

Biography of Trinley Thaye Dorje, Yishi Norbu the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa

[*Yishi Norbu* means: Wish-fulfilling Gem. It is a title that only the supreme head of any of the Tibetan *Buddhadharma* traditions carry. Some people translate *Yishi Norbu* as His Holiness, putting the title on the level of the Catholic Pope in Rome. Maybe such a comparison is not really asked for. 'Gem of Dharma' would be a better translation. The title 'Gyalwa' means in Sanskrit: *Jina*, that is the Victor or the Victorious, indicating that he has conquered the passionate feeling habits, Sanskrit: *kleshas*, in his own mind-stream, Sanskrit: *santana*.]



The 17th Karmapa Thrinley Taye Dorje 2017.

From childhood in Tibet to travelling the globe as a world Buddhist leader. From traditional texts to social media. The life story of the Thaye Dorje, His Holiness the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, spans East and West, just as his activity bridges traditional values and contemporary issues.

Karmapa was born on 6 May 1983 in central Tibet. His parents were the great Nyingma lama Mipham Rinpoche and Dechen Wangmo. As soon as he could speak, he told them he was the Karmapa. The Karmapas are the leaders of the Karma Kagyu lineage of Tibetan Buddhism.

In March 1994, in accordance with the 900 year old tradition, Thaye Dorje was enthroned as the 17th Karmapa. His Holiness the 14th Kunzig Shamar Rinpoche, the second most senior Karma Kagyu lama, enthroned him. The 14th Shamarpa, Mipham Chokyi Lodro was himself recognized by the 16th Karmapa and His Holiness the Dalai Lama in 1957 and officially enthroned in 1963. Kunzig Shamar Rinpoche passed from this life on 11 June 2014.

The first Karmapa, Dusum Khyenpa, was born in 1110. The first Dalai Lama, Gendun Drub, was born in 1391. The Karmapa leads the longest unbroken chain of reincarnated leaders among the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism.

Karmapa escaped from Tibet in 1994. In 2003, his formal education was completed when he received the title of Vidyadhara, or Knowledge Holder of the Sutras and Tantras.

Trinley Thaye Dorje means Limitless Unchanging Buddha Activity [dorje = vajra = unchanging]. Karmapa resides in Delhi, India.

Today, Karmapa travels extensively, meeting students, young people, world leaders, and leading lights in the fields of spirituality, peace, conflict resolution, and education. He has the spiritual responsibility for over 900 monasteries and meditation centres around the world.

Karmapa's activities include: empowering young people; meeting international leaders in the fields of spirituality, peace, conflict resolution, and education; and creating videos and articles to promote peace and prosperity in our world.

Karmapa defines education as “knowledge that offers compassion and wisdom”. Cultivating our innate values of compassion and wisdom – our *Inner Wealth* – enables us to experience peace.

More than half of the world's population is under the age of 30. For Karmapa, young people are therefore essential to engage with for peace in our world.

Karmapa says that “It is essential that non-material values are supported, to help us cultivate balanced and beneficial human beings.”

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