bhu Dawa  
**Substitutes:** Ani Phuntsok Wangmo and Palden Tsomo  
**Textbooks:** *Tibetan Folk Story*

### **3. Higher Intermediate Tibetan Language Course:**

In this course, Tibetan grammar and honorific words are taught. The class also touches on aspects of Tibetan culture and religion to provide students with a basis for discussing Buddhism in Tibetan.

**Time:** 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm  
**Teacher:** Tashi Tsomo  
**Substitutes:** Ani Phunstok Wangmo  
**Textbooks:** 1. *Lectures on Tibetan Religion and Culture (LTWA publication)*  
2. *Particles and Exercises (handout)*

## **REGULAR TIBETAN SPEAKING COURSES**

### **1. Basic Tibetan Speaking Course:**

This course is aimed at assisting our students to communicate in Tibetan, thereby enriching their knowledge of the feelings and basic way of life of Tibetans. The main aim of this class is to help students become more confident in spoken Tibetan.

**Time:** 10:30 am to 11:30 am  
**Teacher:** Palden Tsomo  
**Substitutes:** Tashi Tsomo  
**Textbook:** *Speak Fluent Tibetan (LTWA publication)*

### **2. Intermediate Tibetan Speaking Course:**

Students will reinforce and extend their command of spoken Tibetan, thereby enriching their knowledge of the feelings and basic way of life of Tibetans. The main aim of this class is to help students become more confident in speaking Tibetan.

**Time:** 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm  
**Teacher:** Palden Tsomo  
**Substitute:** Bhu Dawa  
**Textbook:** *Speak Tibetan the Tibetan Way (LTWA publication)*

## **CASUAL TIBETAN LANGUAGE COURSE**

### **Casual Tibetan Language Class:**

Beginning with the alphabet, vowels, and combinations of letters, students learn the fundamental structure of the language, how to make simple sentences, and so forth. The aim at this level is to train students in reading and simple conversation.

- Time:** 10:00 am to 11:00 am  
**Teacher:** Acharya Ani Norzom  
**Textbooks:** 1. *A Basic Grammar of Modern Spoken Tibetan* (LTWA publication)  
2. *A Standard Tibetan Pronunciation* (not published yet)

## INTENSIVE LEARNING PROGRAMS

The LTWA organizes two yearly intensive learning programs. A three-month Intensive Translation Program was started in 2006 and a two-month Intensive Tibetan Studies Program was started in 2011. This year, the **Intensive Tibetan Studies Program** is tentatively scheduled from **April to May**, and the **Intensive Translation Program** is from **July to September**. A minimum of fifteen students are required to run the programs and a maximum of forty students are admitted to each program. The programs are open to Tibetans and others from the Himalayan regions and foreigners who have a good command of the Tibetan language.

In the Intensive Tibetan Studies Program, students are taught Tibetan language and literature, Buddhist philosophy and practice, and Tibetan history. In the Intensive Translation Program, students are taught Tibetan language and literature, Buddhist philosophy and practice, English language and literature, and translation methodology.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE FACULTY MEMBERS

### BUDDHIST PHILOSOPHY TEACHERS

**Geshe Lhakdor** is director of the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives. He served as His Holiness the Dalai Lama's official translator for sixteen years. In 1982 he received his master's degree in English from Punjab University, Chandigarh and MPhil from Delhi University. He received his geshe degree from Drepung Loseling Monastic University in 1995. He has worked as a co-translator of several books by HH the Dalai Lama, the notable among which are *The Way to Freedom*, *The Joy of Living and Dying in Peace*, *Awakening the Mind and Lightening the Heart*, and the *Stages of Meditation* (commentary on the *Bhavanakrama*).

**Geshe Lobsang Tsondue** was born in Reting, Ü-Tsang, Tibet. He began his religious studies at the age of twelve at Sera Monastery in Tibet where he studied Buddhist philosophy until he was forced to flee Tibet in 1985. He received his geshe degree from Sera Monastery in south India in 2003. After that he studied tantra at Gyutoe Tantric University for one year. He taught Buddhist philosophy to the nuns of Kopan Monastery in Nepal for three years before joining the LTWA in 2005.

**Geshe Gyaltzen Tsering** was born in Kham Draggo, Tibet. He began his religious studies at the age of 18 with his uncle at Rasang mountain retreat in Tibet. He then continued to study Buddhist philosophy in Draggo Monastery for five years. He fled Tibet in 1988

and studied Buddhism for the next 25 years in Drepung Loseling Monastery in south India. He received his geshe lharampa degree in 2013. After that he studied tantra at Gyumey Tantric University for one year. He was invited to teach at the LTWA in 2014.

## **TRANSLATORS**

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**Tsering Norbu** holds an Uma Rabjampa degree (MA equivalent) in Tibetan studies and Buddhist philosophy from the Institute of Buddhist Dialectics, Dharamsala. He has been translating at the LTWA since 2010.

**Phurbu Dolma** has a bachelor's degree in Tibetan Studies from the College for Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah and a bachelor's degree from Delhi University. She has been translating at the LTWA since 2012.

**Jampa Choejor** earned his Shastri degree (BA) in Buddhist and Tibetan studies from Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Varanasi, and MA in Buddhist and Tibetan studies from Namgyal Institute of Tibetology under Sikkim University, Sikkim. He studied Buddhist philosophy at Sera Jey Monastic University from 2005 to 2011. He joined the LTWA as Dharma translator in 2023.

**Ven. Phuntsok Wangmo** joined the Library as a translator in March 2024. She holds a Master's degree in Applied Psychology from Gautam Buddha University in Noida, and has completed several advanced Tibetan studies courses, including the 3-year Madhyamika course, the 7-year Pharchin course, and the 3-year Basic Logic course.

## **TIBETAN LANGUAGE TEACHERS**

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**Acharya Ani Norzom** holds an acharya degree in Tibetan Studies and Buddhist philosophy from the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Varanasi. She joined the LTWA in 1999 and has been serving as Tibetan language teacher since then.

**Palden Tsono** has a bachelor degree in Tibetan studies from the College for Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah, Dharamsala. She taught Tibetan as a foreign language at the Esukhia, Dharamsala, for three years. She was recruited as Tibetan language teacher at the LTWA in 2018.

**Bhu Dawa** has a bachelor degree in Tibetan language and literature from the Dalai Lama Institute for Higher Education, Bangalore. He obtained his B.Ed. from the College for Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarah, Dharamsala. He served as a Tibetan language Teacher at the TCV School, Gopalpur, for over three years and then joined the LTWA in 2019.

**Tashi Tsono** completed her schooling from Central School for Tibetans, Herbertpur, Dehradun. She obtained her BA B.Ed. degree from CIHTS, Sarnath, Varanasi. After that, she taught in Sambhota School, Orissa, for more than three years. She joined the LTWA in July 2019 as Tibetan language teacher.

**OFFICIAL HOLIDAY LIST 2026**

Western New Year	January 1
Republic Day of India	January 26
Tibetan New Year (Losar)	Feb 18—20 Feb
Great Miracles Day ( <i>Choetrul Duechen</i> )	March 3
Tibetan Uprising Day	March 10
Saka Dawa	May 31
Universal Prayer and Purification Day ( <i>Zamling Chisang</i> )	June 29
Birthday of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama	July 6
Buddha's First Teaching ( <i>Choekhor Duechen</i> )	July 18
Independence Day of India	August 15
Tibetan Democracy Day	September 2
Gandhi Jayanti (Birthday)	October 2
Buddha's Descent from Heaven ( <i>Lhabab Duechen</i> )	November 1
Commemoration of Nobel Peace Prize to His Holiness	December 10

## DAILY CLASS SCHEDULES

11 March - 11 December 2026

Time	Buddhist Philosophy class	Tibetan Language Class	Textbooks
9:00 am - 10:00 am		Basic Tibetan Language Teacher: Tashi Tsomo Sub: Palden Tsomo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colloquial Tibetan</li> <li>• A standard Tibetan Pronunciation</li> </ul>
9:00 am – 10:00 am		Intermediate Tibetan Language Teacher: Bhu Dawa Sub: Ani Phuntsok Wangmo	Tibetan folk stories
9:00 am – 10:15 am	First Buddhist Philosophy Class Geshe Gyaltzen Tsering		Blaze of Quotations and Logic, and Essence of Superfine Gold
10:00 am – 11:00 am		Casual Tibetan Teacher: Acharya Ani Norzom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Basic Grammar of Modern Spoken Tibetan</li> <li>• A Standard Tibetan Pronunciation(not published yet)</li> </ul>
10:30 am – 11:30 am		Basic Tibetan Speaking Teacher: Palden Tsomo Sub: Tashi Tsomo	Speak Fluent Tibetan
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Second Buddhist Philosophy Class Geshe Lobsang Tsondue		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thirty-seven Practices of Bodhisattva and</li> <li>• Nagarjuna’s Letter to a Friend</li> </ul>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm		Intermediate Tibetan Speaking Teacher: Palden Tsomo Sub: Bhu Dawa	• Speak Tibetan the Tibetan Way
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm		Higher Intermediate Tibetan Language Teacher: Tashi Tsomo Sub: Ani Phuntsok Wangmo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lecture on Tibetan Religion and Culture</li> <li>• Particles and Exercises (photocopy)</li> </ul>
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Afternoon Buddhist Philosophy Class		The Compendium of Abhidharma (མཛོད་པ་ཀུན་བརྒྱུ་)

## REGISTRATION

Students are required to register and obtain a registration slip from the Library office before attending any course. Fees are nominal and they are only meant to defray the running cost of the courses. Therefore, course fees should be paid at the time of registration, either for a whole course or on a monthly basis.

## FEEES

<b>Registration:</b>	Rs.100 (one time)
<b>Buddhist Philosophy:</b>	Rs.400 per month for one class
<b>Language Course:</b>	Rs.600 per month for one class

## Fees for afternoon Buddhist Philosophy Class

Registration:	Rs.100 (one time)
Buddhist Philosophy:	Rs.500 per month

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The Office Secretary  
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