

The Light comes from India

The Buddha Dharma Becomes State Religion



First Tibetan monastery built in Samye by Padmasambhava in 779 AD. A debate was held to decide which path Tibet would follow



Padmasambhava the great Guru from India

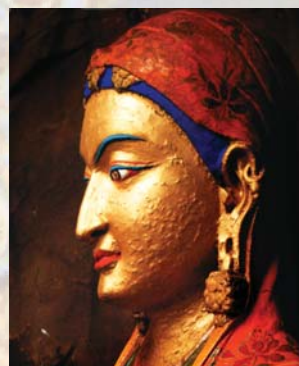
After marrying Princesses Bikruti of Nepal and Wencheng of China, King Songtsen Gampo converted to Buddhism. A hundred years later, King Trisong Detsen requested Shantarakshita, the Abbot of Nalanda University, to teach the Buddha Dharma and ordain the first monks. Shantarakshita immediately faced serious difficulties due to the strong opposition from the indigenous faith. He convinced the king to invite the Tantric Guru Padmasambhava, who alone could subdue the forces adverse to Buddhism. The Indian Master succeeded and later built the first monastery in Samye.



Jowo, the Sacred Statue of Buddha in the Jokhang Cathedral in Lhasa



King Songtsen Gampo



Queen Bikruti



Pillar in Samye stating that Buddhism was the State religion

Shantarakshita predicted that a dispute would arise between the Indian and Chinese schools of Buddhism. The issue was sorted out through the famous Samye Debate. After two years of intense discussions (792-794 CE), the Indian path prevailed and a proclamation was issued stating that the Indian path was thereafter the state religion.



Shantarakshita introduced the Nalanda Tradition in Tibet



Pillar in Samye



And then Buddhism flourished in Tibet...