

KING OF GLORIOUS SUTRAS:

SUTRA OF GOLDEN LIGHT

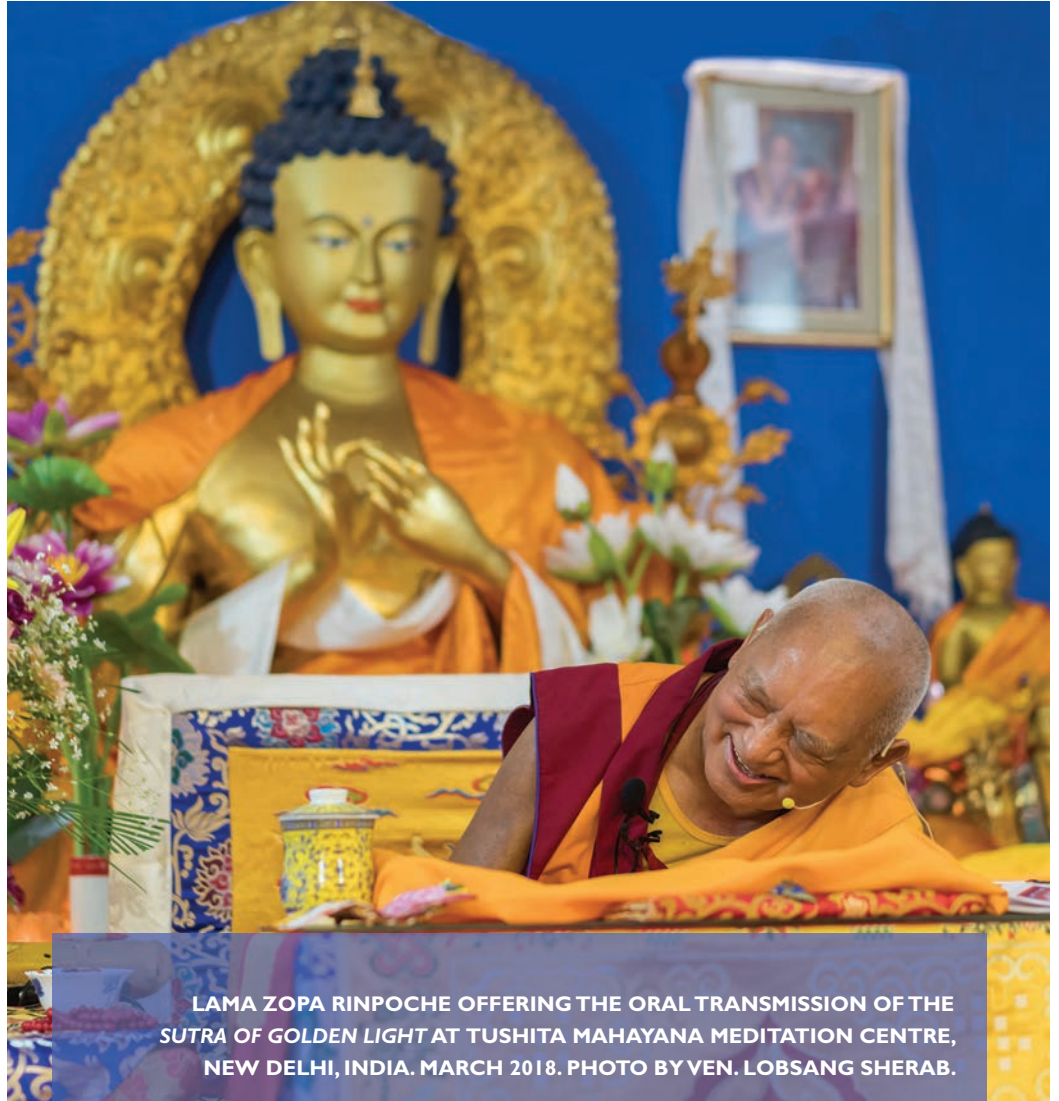
At the beginning of the *Sutra of Golden Light*, Buddha Shakyamuni, the Tathagata, the Arhat, the Fully Enlightened, calls to anyone experiencing misery and affliction, bad health, poverty, loss, abuse, ill will, fear, nightmares, or other harm to make their mind virtuous and listen to his words.

This “King of Glorious Sutras,” contains everything needed, from daily happiness to complete enlightenment, according to Lama Zopa Rinpoche. It contains a heart-rending practice of confession and rejoicing, profound teachings on dependent arising, reliable assurances of protection, guidelines for ideal government, and awe-inspiring stories of the Buddha’s previous lives, in which the Buddha shows how, even before he had completely eliminated the delusions, he liberated countless beings from the ocean of suffering through compassion and personal courage.

Lama Zopa Rinpoche made a personal vow to propagate the *Sutra of Golden Light* and give oral transmissions of it in many parts of the world. Having the sutra recited as much as possible is also one of Rinpoche’s Vast Visions for FPMT.

Rinpoche has said, “I would like to make this request with my two palms together, to please recite the *Sutra of Golden Light* for world peace as much as you can.”

“The holy *Sutra of Golden Light* is extremely powerful and fulfills all one’s wishes, as well as bringing peace and happiness for all sentient beings, up to enlightenment. It is also extremely powerful for world peace, for your own protection, the protection



LAMA ZOPA RINPOCHE OFFERING THE ORAL TRANSMISSION OF THE SUTRA OF GOLDEN LIGHT AT TUSHITA MAHAYANA MEDITATION CENTRE, NEW DELHI, INDIA. MARCH 2018. PHOTO BY VEN. LOBSANG SHERAB.

of your country, and the world. Also, it has great healing power for living beings in the area in which you are reciting,” Rinpoche said in the advice “Recite the *Golden Light Sutra* for World Peace.”

“For anyone who desires peace for themselves and for others this is a powerful way to bring peace that doesn’t require you to harm others, doesn’t require you to criticize others, or even to demonstrate against others. Anyone can read this text, Buddhists and even non-Buddhists who desire world peace.

“[The *Sutra of Golden Light*] also protects individuals and the environment from what are labeled ‘natural disasters’ of the

elements such as earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires, hurricanes, typhoons, etc. From the Buddhist perspective, they come from causes and conditions. They come from past inner negative thoughts and actions of people, and from external conditions.

“The benefits of reading this sutra are immeasurable: it is said in the texts that even compared to offering precious jewels as numberless as the amount of atoms of the Pacific Ocean to numberless buddhas, reciting just a few lines of the *Sutra of Golden Light* creates more merit than making these immeasurable offerings to the Buddha.

“Reciting this sutra directs one’s life toward enlightenment. There is so much merit created by reciting this sutra, everything is taken care of, one’s life becomes so easy, whatever one wishes for one receives. This is because there is unbelievable purification

and one collects extensive merits. This is how one liberates numberless sentient beings from the oceans of samsaric suffering and brings them to enlightenment.”

Rinpoche has advised dedicating the merit generated by reading or hearing the sutra to the long and stable lives of the gurus, especially His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Rinpoche also advised to dedicate the merits so that obstacles to your own guru’s and His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s projects are eliminated, as well as any obstacles to the completion of important beneficial projects. In addition, Rinpoche advised to dedicate the merits so that all war, violence, terrorism, destructive weather, diseases, and famine is eliminated, and that everyone enjoys peace, plenty, good health, and has love and compassion in their hearts.

SUTRA OF GOLDEN LIGHT AND MEDICINE BUDDHA PUJA IN WELI OYA, SRI LANKA

In 2015 Ven. Tenzin Lekdron founded the Tara Lanka Study Group, and began serving as coordinator, in her home country of Sri Lanka. Ven. Lekdron regularly offers teachings in Kandy and Colombo, and has also been bringing the *Sutra of Golden Light* and other beneficial practices and pujas to those in need of support throughout Sri Lanka.

In September 2019 Ven. Ledkron organized 250 individuals who were suffering from chronic kidney disease in a remote border village called Weli Oya, in northern Sri Lanka. Weli Oya was badly affected by the Sri Lankan Civil War (1983-2009) and saw heavy casualties during the fighting there. Now villagers are suffering from chronic kidney disease, which has been a huge blow to the community.

The head monk of a local Theravadan temple and the local chief of police alerted the villages that there was going to be a healing puja and sutra practice led by a Buddhist nun. Many villagers had suffered for a long time and were desperate for a change.

Ven. Ledron recounts, “At first it was impossible to imagine how things could work, but then everything came together. The army agreed to cook the meals and provide a driver to two females traveling alone. On the morning of the puja three monks from the local temples arrived to open the event with precepts. Considering there has been on-going friction between Theravadan and Mahayana Buddhists in Sri Lanka this was rather unexpected.

“The head monk mentioned that he hoped these prayers would bring much needed rain to this drought-affected region. As the Medicine Buddha puja was completed, right on cue, it started to rain heavily! People were delighted and they expressed amazement and gratitude. Seeing this—one by one people queued up requesting copies of the *Sutra of Golden Light* so they could

recite the sutra by themselves in the future. The people felt no discomfort through the day although they sat for a long time, seven straight hours. In fact, many reported that they felt very peaceful. Two days after the puja finished, it again rained heavily, which was wonderful for the hot, dry, harsh conditions in the village.

“The monk extended an invitation to return at least once a year to recite the *Sutra of Golden Light* and Medicine Buddha puja and, if possible, to include all 600 kidney patients. He specifically asked for twenty-five copies of the puja so he could offer this at his temple. With the power of Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s blessings, an event of this magnitude became possible.”

In keeping with Lama Zopa Rinpoche’s wish to hear about students’ experiences reciting the *Sutra of Golden Light*, FPMT has been tracking the total number of recitations as well as participants’ experiences through FPMT.org. Students can also download the sutra in various languages and receive an oral transmission from Rinpoche by downloading and listening to “Oral Transmission of the *Sutra of Golden Light*.” To submit your own number of recitations, download the sutra, receive the oral transmission, and find Rinpoche’s advice on the sutra, visit: fpmt.org/education/teachings/sutras/golden-light-sutra

