



The Congregation members ("Sangha") of Sakya Monastery of Tibetan Buddhism regretfully announce the passing of their Head Lama, His Holiness Jigdal Dagchen Sakya (H.H. Dagchen Rinpoche). H.H. Dagchen Rinpoche was born in 1929 in Sakya, Tibet, and was educated to be the head of the Sakya School of Tibetan Buddhism.

H.H. Dagchen Rinpoche's family was the first Tibetan family to reside in the U.S. and led the way for Tibetan refugees to settle in North America. H.H. Dagchen Rinpoche and his wife, Her Eminence Dagmo Kusho Jamyang Sakya, and their sons immigrated to the United States in 1960 after they were invited to participate in a research project on Tibet at the University of Washington. In 1974, H.H. Dagchen Rinpoche, along with His Eminence Dezhung Rinpoche, co-founded a Dharma Center and soon after, it was established as Sakya Monastery of Tibetan Buddhism in the Pacific Northwest.

After H.H. Dagchen Rinpoche's passing on April 29, 2016, he entered into a special state of consciousness ("Parinirvana") using a special state of meditation ("Thukdam"). Upon hearing of H.H. Dagchen Rinpoche's passing, His Holiness the Sakya Trizin, the head of the Sakya tradition, traveled to Seattle and under his guidance, led special ceremonies and prayers for H.H. Dagchen Rinpoche.

(Thukdam, as per Tibetan Buddhist practice, is explained as a stage in which a highly learned Lama or practitioner is able to meditate on the "Clear Light Stage," an ultimate process of inner dissolution of the five elements and consciousness.)

A Sacred Moment Funeral Services is working with the Sakya family and Sakya Monastery of Tibetan Buddhism to adhere as closely to Tibetan funeral traditions as possible. Under the supervision and direct guidance of *A Sacred Moment*, founder and owner Char Barrett is ensuring that all Washington administrative codes and laws are being met or exceeded.

During the seven-day Thukdam meditation, a colored halo appeared around the sun over Seattle on two separate days. Similar sightings of varying sizes were reported during this period at Manjushri Mountain in China, in Tibet, in Nepal and India, and several other places in the world. Also in Seattle, an Aurora Borealis appeared, along with a meteor shower. It was the first time the Northern Lights were so vivid and colorful in Seattle for well over a decade.

Lamas, monks, nuns, friends and followers of H.H. Dagchen Rinpoche are visiting Sakya Monastery to pay homage and tribute to H.H. Dagchen Rinpoche's remarkable life and spiritual service.

To date, numerous ceremonies have been and will continue to be held at Sakya Monastery and around the world to honor the profound effect H.H. Dagchen Rinpoche's blessing of loving kindness and compassion have had on so many people. Many of the ceremonies are open to the public. Days and times of these ceremonies can be found at Sakya Monastery's website:

www.sakya.org.