

Dharma Sangha and the Purpose of the Terthup Dharma Hall

In a world filled with strife, war, hunger and the rush of economical competition, humans are forever on the run, moving, desiring, lost, suffering, declining in health, growing old, and finally reaching their demise...at which moment...they finally pause to take stock of all that they have been, done, achieved or failed to achieve...rushing on once more to attempt yet another life on this Earth. Will they ever reach the final goal of liberation from the sansaric wheel of suffering?

What might have happened if these beings had paused long before their final moment...refusing to react and take part in the giant drama that is forever unfolding on this Earth?

What if instead, they had dedicated their time in meditation for the sake of all sentient beings that they might be free from suffering?

What if, within that pause, the many beings who had done the same came through the dimensions of the spirit world to help that person, giving blessings and by imparting the insights that they had attained during their lives on this Earth?

And what if that person listened carefully to all these teachings and benefitting by them determined to teach them to the rest of the beings on this Earth?

Would there not be a great change in the understanding and actions of all sentient beings?

But this is exactly what is happening.



This is Palden Dorje, born Ram Bomjan. Now called Dharma Sangha, he is meditating for world peace. It is now his sixth and final year. Apparently he has been meditating without sustenance or relief.



On April 9, 1990 Dharma Sangha was born in Nepal in the village of Ratanpuri, Bara District.



Not far from there is Lumbini, the birthplace of the great Buddha Sakyamuni.

Dharma Sangha's parents are farmers. His mother's name was Maya Devi, the same name as Buddha's mother. While she was pregnant with Dharma Sangha, she was unable to eat meat without becoming ill



This is Dharma Sangha's eldest brother Gangajeet. He remembers that Dharma Sangha used to leave the house often when he was little. Later Gangajeet would find him meditating somewhere alone.



Dharma Sangha was most happy when he was reading scriptures, meditating or walking under the pipal tree.



Later he went to study with Som Bahadur Lama who lived at Sudha. Under Som Lama, Dharma Sangha's attention was much more drawn towards meditation than to reading books.

The lama granted Dharma Sangha the initiation of the "Pancha Sila." Pancha Sila is Pali for the "five precepts":

1. The first precept advocates that we treat all sentient beings kindly. It is preferable to be vegetarian.



2. The second advocates that we respect the property of others and not steal.



3. The third advocates avoiding sexual misconduct as it harms our wellbeing, and the wellbeing of others.



4. The fourth advocates that we always avoid gossiping about others and that we tell the truth.



5. The fifth advocates that we keep our bodies, minds and spirits clear from alcohol and drugs and other intoxicating substances.



Unlike the other initiates, Dharma Sangha refused to have his hair cut although it is the common custom.

After completing their Buddhist education for two years, all the initiates went to visit Lumbini, the birthplace of Sakyamuni Buddha.



Dharma Sangha seemed utterly taken by this place, and it seemed to deepen his religious resolve. The other initiates returned but Dharma Sangha refused to return with them.



Nepal to the beautiful lakeside city of Pokhara.

It was here that Dharma Sangha became ill and was



unable to move his lower body. Distressed, his teachers sent him home to recover.

During this time Dharma Sangha implored his family not to sacrifice any animals or drink alcohol or further complications would arise.

He got better, but he was still limping at the time he disappeared from his home one night. He was just 15.



When his mother became aware of the situation, she alerted the village and everyone joined in the search for him.

A local boy claimed to have seen him while he was shaking a mango tree.

Dharma Sangha had come and picked up a mango and stepped fully clothed into the



river. His family decided it would be wise to keep an eye on him and some of his siblings went to find Dharma Sangha and stay with him.

This is Dharma Sangha's big sister, Manu, who is now a Buddhist nun. She remembers that he told his little brother Shyam to bring him water, rice, his lama robes, a rosary and a picture of Buddha. She went to see Dharma Sangha and told him to come home. She cried when she saw how thin and weak he looked.



But Dharma Sangha, sitting in a meditative posture seemed to go into a trance. He began to ask himself questions and answer them out loud.



The other villagers came and told Dharma Sangha to stop being silly and come home. They feared he must be ill or crazy. When Dharma Sangha's elder brother touched him, his body became exceedingly hot and red.



This is his elder brother, Dil. He remembers that Dharma Sangha told them to leave him alone, or he might die.



He said that he wanted to meditate for 6 years. Then the family and the villagers followed him when he went to find a new meditation place in the forest.

Dharma Sangha told his family he must continue to meditate at all costs. He drew a boundary around his meditation area and the villagers built a fence for him.



More and more crowds gathered at the site. All witnesses claimed that Dharma Sangha did not eat, drink or leave the site to relieve himself. Many also said that a light shone from the top of his head.



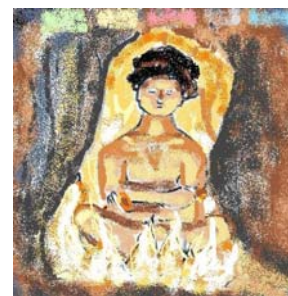
Merchants came to set up shop to make money from the pilgrims who came to watch and pray to him. It was said that he was the reincarnation of Buddha.



Crowds kept coming by buses, cars and motor bikes. They were kept at a distance of about 50 meters. Meanwhile Dharma Sangha just sat and meditated under the pipal tree. Baffled onlookers were ever increasing.



Dharma Sangha then gained worldwide recognition when the Discovery Channel decided to make a documentary about him called, "The Boy with Divine Powers." Some believed the documentary, but others didn't. They thought that this was just another scam.



Over 10 minutes of footage of the astounding incident.

Onlookers were further amazed when Dharma Sangha was surrounded by fire, burning his clothes and his hair but leaving the boy unscathed. His brothers called a cameraman who took

On March 11, 2006, Dharma Sangha disappeared from the site leaving his clothes behind.



However he was found on December 25, 2006. "There was no peace," Dharma Sangha said. "I have been wandering in the forest since then."

He disappeared on several occasions.

But for the most part he meditated at his present site. He even meditated for three months underground.



November of 2008 when over 400,000 devotees lined up sometimes six kilometres into the jungle to be blessed over a two week Darshan.

He gave Darshan, blessing his devotees with a vajra or dorje toward the end of October 2007, and again in



On October 30, 2009, Dharma Sangha helped to bring the world's attention to the largest animal sacrificing festival in the world. Only 30 kilometers away from his meditation site, the Gadhi Mai Mela takes place every



five years and sacrifices upwards of 250, 000 animals, causing the spread of disease and causing innocent animals to suffer in the hope that goddess

Gadhi Mai may be appeased and that the pilgrims may prosper.

Dharma Sangha called for an inter-religious conference to raise awareness about the situation.



So, why is Dharma Sangha meditating?

He tells us the following in his speeches:



Most people wish to avoid suffering and do not take into account that they will become sick and die one day, he tells us. In order to avoid thinking about what will happen, people escape into material lives. Meditation focuses on the body's feelings and sensations. Continuous practice expands the understanding of all the stimuli that attribute to our



feelings and sensations. Thus, when we meditate, we become more and more aware of our surroundings and soon note that there is no border to our awareness.



We are all part of the same soul which Dharma

Sangha calls the Paramatma. Once we become aware of the Paramatma, and the fact that there are no borders, we are able to be aware of the feelings and sensations of others even at great distances much like the Internet.



In the same way, once we become aware of the Paramatma, we also become naturally compassionate



towards all creatures which we correctly assess to be part of ourselves.

Dharma Sangha calls this generating loving kindness, or Maitri Bhavana.

This awareness makes people unable to perform misguided acts and brings a natural state of peace. If he can help even 10 people to be aware, then these 10 people will in turn help another 10 people, and likewise those 10 times 10 and so forth throughout the world, thus changing the awareness of all humanity. He

compares this to lighting candles or "dip" in Sanskrit. Each candle lit will in turn light other candles.



So his meditation will light the candle of peace.

More and more people have found that they are deeply touched by this curious young man patiently sitting under a tree. Could it be that they have begun to feel the awareness of the Paramatma and the Maitri Bhavana that he is sending out into the world?



At present a Dharma hall is under construction. Dharma Sangha says he will teach Dharma at the Terthup Dharma Hall when he finishes his six-year meditation.

May all beings be happy.

If you would like to help, or be a part of the Terthup Dharma Hall Project, please visit paldendorje.com or etapasvi.com There are also discussions which you may participate in on Palden Dorje Facebook and the Ram Bomjon/Palden Dorje Google Group.

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