

and message of inner peace, compassion, and non-violence.

After the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1959 and the destruction of Drepung Monastery, a small group of 100 monks were able to flee to India with the goal of creating a Tibetan environment in which to preserve and maintain cultural identity and religion. With their own tireless labor in 1969, 60 monks finally succeeded in re-establishing Gomang monastery in the plains of south India.

Today there are more than 2,000 monks studying in this monastery. Most of the monks are from Tibet, but there is now an influx of monks from Russia and Mongolia.

Tour Goals

- ◆ To share the compassion and wisdom of the ancient Tibetan Buddhist culture.
- ◆ To inform the public about the arts and culture of Tibet
- ◆ To generate a greater awareness of the endangered Tibetan civilization and human rights abuses by the Chinese communists since 1959.
- ◆ To insure the survival of the Tibetan culture-in-exile by raising much needed funds.

All contributions received during the 2006-07 tour will go to the Food Foundation and Health Fund, programs to ensure the well-being of the 2,000 monks at Drepung Gomang Monastery.

Friends of Drepung Gomang Monastery is the USA sponsor for the monastery. It is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization: Tax number: 13-400-5994. Donations can be sent to

**Friends of Drepung Gomang
9503 S. Pointe LaSalle's Drive
Bloomington, IN 47401
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Drepung Gomang Monastery

Address of monastery in India

**Drepung Gomang Monastic University
P.O. Tibetan Colony 581-411
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2006-07 Sacred Art Tour of Drepung Gomang Monastery

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Tour Programs

The Sacred Art Tour will present to the public these Programs and hands-on Craft Workshops.

Sacred Sand Mandala: Creation of the Mandalas of Compassion (Chenrezig), Healing (Medicine Buddha), and Long Life (Amitayus)

Thangkas: display of sacred thangkas (portraits of deities, bodhisattvas, and teachers framed in brocade.)

Butter Sculpture Workshop: creation of images according to ancient Tibetan tradition. In Tibet, these images are made from butter. In India, ghee is mixed with wax to ensure stability.

Coloring Workshop (for children). Coloring of Tibetan cultural images and designs.

Sand Painting Workshop: Creation from of Tibetan cultural images and designs using traditional chakpurs.

Slide Show: Scenes from Tibet and the History of Gomang Monastery

Cultural Pageant: This event features harmonic overtone chanting of traditional prayers, accompanied by temple instruments, including horns, flutes, bells, and drums.

The monks will perform dances costumed in rich brocades.

Monks will demonstrate a typical debate session. Debate is part of the monastery's curriculum and enforces the teaching of logic. A slide show pre-

sents glimpses of life in Tibet and in a Tibetan refugee monastery.

The audience is invited to participate in a question/answer period.

Dharma Teachings and Discussion

Teachings: Geshe Lharampa Lobzang Samdup will be available to present the following teachings:

- ◆ Introduction to Buddhism
- ◆ Basic meditation
- ◆ The Four Noble Truths
- ◆ Karma
- ◆ Impermanence
- ◆ Compassion

Discussion

- ◆ Monks' life-style in exile
- ◆ Elements of Tibetan Culture
- ◆ Current situation in Tibet

Pujas (Prayers and Chanting)

The monks offer prayers wherever requested for specific purposes or for a combination of blessings. Called "pujas," a Sanskrit word meaning "offering," prayers are recited in the traditional overtone chanting. Prayers may be recited for a house blessing, the evolution of the soul of a friend or relative who has passed on (including animals), the clearing of karma, purification of local negative energy, world peace, individual or global healing, financial security, spiritual evolution, the development of wisdom, and the removal of obstacles.

Background

2500 years ago, the Lord Buddha brought to mankind the wonderful treasure of the Dharma in order to free the world from its sufferings. From their sources in India, the precious doctrines of Buddha have caused beings to change their lives throughout the world.

It was Tsong Khapa, the emanation of Manjushri (Buddha of Wisdom), who formed the Gelugpa sect (one of the four sects of Tibetan Buddhism) in the 14th century. Tsong Khapa and his disciples founded the great centers of learning and monastic institutions known as Drepung, Sera, and Gaden near Lhasa, the capital city of Tibet. Out of these three, Drepung Gomang Monastery is renowned for its study of logic and debate.

Brief History of Drepung Gomang Monastery

In Tibetan, Gomang means "many doors." The monastery is so named because monks who have the deep realization of the nature of reality's "emptiness" are able to pass through the walls of temples as if there were many doors.

Jamyang Choje (1379-1449), one of the most eminent one of the most eminent scholars and closest disciples of Tsong Khapa, founded Gomang Monastery. Previously Gomang had more 3,300 monks not only from all parts of Tibet, but also from Russia, Mongolia, and other parts of the Himalayan region. This university has produced many eminent scholars, philosophers, and mystics known throughout Tibet and its neighboring countries who have revived the spirit of the Buddha's wisdom