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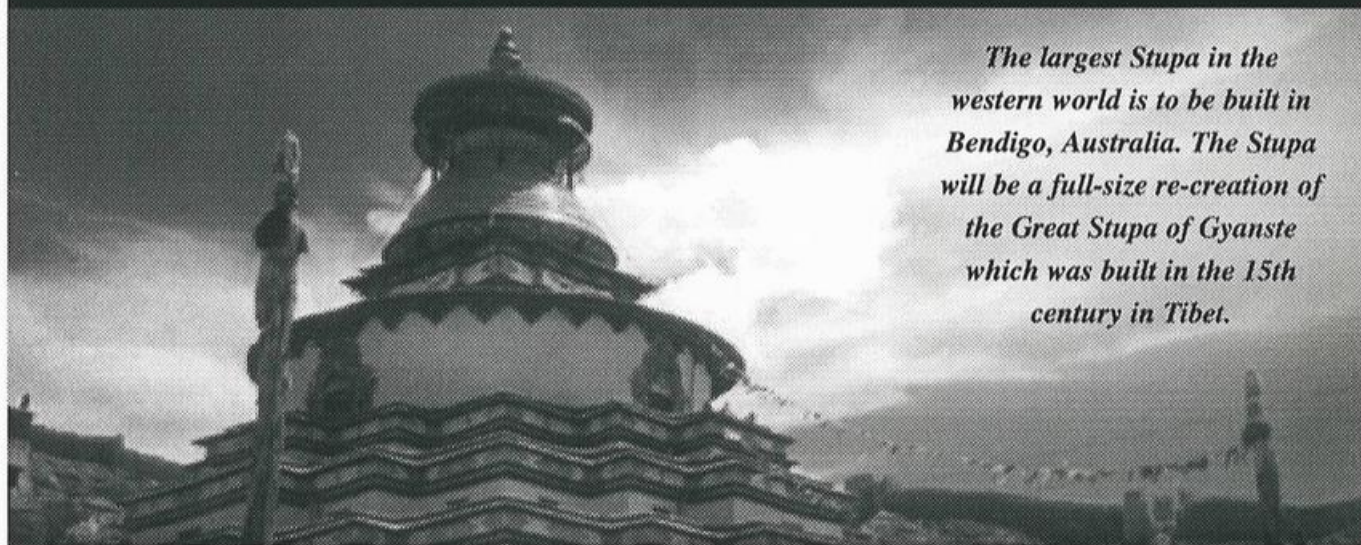
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CHORTEN

Stupa Edition

No.1



The largest Stupa in the western world is to be built in Bendigo, Australia. The Stupa will be a full-size re-creation of the Great Stupa of Gyanste which was built in the 15th century in Tibet.

The benefits of the Stupa

By Lama Zopa Rinpoche (Sydney, September 1996)

This will be the largest Stupa in the Western World.

It's main purpose is to make the lives of all beings - the young and the old - meaningful.

For those beings who see the Stupa it will:

- Help purify their mind.
- Help collect merit, which is the cause of all happiness and all success.
- Help heal their body and mind through purification specifically due to the power of the Stupa, meditating on and seeing the holy object.

The Stupa will also help to preserve Tibetan Mahayana culture.

In short, spending time at the Stupa will become the psychology to bring peace of mind and a good heart to all beings, both young and old. These benefits will apply to all sentient beings which come to the Stupa - even dogs which are taken for a walk around it.

(His Holiness the Dalai Lama has also spoken of the benefits of this Stupa. A transcription of his words will appear in the next issue of this newsletter).

A name for our Stupa

The name given to the Stupa by His Holiness the Dalai Lama (October 1996 Sydney) is TSE-CHEN CHO-KHOR (Tibetan).

This is translated as
MAHAKARUNA
DHARMACHAKRA
(Sanskrit),

THE DHARMA WHEEL OF
GREAT COMPASSION
(English).

As Australian Monk, Ven Jampa Ignyen (currently resident at Atisha Centre) said "You couldn't ask for a better name!".

Lama Zopa at ATISHA Centre, October 3, 1996

Anybody who comes here to see the Stupa and the holy objects - even those who dream about it - from that time on will not be born in the lower realms.

Then just by coming here and seeing and touching the Stupa, the negative Karmas will be purified and immediately they will find refuge and stable faith in Buddha,

Dharma and Sangha. Then they will be able to pacify their mind and generate loving kindness and bodhicitta. And it will be a powerful place for healing and a cause of success for whatever they are seeking. So each person can transform their mind by coming and seeing this holy object. There is a need to develop

compassion and warm heart. And therefore this project can help to develop so much peace and happiness for numberless sentient beings. Then wars, disease, desire are pacified by the change of attitude. Disease arising out of negative mind will be stopped and previous negative karmas will be purified.

The search for holy relics begins

Lama Zopa Rinpoche has said that in order to make the Stupa powerful and beneficial it is very important that many holy objects of Shakyamuni Buddha, Saints, Gurus, Bodhisattvas, and Yogis be gathered. We are to request relics from His Holiness the Dalai Lama, every high Lama from all four sects, plus high Lamas from Tibet. Rinpoche has directed that these relics be carefully identified as to what they are and where they come from. These priceless objects have a result of developing the mind on the path and it makes the Stupa rich and powerful.

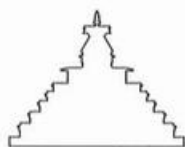
News from Thubten Shedrup Ling Monastery

Thanks to generous donations (totalling around \$40,000) made during the recent visit to Australia by His Holiness, the first stage of the Monastery which adjoins Tse-Chen Cho-Khor Stupa, is expected to be "liveable" by the end of this year. This first stage is less than one third of the planned Monastery.

Tibet Museum planned

A museum presenting the cultural and political heritage of Tibet will be situated at the entrance to the Stupa. This museum will help to fulfil one of the objectives of the Stupa which is to help preserve the unique Tibetan heritage.

An experienced curator is required to provide advice for the architect and to commence planning of the museum.



The Stupa with many doors

Lama Zopa Rinpoche has advised that the shrines on each floor of the Stupa should include statues of the 16 Arhants, the Medicine Buddhas and the 21 Taras. In each case a clear description of statue and its function should be given (perhaps in English, Chinese and Tibetan). The main person responsible for overseeing the design and preparation of the statues in the shrine rooms and Gomba will be Ven. Thubten Gyatso.

Video nears completion

The hour long video on the Stupa project and the trip to Tibet by Ian Green and his friends is nearing completion. An interview with His Holiness the Dali Lama on the Stupa is currently being added. Final copies will be available by late November.

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