

Welcoming the New Baby Daughter

Jetsunma Ngawang Tsejin Lhamo Sakya



Jetsunma with her mother, Dagmo Sonam Palkyi

On Saturday the 2nd of April 2011, on Mahakala day of the first lunar month, H.E. Dagmo Sonam Palkyi, wife of Khöndung Gyana Vajra Rinpoche, gave birth to a baby girl in Wil, Switzerland. The newborn princess was named Jetsunma Ngawang Tsejin Lhamo Sakya, which means Goddess of Longevity and of Powerful Speech.

She is the first child of Khöndung Gyana Vajra Rinpoche and of his wife, Dagmo Kushok Sonam Palkyi, and is the newest addition to the Sakya Dolma Phodrang. Her arrival was greeted by members of both the Sakya and Khamritshang families, who were present in Switzerland for the occasion.

The birth went smoothly and was free of complications, with both daughter and mother looking happy and relaxed. Shortly afterwards, in the privacy of the hospital room, Dungsey Rinpoche performed traditional blessing rituals according to the Khön tradition.



One-day old Jetsunma with her fingers in the Vajra mudra

Many auspicious signs announced the arrival of this precious child. These began when Dagmo Kushok Sonam travelled to Tibet last year along with other members of the Dolma Phodrang. While visiting the stupa of Drogon Chögyal Phakpa, Dagmo Kushok suddenly felt overwhelmed by emotion, and as goosebumps covered her body, tears of joy and devotion swelled in her throat. With great faith and yearning, she made her wishes, one of which was to have a child who would one day benefit all sentient beings. Dungsey Rinpoche also made prayers of aspiration, and then threw a khatak high onto the stupa, where it clung. Dagmo Kushok, who was standing farther back, touched her forehead with her khatak and then also threw it onto the stupa. Although the stupa was very tall, the khatak flew like a dragon, and landed next to Rinpoche's high on the stupa. Everyone present was amazed and taken by emotion by this wondrous occurrence, in particular Gyalyum Chenmo, who was so filled with joy that she found herself fighting back tears.

During Dagmo Kushok's pregnancy, auspicious signs appeared in His Holiness' dreams, as well as in her own.

A few hours before the birth, Dagmo Kushok went for a short walk near the hospital with Dungsey Rinpoche, Gyalyum Chenmo, Dagmo Kushok's



A memorable moment: His Holiness and the Dungseys with Jetsunma

parents and other family members. Suddenly a woman walked past the group, then turned around, and came towards them. She looked at Dagmo Kushok and, gently placing her hand on her belly, repeated many times: "May God bless it", and then uttered many propitious wishes. She gave Dagmo Kushok a small rabbit made of marzipan, and then disappeared. Everyone was baffled, until it dawned on them that Jetsunma would be born in the Year of the Rabbit.

When Jetsunma was born, joy, tears and laughter filled the room. The doctor and nurses were amazed at how aware and radiant she seemed, and said how they had felt a powerful blessing during the delivery. When the time came for the nurse to dress Jetsunma, it was interesting to see that, of all the colours available, she had chosen a red baby romper suit for her.

Moments before the birth, Rinpoche, a great fan of cricket, received a text message announcing that India had won the World Cup, and so it was auspicious that Jetsunma was born when all of India was dancing with joy.

On the day when Gyana Vajra Rinpoche and other family members went to take Jetsunma and Dagmo Sonam home from the hospital, the sun erupted through the clouds, resplendent, as a magnificent white-winged bird circled close around Jetsunma, who was lying in her mother's arms. The bird continued to fly around them and then flew higher and higher until it vanished in the sky. Later, Gyalyum Chenmo mentioned that this must have been "Sakya's Chökyong", one of the protectors of Sakya.

A little over a month after she was born, Jetsunma Tsejin Lhamo travelled to Germany with Dagmo Kushok and her parents. There, Jetsunma received a purification and long-life empowerment from her grandfather, His Holiness the Sakya Trizin. It was Jetsunma's first meeting with her grandfather and with her uncle Khöndung Ratna Vajra Rinpoche. Although she was barely one month into this life, she immediately broke into a smile when she saw them.

The issue of two blessed lineages, Jetsunma is a very calm and loving child. Not only is she a member of the holy Khön family from her father's side, but she also belongs, from her mother's side, to a noble Lama lineage family that includes such eminent masters as Dagmo Kushok's great-great grandfather Drubwang Shakya Shri, one of Tibet's greatest saints of the 20th century.

There was the occasion when, as he blessed the Swayambhu Stupa in Nepal from where he was in Tibet, a shower of grains was seen by all falling on the Stupa. He left a strong Dharma legacy in Nepal, with his sons and students rebuilding the Boudhanath Stupa in Kathmandu.

The family has also produced many other realised masters, including Shakya Shri's daughter's daughter, the highly accomplished yogini Sangyum Palden Tsomo, who was Dagmo Kushok's grandmother. And so Jetsunma is heir to a rich spiritual legacy, and



A beautiful, happy child

shows every sign of growing up to fulfill her unique destiny.

She is now slightly over four months old and has begun to try standing up by herself and to discover her world. Everyone who sees her is amazed at her happy disposition and awareness.

Dagmo Sonam has been away from the Phodrang since she began expecting Jetsunma, and so it is with great anticipation that everyone at the Palace awaits their return, planned for mid-September. A welcome ceremony will be held in celebration.

We truly rejoice in the birth of this blessed being.

*Messages to the couple may be sent by post to:
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