In Memory of
Venerable Bardor Tulku Rinpoche
1949 - 2021
On behalf of the KPL Sangha, Khando Sonam Chotso, his daughters, and the KPL Lamas and staff, we would like to extend our deepest sympathies to all Rinpoche’s students and friends who will surely miss him very much. Nevertheless, we will all band together and continue to carry out his wishes and uphold his lineage to the best of our ability. We pray for his swift rebirth and entronement without any obstacles. Now more than ever, we would like to ask for your care and support for Rinpoche’s center so that his dharma activity may continue to thrive.

With prayers for the flourishing of everyone’s dharma practice,

Kunzang Palchen Ling
In Memory of Venerable Bardor Tulku Rinpoche

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF
the Third Bardor Rinpoche

Bardor Tulku Rinpoche was born in 1949 in Kham, East Tibet. At a very early age, he was recognized by His Holiness the 16th Gyalwang Karmapa as the third incarnation of Terchen Barway Dorje. As a child along with his family and Dharma tutor, he maintained a nomadic life style. Rinpoche was six when he left East Tibet in the company of his grandparents on a journey that took him first to Lhasa, then Tsurphu, and finally to Drikung where Rinpoche was to remain for a couple of years at the home of his grandparents.

After Rinpoche’s grandparents passed away, his parents and siblings joined him in Drikung. When the political and social conditions in Tibet worsened as a result of the Chinese Communist occupation, Rinpoche and his family—initially a party of thirteen—set out toward India over the Himalayas along with many other Tibetans who were also fleeing the fighting.

They traveled through Kongpo to Pema Ku. In Pema Ku, at the border of Tibet and India, as a result of the arduous journey, all Rinpoche’s family members died. When Rinpoche’s father—the last member of his family—died, Rinpoche left Pema Ku and continued on toward Assam with other refugees.

At the township known as Bomdila, where the borders of Tibet,
Bhutan, and India meet, a bombing raid dispersed the group. Rinpoche and a young friend fled the attack and traveled westward, along the border of Bhutan and India, to Siliguri and eventually to Darjeeling. When they arrived in Darjeeling, His Holiness the 16th Karmapa was notified that Rinpoche had safely made his way out of Tibet. Filled with joy at the good news, His Holiness arranged for Rinpoche to be brought to Sikkim, and for Rinpoche’s friend to be taken care of.

Bardor Tulku Rinpoche was enthroned as a tulku at Rumtek Monastery when he was in his teens. It was also at Rumtek Monastery, under the tutelage of His Holiness the 16th Karmapa, that Rinpoche’s formal training took place.

After completing many years of study and practice, Bardor Tulku Rinpoche accompanied the 16th Karmapa on his world tours in 1974 and 1976. In 1977, His Holiness asked Rinpoche to remain in Woodstock, New York, at Karma Triyana Dharmachakra (KTD). During his first two years at KTD, Rinpoche worked side-by-side with the staff to renovate and winterize the house and prepare for the last visit of His Holiness the Sixteenth Karmapa to the West.

During his last visit in 1980, His Holiness instructed that his monastic seat in North America be established at KTD, and he performed the formal investiture. After the groundbreaking ceremony in May of 1982, Bardor Rinpoche directed the construction activities and labored each day to build the monastery. When the construction of the shrine building was essentially completed in the early 1990s, he assumed responsibilities as a teacher at KTD and its affiliate Karma Thegsum Chöling centers (KTCs). Bardor Rinpoche served KTD and its affiliate KTC centers for over thirty years.

Rinpoche lived with his wife, Sonam Chotso Lama in their home across from Magic Meadow with their three daughters, Karma, Chime and Rigdzin. When he was not engaged in Dharma activity, he enjoyed playing board games, going for walks at the reservoir, and
befriending and feeding the local chipmunks. He also loved playing with his two young granddaughters, Uggi and Baby T. He welcomed everyone whether they were Buddhist or not, and was always concerned for their wellbeing. He loved the Woodstock area, with its mountains and felt it was sacred. He traveled all over the world to teach Dharma and nurture the practice of Dharma students.

In late 1970s, His Holiness the 16th Karmapa sent the following personal note to Bardor Tulku Rinpoche.

Dear Bardor Rinpoche:

My prayer that the teaching of your dharma may fill Jambudvipa is always in my mind, all day and night. Do not be timid about this; be earnest. I pray that I see you soon.

Karmapa

Bardor Tulku Rinpoche saved this treasured note but he was not sure what the note meant exactly.

In 1999, Bardor Rinpoche had very vivid dreams of His Holiness the 16th Karmapa and in the waking state he strongly felt his presence to the extent that he could perceive the Karmapa’s smell. The dream of the Sixteenth Karmapa helped Bardor Tulku Rinpoche decide that it was time to begin the dissemination of the teachings of Terchen Barway Dorje (the first Bardor Rinpoche) in the West.
In 2000, with blessings from His Holiness the 17th Karmapa and His Eminence the 12th Tai Situ Rinpoche, Bardor Tulklu Rinpoche established Raktrul Foundation in order to help rebuild Raktrul Monastery in Tibet and provide educational facilities for monks, nuns and the lay community. In 2003, Rinpoche established Kunzang Palchen Ling (KPL), a Tibetan Buddhist Center in Red Hook, New York. Based on nonsectarian principles, KPL offers Dharma teachings from all traditions of Tibetan Buddhism and serves as a base for preserving and bringing to the West the terma teachings of Terchen Barway Dorje.

Since then, Bardor Tulklu Rinpoche has been directing the activities of Kunzang Palchen Ling and guiding Palchen Study Groups nationwide, as well as overseeing the translation of Terchen Barway Dorje’s terma texts. In 2020, Rinpoche completed the construction of Kunzang Palchen Ling, which continues to uphold the teachings of his lineage and provides a base for the activity of his caring Dharma community. Due to Rinpoche’s vision and experience, KPL is a stunning example of what a Dharma center can be in the U.S. It is also a magnificent site of great blessing, containing many statues of Buddhas and bodhisattvas that Rinpoche worked tirelessly to collect. He lived his life benefitting beings and serving the Buddha Dharma. His many devoted students wish for his swift rebirth, enthronement and the continuation of his activity.
In Memory of Venerable Bardor Tulku Rinpoche
In Memory of Venerable Bardor Tulku Rinpoche

དེ་བུ་བཟོད་ཅིག་དེ་འབོད་པའི་དབང་སྤྱི་རིན་པོ་ཆེ།
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Emaho!
From the ground, Samantabhadra’s mind, unchanging from the beginning,
The great effortless natural expanse,
Flows the infinite display of vajra great bliss.
I pray to self-awareness, the ultimate guru!

Padminākara, twenty-five disciples,
Karmapa who overpowers apparent existence,
And all great accomplished vidyādhāras: Through your power,
May he come back soon to protect and help beings!

Uncontrollable ruin is everywhere now.
Think with love of desperate degraded beings.
You embody in one the compassion of all victors and their children.
Precious source of refuge, please come back here swiftly!

Guardians of the teachings with samaya and your retinues
Of the eight classes who eradicate those
With demonic minds who would perversely prevent this:
Please assist in this; be strong and mighty!

From the mandala of dharma’s wheel
I pray this with one-pointed, unfabricated longing.
I know you hear my distant cry, my need.
Please care for all who are connected to you!

I first met the third Barway Dorje when I was little. With unwavering faith and samaya he served the teachings and especially the supreme victor Rigpe Dorje, the lord of his family. He was extremely kind to me through his whole life. As he has passed into peace for a while, his consort Chötso asked me to write a prayer for his swift return; so I, known as Ogyen Trinley Dorje, moistened by the blessed dew of the Karmapa’s name, wrote down whatever occurred to me on April 5, 2021. Virtue!
祈願轉世降世渡眾之速求文

嗡瑪吽
本初不變善賢聖意基
捨離勤作廣大本初界
大樂金剛覺力幻化射
祈請勝義自明本覺師

蓮花生與二十五王臣
咸攝萬有法王噶瑪巴
廣大持明成就眾威力
願為眾生依怙速降世

值此逆態衰敗兆興盛
大悲憐憫諸眾困苦眾
總攝諸佛菩薩之大悲
願自皈依寶剎速降世

諸等衆生願無倒願
願一切作意善善眾
八部諸天護法及眷屬
願成順緣助伴勇猛軍

如是轉動法輪壇城處
毫無造作亦不求願
般切悲呼自遠若聽聞
祈願結緣眾悉得利益

值第三世巴威多傑仁波切圓寂，經由其明妃索南與中心之
催請，撰寫祈願轉世降世渡眾之速求文。吾自小與仁波切相
識，知悉其於總體佛教事業，尤於種性權主尊勝第十六世噶
瑪巴日多傑，法行事業常行侍奉至圓滿。於吾亦常懷關愛
至終，由感自然而書。蒙噶瑪巴聖號加持者—邬金欽列多傑。
公元二零二一年四月五日 善哉！

陳譯
美國新澤西州
噶波巴中心
直貢.敬安仁波切 拜譯。
In Memory of Venerable Bardor Tulku Rinpoche

THE TWELFTH TAI SITUPA
In Memory of Venerable Bardor Tulku Rinpoche

PRAYER FOR THE SWIFT RETURN OF BARWAY DORJE
BY THE TWELFTH KENTIN TAI SITUPA

NAMO PADMAKARAYE!
Our teacher, the Bhagavān, who embodies the four kāyas;
His teaching, holy dharma, profound peace beyond embellishment;
Its holders, the sangha, who possess eightfold knowledge and freedom:
Infallible, holy sources of refuge, bestow goodness!

Our teacher’s scion, a treasury of the profound secret essence,
You are a chakravartin among all who’ve achieved the immortal vajra body.
The single taste of diversity, you definitely display eight names.
Lake-born victor of Uddiyana: always protect us!

All the profound terma throughout this southern continent is found by
Emanated great tertöns and terma heirs, principals and entourages.
Among them, you perform Guru Rinpoche’s activity.
Terchen Barway Dorje, I pray that you return to us quickly!

Through the blessings of the ocean of the three jewels and roots;
The powerful truth of my pure, good intentions;
And the infallible might of dharmatā,
May this aspiration I’ve made be fulfilled as intended.

I was asked to write these words of aspiration for the rebirth of Bardor Tulku Rinpoche by
his consort Chötso and various khenpos, lamas, monks, and disciples. I also have a profound
connection with him through both dharma and samaya. On that pure basis, may these words
of aspiration prove fruitful! May the terma dharma of his predecessors, the successive rebirths
of Terchen Barway Dorje, flourish and long remain for the good of the teachings and beings! I
pray that the ocean of the three jewels and three roots bestow auspiciousness!

This aspiration was made by Kenting Tāi Situpa at my seat in India, Palpung Sherab Nampar
Gyalway Ling, on April 9, 2021.
祈速降世文

南無彌勒佛日耶
四身體性世尊薄伽梵
寂滅離戲甚深教正法
具八明解持教僧伽部
無欺皈依聖眾賜善樂

世尊紹聖甚深密要藏
證得無違轉輪金剛身
悉皆一味示現八法相
尊勝邬金蓮師祈常佑

遍佈南瞻部洲諸伏藏
化身大藏主取藏主身
示異成為蓮師事業者
祈速降世熾燃金剛尊

三寶三根本海會加持
以吾諸上意樂調語力
法性真實無欺之威力
如是誓發願力祈成辦

經由巴都珠古仁波切之明妃索南，以及中心堪布僧團之催請，書此祈速降世文。基於吾與仁波切之間，教法誓言甚深穩定之相聯，故如所發清淨誓願之義。祈願歷代巴威多吉（熾燃金剛）所取諸伏藏法門，為利教法與眾生，宏廣興盛永住利世，祈求三寶三根本賜予吉祥圓滿。

印度八邦智慧尊勝洲寺
—廣定大司徒敬書
二零二一年四月九日

藏譯中
美國新澤西州
岡波巴中心
直贡·敬安仁波切 恭譯。