

## BACKGROUND ABOUT THE PROTECTOR DEITY STATUES

In April of 2006, Bhutanese master sculptor, Lopen Tumpo, and his apprentice, Jigme Tenzin, began work on Mahakala and Palden Lhamo statues. The statues are made from clay, paper, wire and wood. The statues are filled with mantras, prayers and many holy materials and relics from religious sites in Tibet, Nepal, India and China. It took 8 months to complete and sculpt the statues. Tumpo and Jigme primarily created the statues with their hands and traditional tools. The statues were created and filled from head to toe in the traditional Tibetan style.

In January of 2007, Migmar Tsering, a monk from Sakya Monastery in Kham, Tibet, began painting the statues. Migmar used a variety of paints and gold leaf to bring color and expression to the statues. Working alone, he finished the statues in November of 2007.

Mahakala is a 13th level Bodhisattva whose function is to protect the Buddhist teachings and helps us overcome obstacles in our spiritual practice.

Palden Lhamo (also known as Maksi Gyamo) is the wrathful aspect of Sarasvati (the goddess of music). Her function is to protect us from diseases.

Both deities protect Sakya Monastery and Dharma practitioners against obstacles. According to Tibetan tradition, the protector statues are just as important as the Buddha statue.



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## CELEBRATION ལྷན་དགོན་བཅའ་ཚེན་གུན་བྱུང་ཚེས་སྤིང་གི་ OF THE FORMAL རྟེན་བཞེངས་ལེགས་གྲུབ་གྱི་ COMPLETION OF རྒྱན་སྲོལ་མངོན་མོ།། SAKYA MONASTERY

JANUARY 6, 2008

ཕྱི་མོ་ཨ་ཁོང་ལོ་ལྔ་ཉི་ཤེས་ཀྱི་ཚེས་ལ་ལ།

## CELEBRATION OF THE COMPLETION OF SAKYA MONASTERY



In 1984 Sakya Monastery moved to its new location on 83rd Street in the Greenwood neighborhood of Seattle. Twenty-four years later on Sunday, January 6, 2008, we celebrate the completion of Sakya Monastery's traditional shrine room with the following events:

- ◆ 10:00 am: 16 Arhat Prayer. Afterwards, everyone may give katags, flowers, incense, money, etc to the protector deities: Mahakala and Palden Lhamo.
- ◆ 12:00 Noon: Potluck lunch

## MAHAKALA EMPOWERMENT OF THE EIGHT PROTECTOR DEITIES



Mahakala is a 13th level Bodhisattva, a wrathful deity who is the protector of Buddhism and helps us overcome obstacles in our spiritual practice. Because Mahakala is black, it is appropriate to wear something black to the empowerment. You may bring an offering for Mahakala such as flowers, incense, food or money. Participants will receive a text describing the short (2 minute) Mahakala prayer, which you should commit to do daily. Those who wish to take this empowerment should be Buddhist. This empowerment is also required to attend the extraordinary Mahakala practice and puja led monthly by H.H. Jigdal Dagchen Sakya.

**7:30pm in the Shrine Room**

**No Prerequisites**

**Suggested Donation: Public \$30; Members \$25**

Translator: Upasaka Jeff Schoening, PhD in Buddhist studies is a longtime member and interpreter at Sakya Monastery.