

1410. In the year 1415 a special temple was built for the Mandalas, by the use of which tantric rituals could be held. These were intended only for the initiates and had to remain hidden from the view of laymen. In the year 1417 a number of images including a large Buddha statue were erected in the great Hall of the monastery. There were further placed in that hall specially crafted three-dimensional gilded-brass Mandalas intended for the 32 exercises of the Godhead Guhyasamaja, the 62 exercises of the deity Heruka and 13 exercises of the deity Yamantaka. The monastery was destroyed under the Chinese occupation in 1959.

## Conclusions

For the student of Western culture Tson Khapa seems an implausible legendary figure. All those stories about the predictive dreams of his parents and his teachers seem to have resemblance to the stories of the fantastic fairy tales from “1001 Nights”.

The parallels with the stories and mystifications about the lives of the Buddha and the Christ, who also could give teaching to the learned doctors at a very young age, appears but all too clearly. For a sober, Western, critical and scientific spirit it is almost impossible to take for granted all these theological stories and statements, which come to them from second and third hand.

A sense of humility comes over us, however when studying the many testimonies on such a perfect life as that of Tsong Khapa. While researching deeper into the subject there comes a moment that one would like to wish the same as what is said of his second great teacher, the Abbot of the Drikung Kargyu monastery, Lama Chennga Choekyi Gyalpo. When the Abbot met again with Tsong Khapa after his ordination he was overwhelmed by tears and he is said to have wished that he also would have been able to have had such intensive practice in his youth.

It is regrettable however that, within a few generations after Tsong Khapa reformed the degenerated Tibetan Buddhism, a relapse to the King-Priesthood took place there again, with all the associated court intrigues, violence and murdering.

It is encouraging to hear, that the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, current Tibetan head of State and spiritual leader in exile, has recently announced that he will