

THE CULTURAL PAGEANT

DREPUNG GOMANG
US TOUR GROUP
2010-2011



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With kind invitation from our sister organization.

Drepung Gomang Institute,
Louisville.
USA.

TOUR LEADER:

GESHE LHARAMPA LOBSANG DHONDUP

US NATIONAL

TOUR COORDINATOR:

MRS. SUE SIMONE. (203 725 6888)

San Luis Obispo County Tour COORDINATOR: Anet Carlin (805) 466-4653



(5-10 minutes at most)

Opening speech: This briefly introduces the monastery, its tour objectives.

- **WELCOMING HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA AND OFFERING OF MANDALA.**

Duration: 8 minutes.

According to Tibetan custom, if His Holiness is not physically present, his holy portrait is displayed to symbolize that he is nevertheless the Chief Guest at the function or gatherings. At the same time, one offers all that one values in the Universe by reciting prayers, and visualizing that one is offering these to the guru or lama.

Mendel offering : Mandala offerings are traditionally performed to enhance positive energy and purify negative influences. One is to visualize the entire universe and its ten directions, the sun and the moon, as well as all precious emblems and symbols as being transformed into a paradise. At the same time, one sees one's self, properties and merits as included in the offering. With all this in mind, one offers prayers for enlightenment and the wisdom of emptiness to benefit all sentient beings.

Mandala Prayer

*Earth blessed with flowers and incense
And adorned with the king of mountains,
The four continents, the sun and moon-
I offer this envisioned as a Buddha field*

May all sentient beings partake of this pure sphere.

“idam guru ratna mandalam niryata yami”

(I offer this precious mandala to the spiritual masters)



- **TASHI SHOLPA (Good Luck Dance).**

Duration: 5 minutes.

Tashi Shoelpa is the oldest opera company in Tibet. This dance originally appeared in a dream of the Great Fifth Dalai Lama in 1645 and was performed during the enthronement ceremony of Fifth Dalai Lama. The performer wearing the white-beard mask represents Saint Thantong Gyalpo, the founder of Lhamo/Tibetan opera, who reputedly lived for 140 years and also symbolizes long life and good health. Lhamo/opera conveys the teachings of Lord Buddha through historical reenactment. The purpose of this very dance is to bring good luck and good omens specially to inaugurate special occasions such as construction or opening of a monastery or big official gatherings.



- **CHANTING OF JAM CHENMA (Madyamikavatara)**

Duration: 5 minutes.

This is translated as '*Praise of the great Maitreya*' (the future Buddha) but is in fact verse of Praise composed by the 19th Abbot of Drepung Gomang monastery, Tsongdu Gyatso, in honor of 18th

Abbot, Jampa Lhundup. After hearing the amazing teachings of Jampa Lhundup, Tsongdu Gyatso saw him as an embodiment of Maitreya Buddha, and was inspired to compose these verses. This is a very important regular chants of the monks of Drepung Gomang Monastery for the peace and harmony of the world. They will chant in their unique and special chanting style.



- **DEBATE:**

Duration: 8 minutes.

(demonstration of debate)

Ignorance is the root cause of suffering, and wisdom is the antidote to ignorance. Through learning, one eventually becomes established in wisdom. Just as a lamp illuminates a house so that one can see colors and shapes, so learning and wisdom enable one to see the nature of phenomena.

The practice of debate is the most important way to learn Buddhist Philosophy in the monasteries. The main purpose of monastic debates is to defeat misconceptions in order to establish a correct view and to clear away any objections to that view. An actual session of debate involves two parties, a defender who sits and give answers to the challengers who stands up and asks question. There is a whole separate vocabulary for debate, each word with a complex meaning that is difficult to translate, but here are a few words you can listen for:

Kor-sum:	You are wrong!
Cher...cher... cher....!	Hurry up and answer!
Oh... tsa!	You have contradicted yourself!
Dhi.....!	This is a syllable associated with Jamphelyang (Manjushri) the god of wisdom. By calling this syllable, the questioner calls upon the deity to assist him.
Chee-Cher!	What is your reasons?
Dho!	Yes, I agree!
Dhag-ma-Thub:	I disagree with your reason.

Each movement of the debate is also highly symbolic. In brief, the upraised arm represents Manjushri's sword of knowledge, cutting through ignorance. The left hand represents wisdom-the

actual antidote to cyclic existence. The right hand represents method-the altruistic intention to become enlightened, motivated by great love and compassion for all sentient beings. The clap represents a union of method and wisdom. In dependence on the union of method and wisdom, one is able to attain Buddhhood.



- **THE SNOW LION DANCE**

Duration: 6 minutes.

The snow lion is the mythological animal that represents Tibet, the ‘Snowy country.’ In Tibet the snow lion symbolized the fearless and elegant quality of the enlightened mind. It has a beauty and dignity resulting from a body and mind that are synchronized. The snow lion has a youthful, vibrant energy of goodness and a natural sense of delight. Its image can be found in Tibetan National Flag as well as on the throne of a Buddha to represent 8 main Bodhisattva-disciples of Buddha Shakyamuni. The Snow Lion, king of all beasts symbolizes absolute freedom. Roaming free, with eyes turned towards heaven, he embodies unconditional cheerfulness, goodness and a natural sense of delight. These are attributes of awakened mind - totality clear, joyful and confident.



- **YAK DANCE**

Duration: 5 minutes.

Yak cham

Tibetan yaks are native to the Himalayan Mountains of Nepal, India and Tibet. They were domesticated in Tibet nearly 5,000 years ago. They can survive in rocky, alpine terrain with meadows for grazing. They are highly adaptable to a variety of habitats.

They are intelligent and fairly easy to train. These yaks are capable of climbing to altitudes of 20,000 feet. A yak can carry a 220-pound load up terrain too rugged for horses.

Yaks are an important source of meat, milk, fiber, hide, butter, transportation and dung for fuel. Yaks are also important in Tibetan mythology as messengers of the gods living in high places.

The unique animal is the symbolic of the Tibetan spirit of rugged strength and playfulness. Here in this dance, it shows the peaceful co-existence of human being with the animal kingdom.



- **THE DANCE OF SHANAK (BLACK HAT DANCE).**

Duration: 5 Minutes

In the 9th century, the last King in the Tibetan royal lineage, King Lang Darma was a greedy, power hungry ruler who attempted to drain Tibet of Buddhism, he destroyed hundred stupas, monasteries and forced hundreds of monks and nuns to disrobe. Tibet and its people were miserable under the shadow of King Lang Darma. To determine to subdue the evil king, a devoted Buddhist practitioner Lha Lhung Pal Dorjee went to Lhasa wearing a black hat and long cloak in which he concealed a bow and arrow. There he majestically danced in front of the King in an attempt to portray the suffering of the People under his rule. The evil king did not notice him retrieving a bow and arrow from his long sleeves, shot an arrow at the heart and killed the king and escaped on horse back.

- **CHANTING OF CHÖD (tantric tradition)**

Duration: 5 minutes.

It literally means ‘*to cut off*’ refers to a practice that is designed to cut off all ego involvement and defilement. This was introduced by *Guru Padma sambava*, the great Indian scholar who visited Tibet five times, on his third visit, he gave this chÖd teachings in Tsang Region first to Sonam Lama and Marla Tsenbo, Sonam Lama transmitted the teachings to a woman disciple Machig Labdron (1055-1153), so this chod teachings were spread by this great woman teacher. It is a prayer for loving kindness, compassion and the minds of enlightenment and the wisdom of emptiness. This chanting is used when one meditates on selflessness and removes self-cherishing and ego clinging by visualizing the sacrifice of one’s body for the benefit of others. Ultimately the purpose of this chant and practice is to realize ‘emptiness’, which is not ‘nothingness’, but rather the emptiness of many of our assumptions about our separateness, leading to a deep state of non-duality in which everything is experienced as totally connected.



- **THE DANCE OF GIANT PANDA, THE ENDANGERED SPECIES.**

Duration: 5 minutes

The bamboo eating animal is the most popular and beloved animal in Tibet beside Yak. The giant panda population has been declining for thousand of years due to hunting by humans and climatic changes due to large scale logging operation, many illegal by China in Tibet. Already its population are small and isolated, confined to high ridges and hemmed in by cultivation. The panda can be found in Tibet's Amdo and Kham region.

Many people think that pandas are from China, but pandas actually lived side-by-side with Tibetans throughout history. Like Tibetan in Tibet, Panda population also decreased once China invaded Tibet.

Here the monks are dancing the never before dance to create awareness of Giant Panda in Tibet.

- **CHANTING OF NYURZEMA**

Duration:4 minutes.

**PRAISE OF THE SIX ARM DHARMA
PROTECTOR MAHAKALA**

A special prayer, paying homage to six armed Mahakala (Gonpo), the great black one. Though fierce in his trampling upon the evil spirits of delusion and greed, he is actually considered to be the agent

of Avalokiteshvara or Chenrezig, the angelic Bodhisattva of great compassion. Mahakala is frightening in appearance because his responsibility is to protect all beings from evil. These verse was composed by a great Indian yogi Drubchen Shawari who had a vision of Mahakala while meditating, and was inspired to compose these verses of praise during a vision of Mahakala that appeared to him gradually from the feet upwards. This prayer request Mahakala to protect the Dharma and to remove all obstacles of all sentient beings.

Optional: if time is available.

Translated version:

(Nyur zema)

*Quick-acting Avalokita, homage to you
Wearing anklets, you trample Ganesa.
Mahakala, you wear a tiger-skin loin cloth
Fully adorned with snake-ornaments on your six arms,
The first right holds a triku, the middle a mala,
The last plays violently a damaru
The left holds a skull-cup, and a three-pronged lance,
And likewise a noose, which serves for tying up
Your wrathful mouth completely bares its fangs
Your three eyes are fierce. The hair of your head blazes upward.
Your forehead is properly anointed with red lead.
On your crown, Aksobhya's royal presence is fixed.
You wear a great necklace of fifty men? Heads, dripping blood.
On your crown, you are adorned with five
dry, jewelled skulls.
You come from your tree and accept our torma offering,
Glorious Six-Armed - homage and praise to you!
Sternly protect the Doctrine of the Buddha!
Sternly praise the height of power of the jewels!
For us - teachers, disciples and entourage -
Please quell all bad conditions and obstructions,
And grant us quickly whatever siddhis we wish*

- **DEN TSIG MONLAM PRAYER (PRAYER OF TRUTH)(*tsemeyonten)**

5 minutes

*Honoring and Invoking the Great Compassion
of the Three Jewels; the Buddha, the Teachings,
and the Spiritual Community*

This prayer, Words of Truth, was composed by His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama of Tibet, on 29 September 1960 at his temporary headquarters in Dharamsala, India.

This prayer for restoring peace, the Buddhist teachings, and the culture and self-determination of the Tibetan people in their homeland and the goal of universal compassion was written after repeated requests by Tibetan government officials along with the unanimous consensus of the monastic and

lay communities. It is also an invocation of oppressor and oppressed alike.

compassion towards all suffering sentient beings:

• TIBET NATIONAL ANTHEM (eng translation below)

*Let the radiant light shine of Buddha's wish-fulfilling
gem teachings,
the treasure chest of all hopes for happiness and benefit
in both secular life and liberation
O Protectors who hold the jewel of the teachings and all
beings,
nourishing them greatly,
may the sum of your karmas grow full.
Firmly enduring in a diamond-hard state, guard all
directions with
Compassion and love.
Above our heads may divinely appointed rule abide
endowed with a hundred benefits and let the power
increase*

*of fourfold auspiciousness,
May a new golden age of happiness and bliss spread
throughout the three provinces of Tibet
and the glory expand of religious-secular rule.
By the spread of Buddha's teachings in the ten
directions,
may everyone throughout the world
enjoy the glories of happiness and peace.
In the battle against negative forces
may the auspicious sunshine of the teachings and beings
of
Tibet and the brilliance of a myriad radiant prosperities
be ever triumphant.*

OPTIONAL PROGRAM IF TIME IS AVAILABLE OR PERMITTED

• CHANTING OF SHEJO (optional) duration: 4 minutes

A short prayer for the well being, good health and happiness of the audience. May this prayer brings you all good health, prosperity, long life and peace in this world.

• CHANTING OF UMA JUGPA (duration: 4 minutes)

Root verses of the Middle way (Madhyamika: Mulamadhyamakakarika) (optional)

In the teachings of the Mahayana tradition of Buddhism, there is an account of the Buddha, before he passed into Nirvana, issuing a prophecy that some years following his passing into Nirvana there would appear an extraordinary teacher who would bear the name of the Nagas in his name, and who would re-vivify the teachings of the Prajnaparamita, establish the unsurpassable view of the Perfection of Wisdom, and thus establish circumstances for enormous benefit to the teachings and to beings. This is widely held to be a prophecy of the coming of Nagarjuna, the great Buddhist master who did so much to further spread the teachings of the Prajnaparamita

When Nagarjuna brought this text back to the human realm from Naga Land , he realized that the volume of the material was so great that people would not be able to absorb all of it because they had short lives, little merit, and very little time to study. So he composed his famous commentaries which are more concise and were based upon the Prajnaparamita. Perhaps the most famous of these is the Mulamadhyamakakarika, "Root Verses on the Middle Way Philosophy", which is one of six major commentaries written by Nagarjuna, each of which was famous for its concise presentation of the view of the Madyamika or "Middle Way" philosophy that emptiness is the true nature of reality.

• CHANTING OF MIKTSEMA. (optional)

Duration: 5 minutes.

A special prayer, paying homage to Je Tsong Khapa. The founder of Yellow sect (Gelug Sect) of Tibetan Buddhism. Je Tsong Khapa is seen as an emanation of Avalokiteshvara, Manjushri and Vajrapani. Monks will chant a verses from Lama Tsong Khapa Guru Yoga.

Translated version: “Je Tsong Khapa, crown jewel of the holy masters of the Land of Snows, you are Avalokiteshvara, great treasurer of inconceivable compassion untainted by ego’s delusion. You are Manjushri, powerful master with stainless wisdom. You are Vajrapani, destroyer of forces of demons. At your feet, famed Lobsang Drakpa, I humbly bow and earnestly request that all sentient beings achieve enlightenment”.