

His Eminence Ayang Rinpoche



His Eminence Ayang Rinpoche is the Founder/Chairman of Amitabha Foundation worldwide and Drikung Charitable Society in India.

Rinpoche has been recognized as the greatest living master of the practice of Phowa, the transference of consciousness at the time of death, by H.H. the Dalai Lama, H.H. XVth Gyalwang Karmapa, H.H. Dudjom Rinpoche, H.H. Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche and many other great masters.

Ayang Rinpoche was born into a nomadic family in eastern Tibet and was recognized as an incarnation of Terton Choegyal Dorje by a delegation of high lamas. He entered the monastic life and started his Buddhist studies at the early age of five. Rinpoche completed his general studies and practices on all levels of tantric Buddhist practices, receiving many teachings, empowerments and oral transmission blessings. Rinpoche received his first Phowa teaching in the Nyingma lineage of Tibetan Buddhism from Khenpo Tsense Sangpo. He received Drikung Phowa teachings from the heads of the lineage, H.H. Drikung Kyabgon Kunsang Trinlay Lhundrup, H.H. Drikung Kyabgon Choekyi Nangwa in 1956 at the Monkey Year Phowa Chenmo in Tibet. After this, he went on pilgrimage to many of the holy places of Guru Rinpoche and did a long Phowa retreat at Phulung in South Tibet. Rinpoche left Tibet with his family in 1959 when he was 17.

Rinpoche established Thupten Sherdrup Jangchub Ling monastery in Bylakuppe, South India, where he is responsible for hundreds of Tibetan refugee monks, nuns and lay people. He is currently overseeing renovation of his monastery in Tibet and construction of a Phowa teaching center in Bodh Gaya and a retreat center in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Rinpoche was bestowed the title of 'Choje' (Dharma Master/Regent) according to the Drikung Kagyu school of Tibetan Buddhism. He has a warm and compassionate manner and teaches with clarity and wisdom. The core of Rinpoche's vision is compassionate activity undertaken from pure motivation and supported by strong practice. These three themes—compassionate activity, pure motivation and strong practice are woven through all of Rinpoche's activities and teachings.

