

CALLING THE LAMA FROM AFAR: The CD

These CDs were privately produced by members of the very venerable Khenchen Rinpoche's sangha around the world for the benefit of the monks in the shedra at Vajra Vidya Institute in Sarnath, India. This is the monastery Rinpoche established next to the site where the Buddha first taught with the intention of bringing the Buddha's teachings back to India. Its first teacher was His Holiness the Dalai Lama and its most prominent student is His Holiness the 17th Karmapa. It takes its name from His Holiness the 16th Karmapa, Rigpa Dorje, which in Sanskrit is Vajra Vidya, Indestructible Knowledge.

Every year for six months, the Kagyu monks in the five-year program study and debate dharma at Vajra Vidya which was designed according to the original architectural plans for Nalanda, the great Buddhist university of India. VVI also offers advance study.

In His Holiness Karmapa's private shrine room at VVI, Rinpoche's faithful attendant Lobsang Dorje recorded these 19 tracks, all of them prayers and mantras commonly recited every day in the Kagyu tradition by all of us. So the CD is a learning tool. You can learn the tunes, singing karaoke with Lobsang. You can also just play the CD for inspiration, while working or driving or before meditation practice.

The CD comes with a colorful booklet that has the words of the prayers and mantras in English and transliterated Tibetan. The booklet also has pictures of Thrangu Rinpoche and Lobsang Dorje at Vajra Vidya Institute.

All the money from this CD goes this part of Thrangu Rinpoche's expanding mandala. It is win win fund raising: you get the dharma CD and Rinpoche's monks get your support for their dharma studies. EMAHO!