

health problems. His pupils offered him to build a monastery for him on a place to be indicated by him. (*Life and Teachings of Tsong Khapa*, by Robert A. F. Thurman) He chose the Mountain Drogri, or the Nomads Mountain, and gave the place the name Ganden, which means "The Residence of Maitreya" or "The Pure Land". Together with his pupil Gendun Drup, who later would be posthumously promoted as first Dalai Lama, he visited the place. Within a year 70 buildings were erected. The following year, Tsong Khapa began already to teach in the monastery.

The construction of the Ganden monastery is considered to be the fourth of the major works of Tsong Khapa. The monks of this monastery are wearing yellow colored head caps to distinguish themselves from the other orders, who wore red caps (Nyingmapa) and black caps (Karmapa). The Abbot of the monastery called the Ganden Tripa is also the head of the Gelugpa order. Gelug means the virtuous. The teachings are contained in Lam-Rim lectures. Lam-Rim lecturing is one of the three methods of teaching within each of the Tibetan Lama traditions, of which the other two are the study of texts and oral instructions.

At 61 years of age he gave still lengthy instructions. He wrote a work with comment on Entering the Middle Path. Until the end of his life he continued daily to say prayers and perform rituals. On the 25th day of the 10th month of the Year of the Pig (1419) he died at the age of 62, while he sat in meditation in the lotus position.

The work "The Eighty (Main Deeds) of Thongkhapa", which was written by the great Lama Kargyu Panchen, immediately after Tsong Khapa's death, contains a very comprehensive and detailed description of his life and is considered his most authoritative biography. This work could not be found in the form of a translation.

The work of Tsong Khapa (1357-1419)

In the 8th century AD, early Buddhism, which had been preached in Tibet since two centuries, had been founded by Padmasambhava with the first monastery of the order of the Nyingma-pa (meaning "The Old School") in Samye, east of Lasha. Today the original building does not stand. The site was destroyed during the cultural-revolution, but restored afterwards.