## Zhabten for the 4th Druk Gyalpo

Zhabten, literally stable feet, is a prayer made for the long life of an important person. Like *tenzhug*, it is a request normally made to the enlightened figures to remain long in the world to benefit sentient beings and prayers to powerful deities to elongate the life of such a figure. The *zhabten* verses are often composed by a senior spiritual figure who is supposed to have obtained the power of speech to make words turn into reality. The following is a *zhabten* composed by the current Je Khenpo for the long life of His Majesty, the 4<sup>th</sup> Druk Gyalpo.

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🥯 | त्रव्या मी र्केश क्वाप द्रमण त्रहेवाश से द रेश के द्रमण सके वा मी प्रमुख प्रति वा स्थाप स्थाप स्थाप स्थाप स
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A Prayer for Long Life of His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the Excellent Dharma King of Bhutan

May the Virtuous Prevail!

Amitabha, the dharma body which is primordially pure in its essence,

Avalokiteśvara, the enjoyment body which is by nature spontaneously accomplished,

Padmasambhava, the emanation body of all-pervading compassion,

May the Buddhas of the three bodies shower auspiciousness here and now.

Pundarika, the noble monarch in Shambala,

Exalted Songtsen Gampo in the Land of Snows,

The glorious Drukpa lord Dudjom (Zhabdrung) in this realm,

We think of you from our hearts; protect us until we reach enlightenment.

Although the miraculous works of your body, speech and mind are inconceivable,

How wondrous that, like the sun on the eastern horizon,

The best of your affection for beings of this land

Has again taken a physical form in Womdrong.

देशव राष्ट्रिम्य से द निहल ते लुग्या र न र तक द लिया । सि सी से क्वें के से लाय से सि ।

Thus, keeping a fearless (Jigme) forbearing stature,

May the lion (Senge) of men, the lord of earth,

Decorated by the excellence of great power and wealth (Wangchuck)

Remain firm on the adamantine throne for a hundred aeons.

पर्भेतुः हॅग्न्याथ्वतः ग्रायतः प्रगादः भूतः या । परः प्रप्रः श्रुंतः प्रयादः प्रगायः या या या विष्ण । As the blazing light of the laws of the dual system Dispel the darkness of oppugnant misfortunes, May the time in which we freely enjoy the feast Of complete peace and happiness never pass. प्रयाद्याया परिष्ण विष्णा विश्व विष्णा विश्व विश्

Through being connected by noble aspirations and actions
In this life and in all other lifetimes,
May all of us, the monarch, ministers and subjects
Reach the realm of Excellent Mountain in Ngayab.
इंग्लुअःकुलःचःकुलक्टिंच्चेदःच्चन्यः ५५। क्टिंश्वरःकुंदेशःकुंदःचन्यः विवास विव

By the blessings of the ocean of Buddhas and Three Roots
By the power of the profound ultimate and conventional truths
By the force of our pure and noble motivation
May these prayers come true as we wish.

These verses, commensurate with eight auspicious signs, are composed by me, Jigme Chokyi Dragpa, the one who holds the mere title of the 70<sup>th</sup> Je Khenpo. For a long time, I have considered His Majesty Jigme Singye to be an incarnation of an extraordinary being on a spiritual stage. Recently through his recollection of past lifetimes, Jigme Tenzin Wangpo, the reincarnation of Gyalse Tenzin Rabgye has clearly indicated that His Majesty is an emanation of the great magician and dharma king (Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal). I have also seen many other pieces of evidence pointing to this. Thus with such convergence of causes and conditions, as an auspicious token of enhancing the peace and wellbeing of all beings in the southern land (Bhutan), this heartfelt prayer was made at Pungthang Dechen Phodrang on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the first month of Earth Hare Year, on behalf of the entire nation with religious and secular groups which prospers under his compassionate care.

Translated by Karma Phuntsho