



50 years of history

Dhagpo Kagyu Ling, July 2025

Texts Taught by Khenpo Chödrak Rinpoche during the Summer Courses (Based on Khenpo Rinpoche's Words in 2011)

In 2011, regarding the texts taught during the summer courses, Khenpo Chödrak Rinpoche explained the following:

"In a written document, His Holiness the 16th Karmapa established a curriculum for advanced Buddhist studies that he wanted to initiate here at Dhagpo Kagyu Ling. He indicated three categories of Buddhist study programs: a short program, a medium program, and a long program.

For reasons of feasibility, the medium-length course was chosen. It includes the following subjects:

- Prajñaparamita
- The Madhyamaka School of Thought
- Abhidharma
- Vinaya
- Buddhist Theory of Knowledge (Tsema)
- Three Texts on Buddhist Tantras: The *Gyü Lama*, The *Zap Mo Nang Dön* (The Profound and the Subtle), and the Hevajra Tantra."

Prajñaparamita

To address this topic, Khenpo Rinpoche explained *The Essence of Prajñaparamita (Heart Sutra)*, incorporating parts of the commentary by the 8th Karmapa, Mikyö Dorje, on *The Clear Ornament of Realization*.



Madhyamaka School of Thought

On this subject, Khenpo Rinpoche taught:

- *The Madhyamaka Alankara (The Ornament of Madhyamaka)*, Written by the Indian Master Shantarakshita.
- *The Madhyamaka Avatara (The Entrance to the Madhyamaka Path)*, Written by the Indian Master Chandrakirti.

Abhidharma

In connection with this theme, Khenpo Rinpoche explained the Four Noble Truths. The Four Noble Truths are the basis of Buddhist teaching and are part of the teachings expounded in the Abhidharma.

Vinaya

For the section on the Vinaya, which deals with the lifestyle of the monastic community, the secular community, etc., Khenpo Rinpoche decided to give explanations related to the lifestyle of secular Buddhists, because the majority of the students in the summer course are lay practitioners. He therefore explained the five precepts that constitute the disciplines of a lay Buddhist.

Then, as the majority of the audience are practitioners of Mahayana Buddhism, Khenpo Rinpoche also gave explanations concerning the commitments or disciplines of a bodhisattva. To do this, he used the *Bodhicharyavatara (The Way of the Bodhisattva)*, composed by Shantideva.

Next came the discipline related to Buddhist tantras. As the majority of the audience also practices these tantras, Khenpo Rinpoche chose to give explanations on the commitments and lifestyle of practitioners of Buddhist tantras. He therefore gave teachings on the commitments of Buddhist tantras, known as the root *samayas* and secondary *samayas*. He complemented this with accounts of the lives of the ancient masters who were holders of the four special transmissions associated with Buddhist tantras.



Buddhist Theory of Knowledge

To explain this subject, Khenpo Rinpoche used the *Tsema Rikter* (*The Treasure of Accurate Knowledge*), a summary of Buddhist theory of knowledge written by Sakya Pandita, an eminent master of the Sakya tradition.

Le Gyü Lama

For seven years, the summer course focused on the *Gyü Lama* (*Uttara Tantra Shastra*) written by Maitreya through Asanga. This text explains the essence of *tathagata*, also known as Buddha nature, in detail. Khenpo Rinpoche explains, "Those who attended this series of teachings did so because they were interested in meditation and because the Kagyü school is known as a school that places great emphasis on the practice of meditation. What is expounded in the *Gyü Lama* forms the basis for the Mahamudra expounded in the Sutrayana."

The following texts were also explained during the summer courses:

- *The Rice Seedling Sutra*
- *The Jewel Ornament of Liberation by Gampopa*
- *The Mahayana Sutra Alankara and the Dharma Dharmata Vibhanga* (*The Treaty Distinguishing the Nature of Phenomena from Phenomena*) by Maitreya through the words of Asanga,
- The History of Buddhism.

Starting in 2015, Khenpo Rinpoche taught:

- The Vehicles (a chapter from *Entry to the State of a Pandita*, a text composed by Mipham Rinpoche).
- *The Diamond Sutra* (in part)
- *Presentation of the Stages of Calm Abiding and Insight Meditation*, the foundation of all meditative concentrations, a chapter from Jamgon Kongtrul Lodrö Thaye's *Treasury of Knowledge* (online during the Covid period)
- The *Bhavanakrama* (*The Stages of Meditation*) by Kamalashila (in progress)