



The Druk Sakyong Wangmo

30 November 2010

To the noble sangha,

On Shambhala Day 2011, the beginning of the Year of the Iron Rabbit, the large thangka of the Primordial Rigden commissioned for the Boulder Shambhala Meditation Center will be installed in the shrine room there. This installation, along with the Shambhala Lineage Thangka now being painted by our dear friend, master thangka artist Neodup Rongae at his Shambhala Art School in northern India, represents an important turning point for our community.

Throughout his life, starting in Tibet, the Vidyadhara worked tirelessly to manifest his vision of the Shambhala Lineage and the Kingdom of Shambhala on this earth in his lifetime. The Shambhala teachings that came through him to his students have served as the basis for our Shambhala Lineage and community. I know he believed that through the simplicity and profundity of these teachings the dharma would take root and flourish in the West. As he planted the flag of the Shambhala Lineage in his lifetime, he dedicated himself to proclaiming the wisdom, gentleness, and strength of these teachings and the timeliness of their introduction in the age of great global strife.

These two new thangkas represent a further fulfillment of his wishes. The Shambhala Lineage, that he lovingly nurtured and propagated, is growing and becoming recognized as a force for goodness in the world around us. As we evolve as a community, it is important that we have iconography that serves to clarify our identity and represent to the rest of the world who we are and our path as practitioners.

As a result of the placing of the Primordial Rigden Thangka above the shrine, the Boulder shrine room is being redesigned. The Sakyong and I have worked hard to find a way for the Great Vajradhara Thangka to remain in the shrine room. It is an important and precious part of our history as a community, and we both wish that it be honoured and appropriately displayed. After exhausting all the possibilities, we decided that the best place for the thangka would now be in The Great Stupa of Dharmakaya. This felt to us to be the most appropriate place for such a sacred part of our lineage so closely connected with the Vidyadhara. I hope this will provide the right environment for those of you who wish to continue your practice with this thangka.

The Vidyadhara represented so many things to all of us. He demanded that we recognize the dignity and wholesomeness of being human beings, and the potential we all hold to transform the world. By strengthening our lineage, we move closer to his vision of creating an enlightened culture that transforms the aggression of the world around us by being gentle and kind in our everyday lives. This should be a moment of celebration for all of us --- working to continue the vision of the Druk Sakyong and fulfilling his wishes which form the basis for much of our lives.

The Druk Sakyong Wangmo, Lady Diana Mukpo