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Thuksey rinpoche passes away

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19 April, 2010 - His Holiness the Lhalung Thuksey trulku, popularly known as Thuksey rinpoche, passed away yesterday in Thimphu, following an illness from prolonged diabetes. His Holiness was 59.

His Holiness, whose real name is Thegchog Tenpey Gyeltshen, was the 10th reincarnation of Terton Pema Lingpa's son, Thuksey Dawa. Thuksey rinpoche was born in a central Tibetan region called Dranang Tsayul in 1951. His father died when he was five, according to the Tamzhing shedra khenpo, Jamyang Choephel, with whom Rinpoche and his mother shared his life experience.

According to doctor Norbu of Bumthang hospital, Rinpoche had been suffering from complications of chronic renal failure, a result of prolonged diabetes. Rinpoche was

admitted to Bumthang hospital for two days on April 1, where His Majesty the King visited him. He was later taken to his residence at Chumey and doctors from Bumthang hospital visited every day, as commanded by His Majesty the King, until he was referred to the national referral hospital in Thimphu on April 13. The Bumthang dzongda, drangpon and doctor Norbu accompanied Rinpoche to Thimphu.

Bumthang dzongda Sangye Thinley said Rinpoche was discharged from the hospital on Saturday at around 6 pm, before he passed away peacefully yesterday. "At the time of his death Rinpoche was in a state of thudam (meditation posture)," he said.

Thuksey rinpoche was enthroned as the 10th thuksey of Lhalung Thegchogling monastery in Tibet at the age of six.

Rinpoche fled to Bhutan from Tibet in 1960, at the age of 9, along with his mother and a sister. Accompanied by an elderly tutor and other attendants from the Lhalung Thegchogling monastery, Rinpoche arrived in Bumthang via Khenpalung.

In 2003, he also accompanied His Majesty the fourth Druk Gyalpo to Dewathang during operation flush out, to perform rituals for safety and victory.

Thuksey rinpoche has conducted numerous religious ceremonies in the country, including oral transmission of Peling Choekhor to the people of Bumthang, oral transmission of kangyur (sutra) in Paro. Bumthang residents recall how a rainbow appeared every day of the ceremony in Bumthang.

The date and place of the purjang (cremation) are yet to be decided, said dzongda Sangay Thinley. "The decision will be left to the Tamzhing Lhalung monastery and Sungtrul rinpoche," he said.

By Samten Yeshi

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