

The Nalanda Tradition

India's Gift to Tibet



Tibetan monks belong to the Nalanda Tradition



The Nalanda monastery

The Dalai Lama says: "I always describe Tibetan Buddhism as pure Buddhism from the Nalanda tradition. ... The Buddhist tradition of Nalanda uses Sanskrit language; Nalanda is the true promoter of the Mahayana tradition. Nalanda had great masters such as Nagarjuna or Arya Asanga. ... During the 8th century, the Tibetan Emperor invited a great master of Nalanda; his name was Shankarakshita. He was a famous, well-known scholar and master of Nalanda. He went to Tibet and spent the rest of his life there. He is the one who introduced Buddhism in Tibet."



Nagarjuna (circa 150-250 CE)

"One great Indian nuclear physicist, Dr. Raja Ramanna told me that he once read the *Mulamadhyamaka-karika*, a text of Nagarjuna; as a physicist, he was really surprised when he found in this text the concept of quantum physics and relativity," remembers the Dalai Lama.



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Thangka of the Great Masters of Nalanda

He adds: "I myself studied the Nalanda tradition of Buddhism; at first, I learned by heart and memorized what we call the Root Texts, all written by Nalanda masters. ... Tibetan Buddhism is the Nalanda tradition which is itself a combination of the Sanskrit and the Pali traditions as well as Buddhist Tantrayana. Masters like Nagarjuna, Aryadeva or Chandrakirti also wrote tantric treatises."



Monks and nuns have returned to India



Chandrakirti



The old tradition is alive once again...