

Padmasambhava Project for Peace



A Bhutanese representation of Guru Rinpoche, also known as Padmasambhava

Photo by John Berthold

Lama Zopa Rinpoche says, “Building Guru Rinpoche statues will bring immeasurable benefit, peace, happiness and freedom to the world. They will have immeasurable impact.” As such, *Mandala* recognizes the Padmasambhava Project for Peace as this issue’s **Featured Project**.

Padmasambhava (Guru Rinpoche) is perhaps the most universally cherished saint in all of Tibetan Buddhism. A highly realized yogi, Padmasambhava came to Tibet from India in the 8th century and helped establish a pure lineage which is still practiced today by all four major schools of Tibetan Buddhism around the world.


Lama Zopa Rinpoche lauds Padmasambhava’s contribution to humanity: “Due to Padmasambhava’s great compassion, Tibetan Mahayana Buddhism flourished in Tibet and now has spread throughout the entire world. Because of that, so many people have experienced the path to enlightenment and achieved enlightenment. Due to his great compassion, the lives of infinite number of sentient beings have become meaningful.”

In order to help create peace and happiness for all beings, Lama Zopa Rinpoche wishes to construct 100,000 large statues of Padmasambhava all around the world and has initiated the Padmasambhava Project for Peace. The first of these will be a 22-foot (over 6.5 meter) tall statue in Lawudo Gompa, the hermitage discovered and used by Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s predecessor, the Lawudo Lama, Kunzang Yeshe.

Although there is a long tradition of building Padmasambhava statues in Tibet, it is not very often that a Gelug organization aspires to make a concerted effort in this practice. Perhaps the reason is found in the words of Guru Rinpoche himself:

Listen, beautiful one having the form of a goddess,
For those sentient beings who have not met me,
Statues of me in the future will become the light
eliminating the darkness of ignorance.
Whoever builds such statues of me,
Which become objects of offering and so forth,
All their future lives will become meaningful
And they will establish the banner of the teachings...¹

Although originally supported exclusively by Rinpoche and private benefactors, Rinpoche has encouraged participation in this project from the greater FPMT community. Broad-based support is absolutely necessary to make this project a reality.

To participate, visit www.fpmt.org/projects/padmasambhava/ 

¹ Excerpted from *Benefits of Building Statues of Padmasambhava*, translated by Lama Zopa Rinpoche in November 2006.