



THE SAKYONG PÖTRANG

Dear Warriors of Shambhala,

Next year we will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Sakyong enthronement. The enthronement was a momentous occasion for me, as well as for our whole community. It was the moment when the Shambhala lineage was formally established and took its seat. This had been the wish of my father, the Druk Sakyong, many years earlier.

Sakyong is not simply a name, but a title that carries great honor and responsibility. The role of the Sakyong is to uphold and carry the lineage of Shambhala. Over the last twenty years, I have done my best to establish and strengthen this tradition. With all of your support and love, we have persevered. On this occasion—celebrating that historic moment—it is appropriate to take time to reflect on what has occurred and how we can go forward.

Over this period, one of the essential transformations has been the arising of the Shambhala teachings as the core foundation of our curriculum and culture. The two unifying themes of basic goodness and enlightened society have brought great depth and stability, as well as breadth and expansion. There is more energy and strength. I am happy to say that there is also kindness, as the community begins to enjoy each other's company.

Therefore, Shambhala itself is becoming an example of enlightened society. Establishing this is the main role of the Sakyong, the "earth protector" who joins heaven and earth, bringing the great vision of good human society to the earth of possibility. It has been an honor as well as a challenge for me to do this and it has been personally rewarding for me and my family. At the same time I also feel a great sense of family with all of you. We are all working with our lives in order to make these teachings real.

A few years ago, I established the Sakyong Ladrang, which was given the task of stabilizing and strengthening the lineage of Sakyongs—the heart of Shambhala. With

the support of committed members and patrons, we have been able to accomplish a tremendous amount of activity in this regard.

Now I am delighted to announce the formation of the Sakyong Pötrang. The Sakyong Pötrang holds all the practices, sacred texts, and lineage properties of the Sakyong lineage, which enable Shambhalians to gather, practice, and communicate—to build enlightened society. The word *pötrang* means “court,” and therefore the notion of home—where the lineage resides. Since it is the role of the Sakyong to protect the Shambhala message, I am establishing the Sakyong Pötrang as the main institution to safeguard these precious teachings—not only for the world as we know it, but for future generations. Particularly as Shambhala becomes global, the Pötrang will be central to its stability and success.

The Ladrang, whose functions are now included within the Sakyong Pötrang, was an essential first step in our community learning how to properly support and protect the teachings and wisdom of the lineage. Our ability to develop the Sakyong Pötrang indicates that the lineage is clearly at the center of the mandala. This is happening as a result of the strength of our community and vision.

Establishing the Pötrang is an essential step to clarify the structure of Shambhala, affecting everything—from organizing Shambhala Centres to creating a clear connection between each member and the lineage. It is an expression of the Shambhala teachings, which are based on what is known as the Kalapa Yana, “the way of Kalapa.” Kalapa is the ancestral seat of the Rigdens of Shambhala. The Sakyong’s mandate is to take his seat within Kalapa to lead Shambhala. This allows us to clarify who we are.

In order for this level of development to occur, we must recognize that we have come a very long way. We have established our identity as the Shambhala lineage; and from that, a feeling of goodness and strength has arisen. We have been able to engage in festivals of social transformation, using the themes of basic goodness and enlightened society. We also have the profound inner path of Shambhala, which has led to the Scorpion Seal path, on which many people have deepened their confidence. This is all the result of our personal and communal development of windhorse.

Now, the wisdom held within this lineage—if utilized correctly—can be of great benefit to the world. After twenty years, the establishment of the Sakyong Pötrang represents the real possibility that we *can* succeed. With this, the lineage becomes the center of the mandala. It is from here that the rays of the Great Eastern Sun extend out.

Personally, I feel very inspired by how much I have seen all of you work hard as leaders, putting great exertion into your practice, developing the view through great study, as well as committing to your social responsibilities. Many of you have been steadfast protectors of the lineage over the years, working tirelessly to maintain your centres.

As a result of all of this, I feel more dedicated than ever. I am inspired by the tremendous vision of my father, the Druk Sakyong, as well as the care and strength demonstrated by the Sakyong Wangmo. As our children grow, my heart is warmed by the possibility that they will inherit a world that shows great strength and promise.

When I took this mantel on, I felt very alone. But now I feel surrounded by friends, students, and comrades in this great adventure of warriorship. It is with deep gratitude and love that I share this vision with you. I invite you to participate and carry on.

With love and blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sakyong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

The Kongma Sakyong