

realization. He therefore placed himself at the feet of Gampopa.

“Sometime after a brief discussion with the latter, Phagmo Drupa experienced a sudden awakening into the true nature of his own mind, and thereby fully realized ultimate Truth. During the next few days, following this experience, Phagmo Drupa completely mastered the full and direct realization of Mahamudra.”

At the age of 32 Tsong Khapa wrote “Legshay Serteng” or the Rosary of Eloquent Teaching, a comment on the Perfection of Wisdom in the form of a summary of all 21 Indian commentaries on Decoration of the Realizations.

At the age of 33, he came in contact with Lama Umapa, whose life as a shepherd was completely changed after a vision of Manjushri. This Lama saw in Tsong Khapa an appearance of the Buddha of Compassion and wanted to become his disciple. It was through the fixed connection that this Lama had with Manjushri and later in a self-developed direct relationship with Manjushri, that Tsong Khapa received the teaching of the Buddha of Compassion.

He travelled together with his disciples and held fasting-retreats. He received instruction in the Kalachakra-cycle and instructions on astrology and on how to create Mandalas. Kalachakra means wheel of time and is also the name of one of the Tantric meditation Buddhas. He also began to give tantric teaching and tantric initiations. He kept traveling and holding retreats for two decades, the longest of which lasted four years. During this retreat he would have done three and a half million fully outstretched prostrations and one million eight hundred thousand mandala offering sequences. He took more and more students of the various schools to himself and taught the teachings of the Buddha. He received and gave initiations and wrote treatises and poems.

He refused to go to India, where he could have become Abbot of a large monastery. Also he refused to go to China, where he could have taught at the request of the Emperor. Instead, he stayed in Tibet, where he gave teachings, read and wrote lyrics and held meditative retreats with his disciples. He laid particular emphasis on the Monastic Discipline, *Vinaya*, and kept himself always accurately to all the requirements up to even the least significant ones.

From the age of 52 years, he traveled less because of his serious