

STORIES FROM

The Life of His Holiness CHETSANG RINPOCHE

Dharma Lessons for Kids



Adapted by Margaret Lisa Buschmann
from
From The Heart of Tibet
The Biography of Driekung Chetsang Rinpoche
by Elmar R. Gruber
Ink and pencil illustrations by Gilmer Holton

Stories From The Life of His Holiness Chetsang Rinpoche, Dharma Lessons for Kids

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INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is an adaptation of the biography, *From the Heart of Tibet, The Biography of Drikung Chetsang Rinpoche* by Elmar R. Gruber, rendered in simple language with some parts and details omitted so that the stories can be readily understood by young people, including those with English as a second language. This book is for educational purposes only, to be used by parents and teachers educating kids and teens, as well as by young people to read on their own. It is my intent that this book be donated to Buddhist centers, temples and libraries, as in general I strive to make Buddhist stories – illustrating virtues and other foundations of Dharma practice – free and easily accessible for all parents, teachers and kids. I pray that it contributes to providing young people - the future of our world – a foundation of Buddhist principles, inspiration, peace and happiness, and that it will be a cause of benefit for all sentient beings.

Each chapter highlights an important virtue, non-virtue or Buddhist teaching which is explained in the accompanying Dharma discussion. These discussions outline ideas for teachers and parents to start a discussion with the children as they find appropriate, given their children's ages. The intent is to help children identify and understand the meaning of the virtue or teaching and practice it in everyday life. Questions with answers in parentheses are included after each story to enhance the youngest students' memory and understanding of the story.

I am deeply grateful to Elmar R. Gruber for writing the outstanding biography of His Holiness Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche with rich details, deepening our understanding and appreciation of who he is as a person, a spiritual leader, and a great teacher of Dharma. I am deeply grateful to Gilmer Holton, who created the delightful ink and pencil illustrations in this book. I express my heartfelt gratitude to my fellow teachers Aleksander Smirnov and Fawn Bui who offered their suggestions and comments for the Dharma discussions. I warmly thank all the students who attend the Garchen Children's Practice at our temple for their comments, questions and reactions to the stories and discussions which greatly helped with editing. I particularly thank Curtis Spear for his encouragement and providing me photographs from the autobiography, *Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang, Head of the Drikung Kagyu Order*, and I thank Drong Ngur Jangchubling Buddhist Center in Florida for making the book available.

I offer a special gratitude to Khenpo Samdup, Lance David Bergerson, Quang Bui, Achi Tsepal, Tri Bui, and Jeremy Stowell, who formed the wave of inspiration that became the Garchen Children's Practice at Drikung Dharma Surya Center, which led to the preparation of this book.

I offer my utmost gratitude to His Holiness Drikung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche and to His Eminence Garchen Rinpoche for their precious teachings expressed in ways that touch us to the core, lighting precious Bodhicitta in our hearts. Further I thank His Holiness candidly sharing his life story, which deeply inspires and encourages us on our spiritual path. And I am humbly grateful for his blessings and the opportunity to make the story of his life available to children.

With Lovingkindness,

M. Lisa Buschmann, Instructor, Garchen Children's Practice, Drikung Dharma Surya Center

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