



LEKSHEY CHOELING MONASTERY
from Vision to Reality





*Inauguration Ceremony of
Lekshey Choeling Monastery
27th May 2023*

Lo Ghekar Damodarkunda Rural Municipality -1, Tsarang, Mustang

Complied by Prof. Dr. Kesang Diki Bista

Introduction

Tsarang Lekshey Choeling Tsunmai Lobdra was initially started by Mr Tsewang Jonden Bista, elder brother of 27th Chogye Trichen Ngawang Khyenrab Rinchen Paljor Rinpoche, as a nunnery school with help obtained from family and friends, on land donated by his family in Tsarang in 1999. This was started with the aim of providing an educational opportunity for underprivileged female children in Mustang and surrounding regions. It was initially supported by Himal Asia Foundation and later also by American Himalayan Foundation. Mr Rinzing Wangdi Bista was the first Principal of the school and served the school till his retirement.

On a visit by great Vajradhara His Eminence Late Chogye Trichen Ngawang Khyenrab Legshey Gyatso, Tsewangla requested Rinpoche to bless and support the nuns and the nunnery. Late Chogye Trichen Rinpoche was extremely delighted to meet the nuns and ordained the first 10 nuns at that time. Rinpoche described that there was a nunnery affiliated to Nalanda Monastery also in Tibet which was run by his younger sister Late Jetsun Kushola and it was like a continuation of that tradition here in Mustang. He also gifted a 18 inch Buddha statue for the nunnery and promised to build a monastery for the nuns in the future. Rinpoche also gave the name Lekshey Choeling for the nunnery.

The 27th Chogye Trichen Ngawang Khyenrab Rinchen Paljor then took on the task of fulfilling the promise made by his late Guru and thus started the formidable task of building the Tsarang Lekshey Choeling Monastery. The land for the new monastery was also donated by Rinpoches family in loving memory of his late parents Gaga Lopsang Bista and late Kushog Tsechen Wangmo . Then with the help of many friends, family and patrons from near and far and despite the Covid pandemic, the monastery was successfully completed.

At present with 50 nuns the monastery will surely help in propagating Buddhist teachings, impart education and wisdom and further strengthen the strong religious sentiments of the people of Mustang.

It is indeed a great blessing and privilege to have His Holiness 42nd Sakya Trizin Ratna Vajra Rinpoche, both HE Chogye Trichen Rinpoches, Lo Chogyal Jigmi Singhi Palbar Bista, Khenpos and Tulkus to inaugurate the opening ceremony of Tsarang Lekshey Choeling Monastery.



Rinpoche with his Guru great Vajradhara H.E. Late Chogye Trichen Ngawang Khyenrab Legshey Gyatso



Land for the monastery donated in loving memory of Rinpoche's parents, late Gaga Lopsang Bista and Late Tsechen Wangmo Bista



The old Tsarang Nunnery



3d image of Rinpoche's Vision



**Ground breaking ceremony and puja offerings: heralding an auspicious start on June 2nd 2015
Tsarang villagers all gathered together to take part on this joyous occasion**





Vision slowly turning into reality
special bricks were made on the site.



Rinpoche overseeing the building progress



Gradual transformation







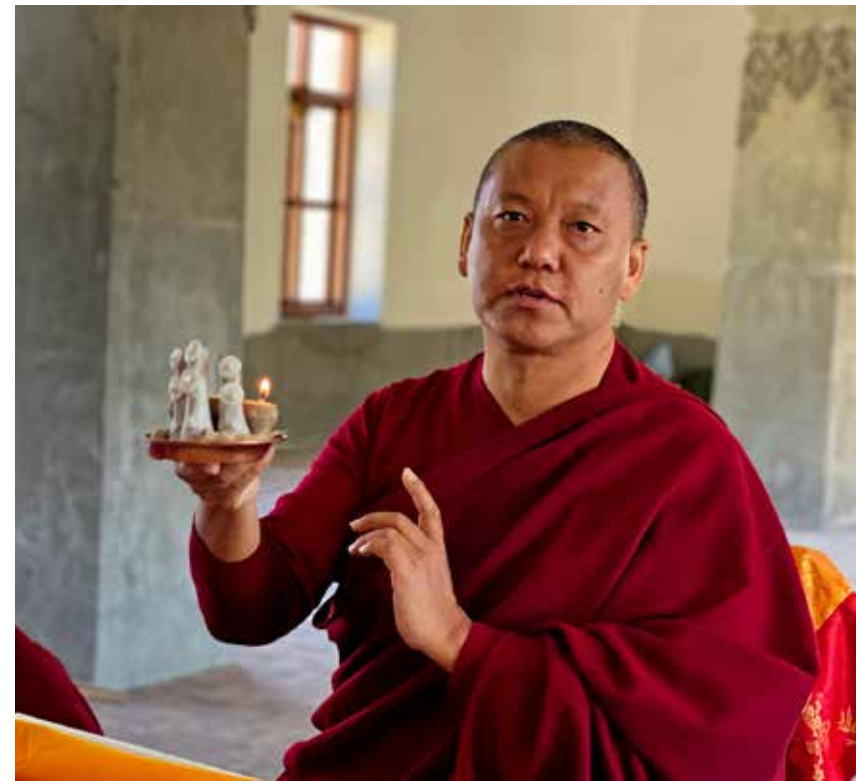
Visit by H.H. 42nd Sakya Trizin Rinpoche in 2018



Rinpoche with Tsewang Bista, VDC official and senior monks.

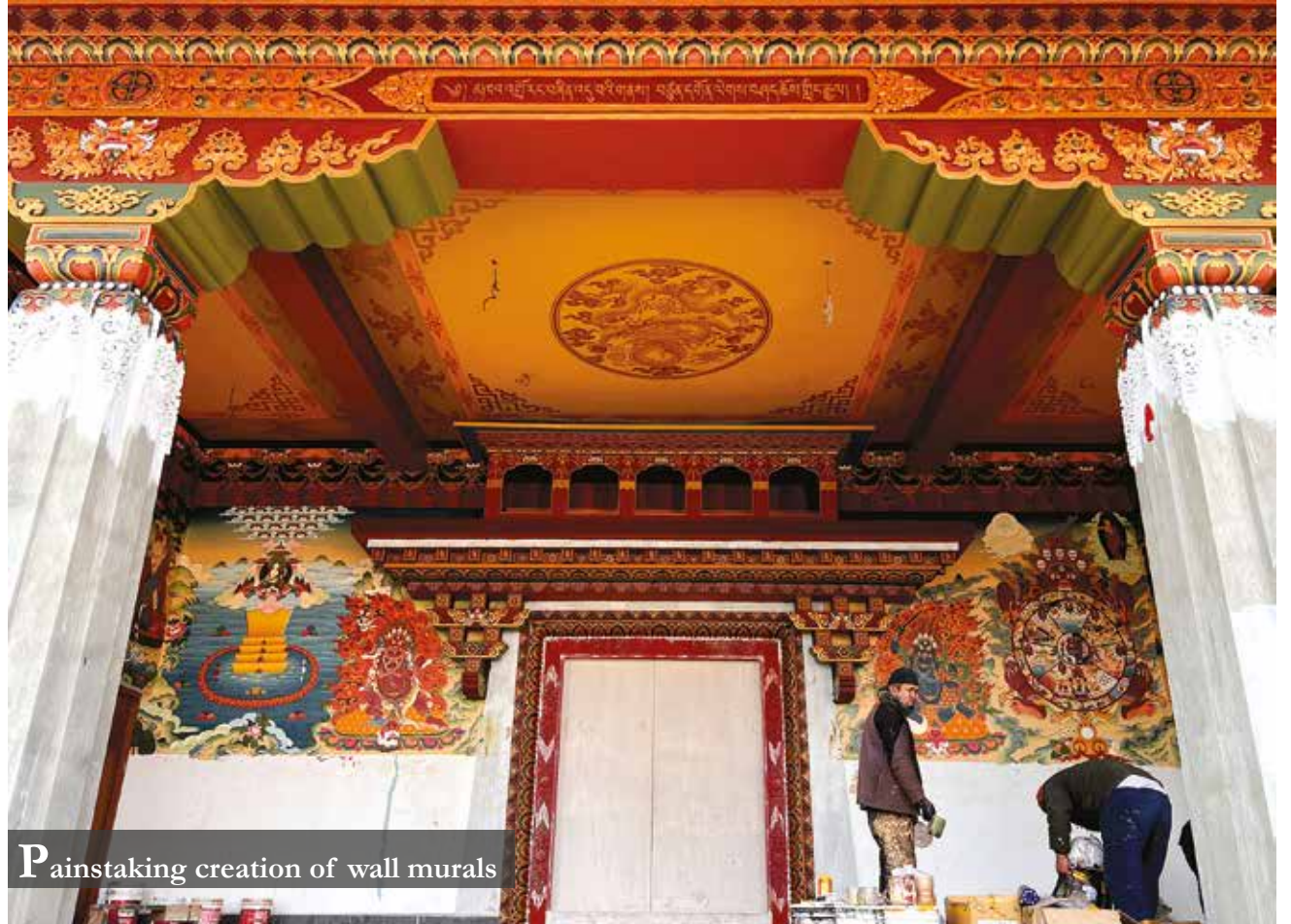
Rinpoche's constant visit to Lo during the building process





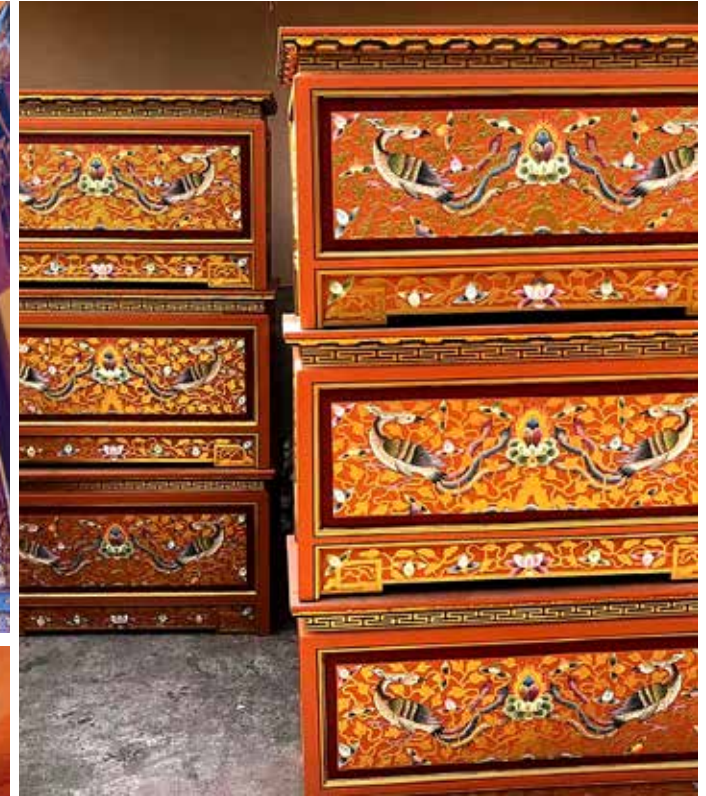
Detailed workmanship - turning ordinary into works of art.





Painstaking creation of wall murals



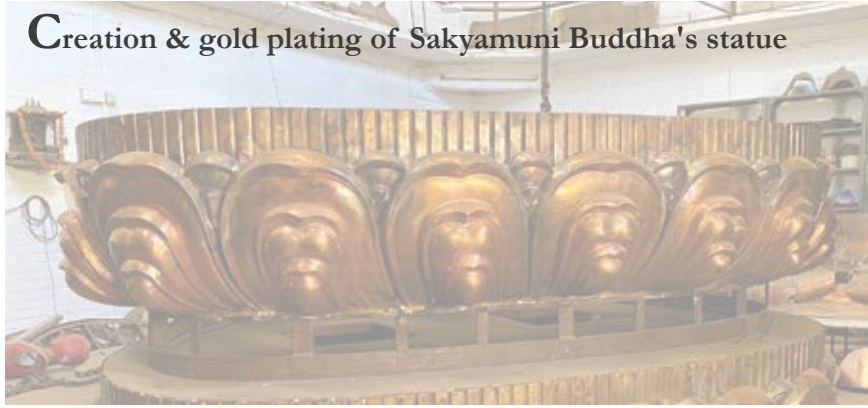


Sacred Tripitaka texts being arranged



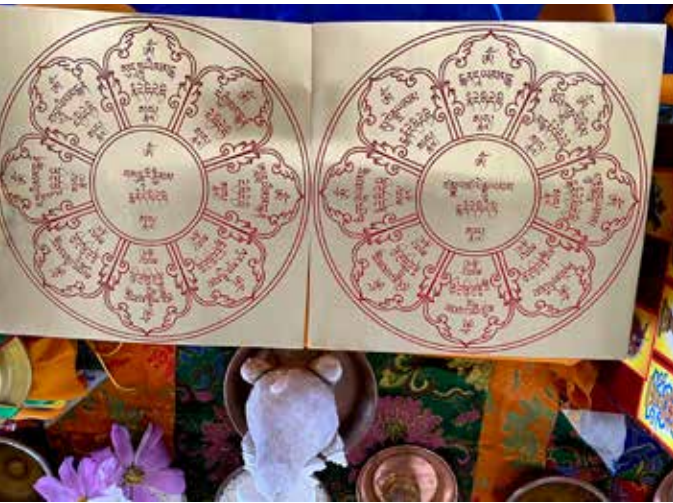
Sunlight streaming into the main audience room which overlooks the main courtyard

Creation & gold plating of Sakyamuni Buddha's statue





The most beautiful Shakyamuni Buddha's statue according to Rinpoche, hand made by Ravindra Shakyas in Patan



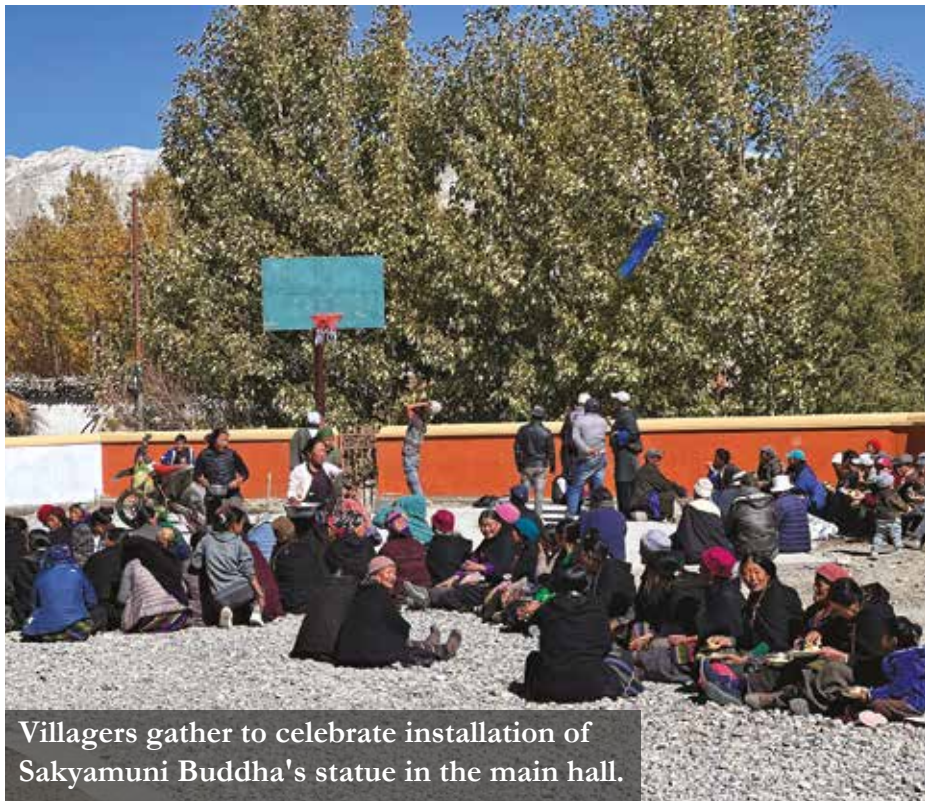
Installation of Soongh (Mantra) and precious relics, herbs and jewels into the statues.











Villagers gather to celebrate installation of Sakyamuni Buddha's statue in the main hall.





21 Taras and Guru Rinpoche statues that will adorn the main prayer hall





Rinzin Wangdi Bista, the first principal of Tsarang Chunmey Lobdra with the first batch of nuns

How the nuns have grown





New nuns being ordained



Receiving khada and prizes after annual exam.

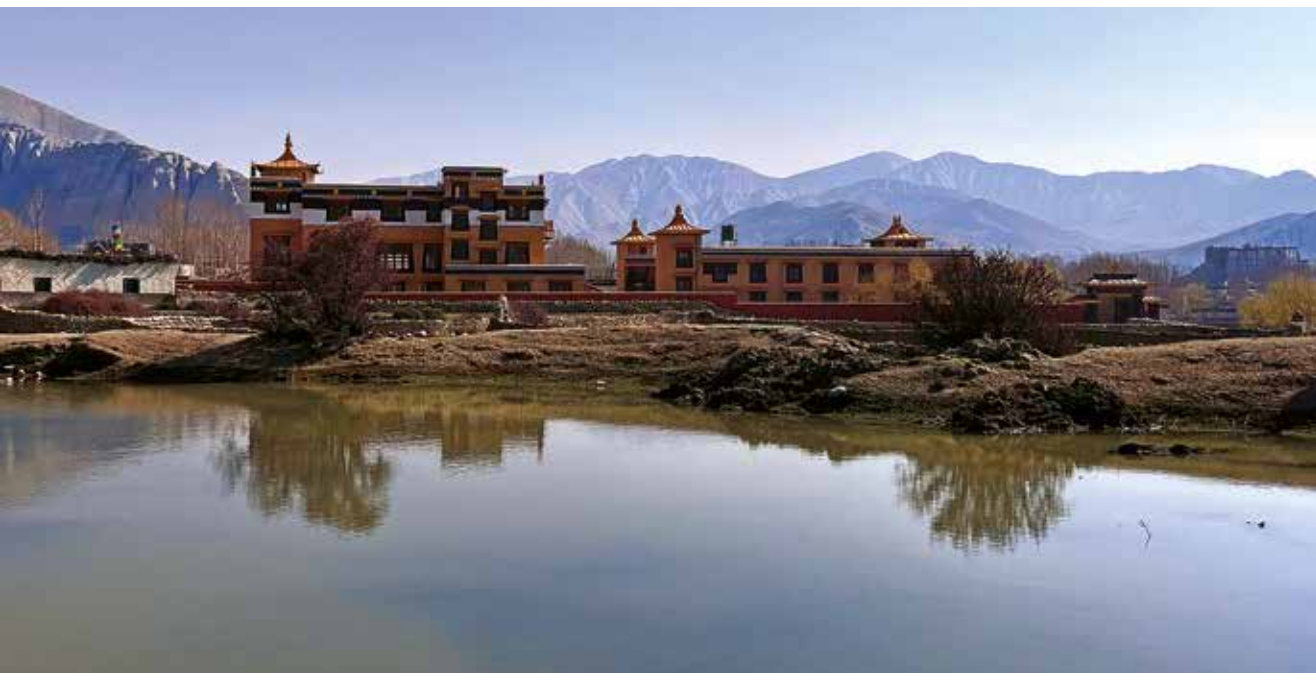


Spring or Winter: Tsarang Legshey Choling stands tall in the centre of the village





Different views of the Monastery





April snow just before the inauguration: an auspicious sign





Nun's
Quarters and
basketball court







The final reality



*The flickering flames of the lamps
brighten our hearts and minds
dispelling all ignorance and darkness,
illuminating the path to everlasting bliss.*



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