



2022: the Ka-Ter Translation Project Celebrates Its Twentieth Anniversary

Founded by Chögyal Namkhai Norbu in 2002, the Ka-Ter Translation Project celebrates its Twentieth Anniversary this year.

The name Ka-Ter derives from the terms *Kama* and *Terma*: *Ka* stands for *Kama*, all the words of the Buddha and includes the original scriptures of Mahayoga, Anuyoga, and Atiyoga translated from the Sanskrit and Oddiyana languages; *Ter* stands for *Terma*, literally "treasures," hidden and rediscovered teachings transmitted in short or direct lineages by *tertöns*, masters who have that visionary capacity. *Termas* manifest in incredible and various ways, about which it is said, "...Revealing the essence of supreme realization, these teachings emerge from the midst of the sky, from walls and trees, and from numberless places to those whose aspiration is perfect."

Throughout the history of the spirit, many seekers in countless searches have looked for authentic and profound teachings that could lead them into the essence of their being. Some, like us, were fortunate enough to encounter a great and generous master prepared to share his knowledge, but only when the teacher and the student speak the same language or in the presence of qualified translation could this essential process take place.

The sacred Tibetan texts, so precious and unique, must be translated correctly, precisely, without changing essential meanings, and if possible composed by an artful translator with an equal command of the languages employed, thus enabling the transmission of the highest degree possible of understanding of the original teaching, given the limited absorption of its truth and power attainable from the printed page. This requires of the translator a profound dedication of skill, energy, devotion, diligence, humility, and long years of study and training and to accept this responsibility in order to become a qualified translator and/or an able instructor of potential translators is really extremely difficult.

Our Master pointed out that to become familiar with the unique knowledge of the ancient masters of Tibet, you must comprehend their scriptures and precious texts and make the age-old wisdom, knowledge, and experience of Tibetan culture available for future generations in Western and Asian languages in precise and correct translation. To realize this goal, the possibility must be offered to study and learn Tibetan for beginners as well as to deepen the extant familiarity with that language of the more knowledgeable students, in both cases to enable the development of high capacity translators.

Reflecting that priority, already in the late 1970s, several Tibetan translation projects had been launched in our Community and numbers of texts completed,



mostly by Adriano Clemente and also by Jim Valby who devoted many years to the translation of Dzogchen Tantras. In addition, outside the ken of translations from the Tibetan, the first transcriptions of Rinpoche's teaching-retreats in booklet form began to appear, published by Shang Shung Edizioni, now known as Shang Shung Publications, in Italian and English.

However, the translation of Dzogchen texts from Tibetan, a main task of the translators and the publishing house, faced notable challenges during the early years after the founding of the Dzogchen Community because of the large number of original texts to be translated, the few qualified translators available within the Community, and the limited, irregular sources of funding available to compensate the full-time commitment of the translators. In 1989 Chögyal Namkhai Norbu founded the Shang Shung Institute in Italy, charging it among other responsibilities with the task of establishing a functional base for all translating activity and for the training of new translators, proposals which for a while longer remained unrealized due to difficult circumstances.

Then, laying a stable foundation for the fulfillment of these urgent needs, Chögyal Namkhai Norbu in 2002 created the Ka-Ter Translation Project. As Rinpoche said,

"If you want an understanding of Dzogchen, you need the original books. That is essential... The Ka-Ter Translation Project is an important step in that direction."

The central management of this new endeavor he entrusted to the Shang Shung Institute Austria, giving Director Oliver Leick its financial and administrative responsibilities and designating Tibetologists Adriano Clemente, Elio Guarisco, and Jim Valby as the main translators from Tibetan, with the appointment of Elio also as instructor of a yearly training course for translators. Already in summer 2003 Elio conducted the first Training for Translators from Tibetan, held in Merigar West. Later, Professor Fabian Sanders, appointed in 2010 as the fourth crucial member of that scholarly team, assumed the primary responsibility for courses in the Tibetan language in what remains a yearly event under his guidance.

The fundamental resolution of the dilemma of finding sufficient funds to provide adequate living for the translators from the Tibetan was sought in a donation system developed to support all our activities of translation and publication. Since the very beginning, the Ka-Ter Translation Project has been made possible by the unstinting donations of members of the Community.

In one such example, fulfilling the wish of Chögyal Namkhai Norbu, the Shang Shung Institute Austria and its related Ka-Ter Project, thanks to the generosity of the



Community, was able to underwrite the digitalization of all the teachings revealed by Changchub Dorje. Some 260,000 pages of Tibetan text were digitalized, verified, and catalogued, the bulk of the work occurring in Tibet at Changchub Dorje's residence in Galingteng, Tibet and in the Shang Shung Institute at Merigar in Italy.

Elio Guarisco summarized as follows the mode of financing adopted by the Ka-Ter Translation Project:

"All this has been made possible through the constant, untiring, conscientious, and dedicated fund-raising of Oliver Leick and the Shang Shung Institute Austria in many years of devoted service to the Master and the Dzogchen Community."



Already Translated and Published Books

Thanks to the marvelous collaboration and support of members of the Dzogchen Community, so many translations have been published by Shang Shung Publications.

Longsal Teachings of Chögyal Namkhai Norbu

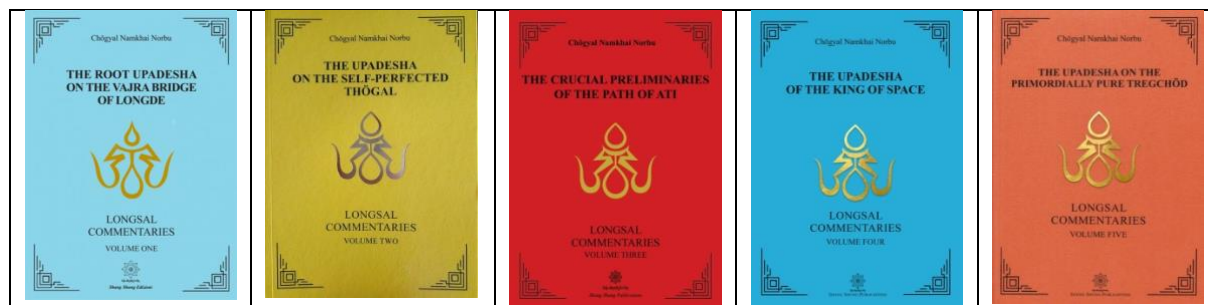
All books related to the Longsal Teachings by Chögyal Namkhai Norbu were translated by Adriano Clemente. This work will continue for several years, as many texts are still untranslated and unpublished.

Longsal Teachings, Volume 1 – 10



Longsal Commentaries, Volume 1 – 5

- *The Root Upadesha of the Vajra Bridge of Longde*
- *The Upadesha of the Self-Perfected Thögal*
- *The Crucial Preliminaries of the Path of Ati*
- *The Upadesha of the Kind of Space*
- *The Upadesha on the Primordially Pure Tregchöd*



Chögyal Namkhai Norbu: *The Longsal Rushen*

Books of Chögyal Namkhai Norbu

These books were translated by several translators, mainly Adriano Clemente and Elio Guarisco:

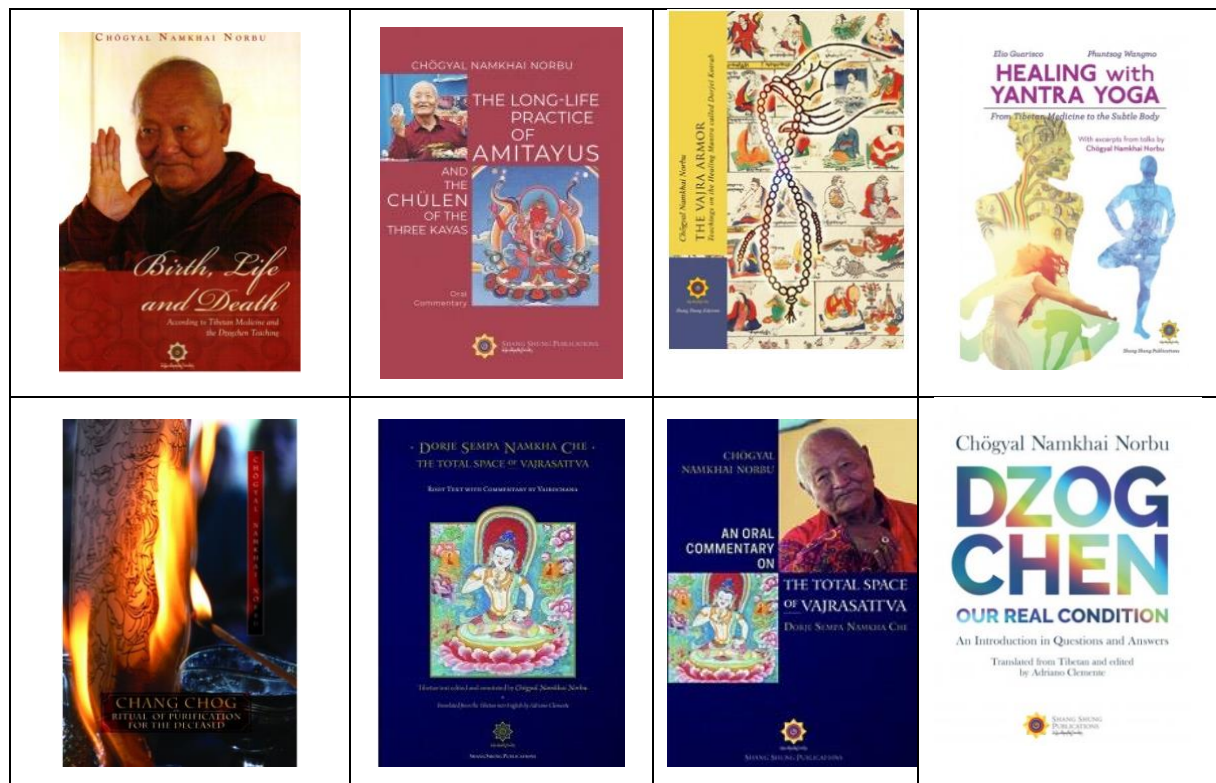
- *A Necklace of Jewels*
- *An Oral Commentary on Dorje Sempa Namkha Che*
- *Birth, Life and Death*
- *Dzogchen, Our Real Condition*
- *Healing with Fire*
- *Healing with Yantra Yoga*
- *Khorwa Yedal*
- *Mandarava Tsalung Practices*
- *Message from Tibet through Songs and Dances*
- *Namkha, Harmonizing the Energy of the Elements*
- *The Longlife Practice of Amitayus*
- *Bardo: The Bardo Instructions Sealed with the HUM*
- *The Dance of the Vajra*
- *The Dance of the Vajra: Mandala, Diagrams*
- *The Changchog Rite*
- *The Divination of Dorje Yudronma*
- *The Four Methods of Development*
- *The Practice and Action Mantras of Dark Garuda*
- *The Yoga of Prana for Clarity and Emptiness*
- *The Stairway to Liberation*
- *The Vajra Armor: the Dorje Kotrab Terma*
- *Teachings on the Thun and Ganapuja*

Books by other authors

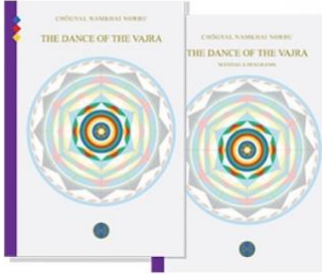
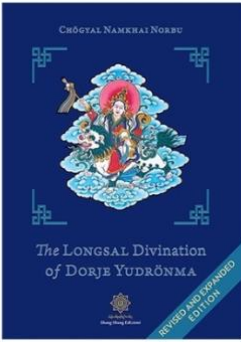
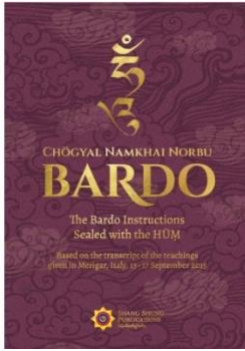
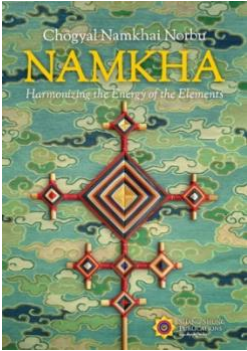
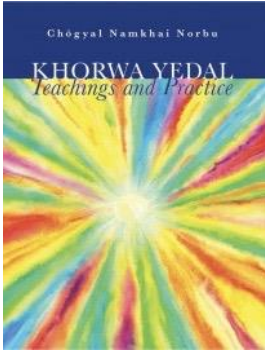
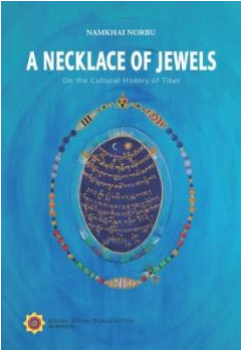
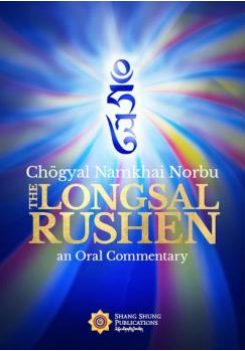

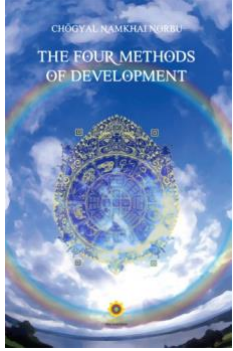
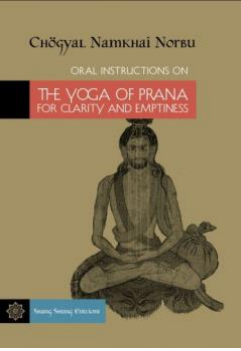
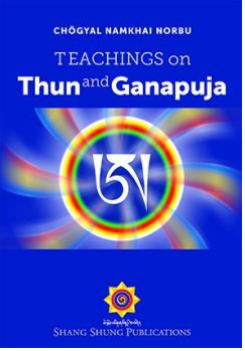
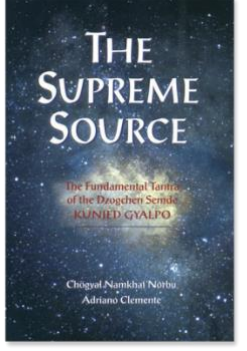
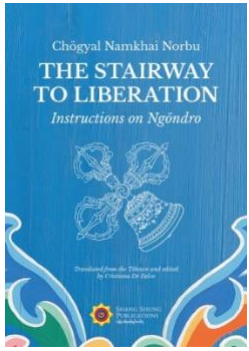
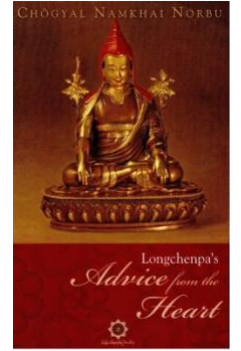
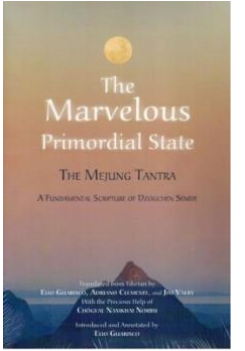
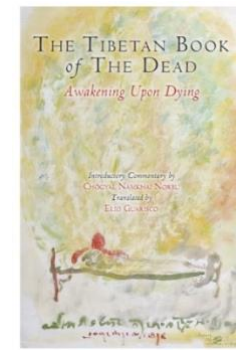


These books were translated by several translators, mainly Adriano Clemente and Elio Guarisco:

- *Dorje Sempa Namkha Che, the Total Space of Vajrasattva*
- Gyalwa Yangönpa: *Secret Map of the Body*
- Kongtrul Lodro Taye: *Creative Vision and Inner Reality*
- *Kungjed Gyalpo: the Supreme Source*
- Longchenpa: *Longchenpa's Advice from the Heart*
- *The Marvelous Primordial State: the Mejung Tantra*
- Abhayadatta: *The Tantric Mystics of Ancient India, the Miraculous Deeds of the Eighty-Four Mahasiddhas*
- *Awakening Upon Dying, the Tibetan Book of the Dead*
- Kathog Situ Chökyi Gyatso: *Togden Shakya Shri, the Life and Liberation of a Tibetan Yogi*
- Paltrul Rinpoche: *The Vision of Clear Light*









Forthcoming Books of the Ka-Ter Translation Project

The complete version of teachings on Tregchod transmitted by Chögyal Namkhai Norbu will be one of the next books offered by Shang Shung Publications. The complex preparation of the various sections of this book has taken more than thirteen years and now the readying of the text for publication is in its final steps. Generous sponsorship makes a high-quality printing possible, and in this way, we pay homage to these extraordinary Dzogchen teachings.

The translation and revision by Rinpoche of Vimalamitra's Commentary on the Dra Thalgyur Tantra, an immense work, the realization of which was assigned to our dear Vajra Brother Elio Guarisco as his main task, has been a major goal of the Ka-Ter Translation Project. The several fully dedicated years it would have taken him were cut short by his fatal illness and Elio had time only to initiate this work. As it is of crucial importance that this translation be made available and Adriano's responsibilities in this regard are already great leaving him no time for a further commitment, a team of excellent translators are being sought to complete the text, independent of the Ka-Ter Project.

Books to be translated by Adriano Clemente

The numerous books on which Adriano will focus his skills in the coming period are listed below, giving an idea of the great gifts of wisdom that await us if only we do our part and collaborate in whatever measure possible and continue (or begin) the wonderful, needed financial support of which the Ka-Ter Project makes such good use.

Longsal Texts

- *Longsal Ati lam gyi sngon 'gro* - Commentary to Preliminary Practices of Ati
- *Longsal Gsal stong* - Commentary on Clarity and Emptiness
- *Longsal A ti dgongs pa ngo sprod* - Commentary on Introduction to the State of Ati
- *Longsal A ti gnad gzer* - Commentary on the Most Important Points

Santi Maha Sangha Texts That Need Reviewing

- SMS second level
- SMS third level
- SMS fourth level



Other Texts of Chögyal Namkhai Norbu

- *Klong sde'i dgongs don snying dril* – Essence of Longde instructions
- *Sbas pa'i rgum chung* - Hidden Collection of Buddhagupta
- *A ti yoga bstan pa thams cad kyi snying po* – Atiyoga, the Essence of All Teachings
- *Nam mkha' che'i snyam khrid* - Experiential Instructions on the *Namkha che*
- *Nyams mgur* – Experiential Songs
- *Thar lam sde gsum* - The Three Paths of Liberation
- *Zhi lhag rdzogs chen lugs* - Shine and Lhagthong in Dzogchen
- *Rig pa'i khu byug* - The Cuckoo of Instant Presence
- *The Mirror: Advice on Presence and Awareness*, revised Translation and Commentary

Texts by Other Authors

- *Changchub Dorje Lama Zabdon*
- *Changchub Dorje dag snang* - Pure Vision
- *Changchub Dorje zhal gdams* - Advice
- *Pad ma bdud 'dul gyi mgur 'bum* - Experiential Songs
- *Chokyi Wangchuk Lhalung Sangdag*
- *Snga' 'gyur Inga'i nyams khrid* - Experiential Instructions on the Five Early Translations

Translations Begun by Elio Guarisco To Be Completed

- *Yan tra'i rtsa rlung skor* - On Tsalung
- *Changchub Dorje namthar* - Biography of Changchub Dorje
- *Nam mkha' che sri singha'i dgongs 'grel* - Shri Singha Commentary on the *Namkha che*

Revision of a Translation by Namgyal Nyima

- *A 'dzoms yab sras kyi rnam thar* - Biography of Adzom Drugpa and His Son Gyurmed Dorje

After translation, each text is edited and checked by mother-tongue editors before printing by Shang Shung Publications. The printing costs of most of these forthcoming books will be co-financed by the Ka-Ter Translation Project, guaranteeing that each book will appear in an elegant form that underlines the immense importance of these texts for us and future generations.