

To my very dear friends and students,

I heard there is some misunderstanding about how I was recognized, so I just want to give you the details here.

The main disciple of the Lawudo Lama Kunsang Yeshe (who it is said is my previous life) was Ngawang Chopel, he did many retreats during his life and he also followed the Buddha's example of offering his own body (charity) to the insects and animals for 7 days, this was quite amazing as he completely offered and they ate parts of it and he had to be taken to the hospital. Later Ngawang Chopel also built a monastery at Maritika near a cave of Guru Rinpoche (considered one of the most holy places of Guru Rinpoche - where it is said He achieved immortality). Ngawang Chopel was with the Lawudo Lama at the time of his death. The Lawudo Lama explained the signs happening in the death process to him as He was dying.

I was born in a very poor family, there was doubt by some if I was the incarnation, mainly on the part of the son of Lama Kunsang Yeshe. When Ngawang Chopel heard this he went immediately to Tibet to consult high Lamas, and all 6 Lamas he consulted confirmed without doubt that I was the incarnation of the Lawudo Lama Kunsang Yeshe. Two of the six high Lamas were His Holiness Tulshig Rinpoche (one of the teachers of His Holiness the Dalai Lama) and His root guru the great Lama Rongpu Sangye. So at an early age long before going to Tibet and the monastery at Pagri (small branch of Domo Geshe's main monastery) I was recognized. Before I left for Tibet the son of Lama Kunsang Yeshe accepted me as the incarnation and promised to return to me the cave and texts etc belonging to his father after I returned from Tibet.

I was brought into Tibet by two uncles, both were my alphabet teachers. Why did I have two alphabet teachers? The first one was from Thami near Lawudo, he took care of me. When very small (maybe four years old) I was always escaping and running home, so my mother sent me far away to the monastery in Rolwaling, a very isolated place high in the mountains near Tibet, there I was in the care of another uncle Ngawang Gendun, who also taught me the alphabet (Tibetan). I stayed with him in Rolwaling for 7 years, memorizing and reading texts and doing pujas called "shi-trol".

These two uncles took me to Tibet, in Tibet I stayed with another uncle, he was in the Indian army, then he met a Tibetan lady from Tsang and they married and lived in Pagri, Tibet. Pagri was a very busy place for traders from Bhutan, Kalimpong, Lhasa, etc. The 3 uncles with some other Sherpas left me in the care of my aunty while they went on pilgrimage to Lhasa. They didn't take me as they thought the journey would be too difficult and I could die, as I was still very young. After living sometime in Pagri (hanging around), outside my house I met a very tall monk (externally appearing not to know me) and immediately he asked me if I would be his disciple (there must have been very strong karma with him). I answered him immediately "yes". Next day in the morning my aunt made a very nice thermos of tea and bread in a bamboo container inside a basket, and took me to the small branch monastery of Domo Geshe Rinpoche's main monastery about 15 to 20 minutes walk away, where I met the tall monk again - he was the Lupon of this small monastery. The Lupon heard stories of me from people in the village, that I was a Tulku

from Lawudo near Thami. So the Lopon for his own benefit asked the oracle of the monastery if this was true.

With much love and prayer,

Lama Zopa Rinpoche.  
January 21, 2008