

A Brief Biography of Dakini Muntso

A. A Supreme Manifestation

The Most Venerable Dakini Muntso is the embodiment of many bodhisattvas. In *The Root Tantra of Manjushri*, and the teachings given by masters such as Padma Dundul, the Rainbow-body realizer in Xinlong region, the great tertön Lerab Lingpa, His Holiness Dalai Lama, and His Holiness Jigme Phuntsok Rinpoche noted clear indications and prophecies about Dakini Muntso being the emanations of Vajrayogini, Arya Tara, Sarasvatī, Dakini Yeshe Tsogyal — the consort of Guru Padmasambhava, Damema — Marpa Lotsawa's consort, Machig Labdrön — the founder of Shijie lineage, and the great accomplisher Mingyur Paldon. Such recognitions were also commonly acknowledged by other realized masters worldwide, which led to her official enthronement in 1999 at Mindrolling Monastery — one of the three major monasteries of the Nyingma school. Padma Dundul, the rainbow-body realizer, prophesied over a hundred years ago that an emanation of Dakini Yeshe Tsogyal by the name of Muntso would be enthroned in Gyaru Tsogye Monastery in the Shinlong region. In addition, the great tertön Lerab Lingpa stated, "Even though I haven't been able to help you (Gyaru Tsogye Monastery) much at this time, Muntso, who is the niece of my next incarnation and an emanation of Dakini Yeshe Tsogyal, will come and bring great benefit to you". Much has been documented on the inconceivable qualities and enlightened activities of these supreme emanations. The biographies of each of these enlightened beings are none other than the life stories of Dakini Muntso herself.

B. The Miraculous Birth

Dakini Muntso was born in the Zhongxiao region of Serta County in Garze, Sichuan. "Zhong" means "garuda" in Tibetan, and "Xiao" means "to manifest". She was born in the year of the Fire Horse (1966) on an auspicious day. At the time of her birth, the air inside and outside of the tent was imbued with a pleasant fragrance and permeated with vibrant melodies throughout space, rendering all the surrounding villagers astounded in awe. The sky was radiating rainbow light in all directions even though it was a bleak wintry day. Dakini Muntso did not cry when she came out of her mother's womb. She was a gentle baby from the start. His Holiness Jigme Phuntsok Rinpoche blessed and bestowed her with the longevity empowerment of Tsewang Tseguk Gyipa. Coincidentally, His Holiness had completed a hundred million recitations of Manjushri mantra at the time of her birth. Due to this auspicious dependent origination, he named her "Muntso". "Mun" is a secret seed syllable of Bodhisattva Manjushri; "Tso" means Sarasvatī, the goddess of celestial music.

Dakini Muntso grew up in a taintless environment. When she was little, it was not uncommon for her to have pure visions of the Pureland of Tathagata Supreme-Glory-Free-from-Sorrow, one of the seven Medicine Buddhas. His Holiness Jigme Phuntsok recounted, "She used to tell me all sorts of things about the purelands when she was little". Whenever she saw others harming beings or engaging in unvirtuous conducts, she couldn't help but weep and do all she could to protect those that were mistreated. As she grew older, the signs of a saint's innate qualities in her such as compassion, justness, calmness, and gentleness became increasingly evident.

There was never a second when Dakini Muntso was not under the protection of Dharma Protectors. For example, once when she was playing with her little friends on the hill by the village, Dakini Muntso slipped and tumbled down the hill. Her friends went crying for help in panic and despair, fearing for her life. Surprisingly, other than a tear in her dress, she didn't even get a scratch. She resumed playing with friends as if nothing ever happened. His Holiness

recounted, “She encountered bears and other fierce creatures many times but she was never harmed”.

At the age of four, Dakini Muntso began herding livestock for her family. She often snuck away from the herd and ran to His Holiness’s side to listen in to his Dharma teachings. His Holiness often joked at the end of the session, asking her, “Muntso, where are your yaks now?” Having designated all her yaks with pretty names familiar to the adult villagers, she spontaneously and casually reported every yak’s locations. His Holiness inquired a passersby and confirmed that Dakini Muntso’s remark was identical with what was reported back by witnesses. There have been countless incidents similar to this. In the year 2000, His Holiness, in front of ten thousands sangha, openly acclaimed, “Muntso’s innate clairvoyance attracted villagers, young and old, to come for all sorts of inquiries. She always gave infallible answers to the inquirers without exception. Ever since she was ordained to become the preceptor of a novice nun, she stopped presenting her miraculous abilities altogether in order to maintain her vows as pure as can be”. Since Dakini Muntso never spoke about her qualities herself, her true excellence could only be fathomed from the stories sporadically told by His Holiness or those who were close to her.

C. Awakening to the Capacity of the Mahayana Vehicle

Dakini Muntso has demonstrated her passion in practicing Buddha Dharma since she was little. Whenever His Holiness expounded on the essential Sutric, Tantric, and the most profound Atiyoga teachings, she always listened with utmost respect and practiced unerringly. The young Dakini never turned away anyone who came to her door for help, and also pleaded families to lend their helping hands. She wept unceasingly whenever she witnessed beings who were harmed by malicious conducts. She protected the weak and feeble animals with all of her might. She rescued and nurtured animals, keeping them inside her home when the outdoor weather became bleak and wintry. Never using harsh languages towards her child companions, she, instead, always praised and rejoiced their virtuous qualities. She enjoys helping those that accompanied her on journeys. As a young child, she often offered her food to the baggers. Her natural inclination prompted her many times to build stupas, preach Buddha’s teachings, or enact historical accounts of realized masters even during child’s play. When she grew a little older, Dakini Muntso made a decision to enter the Mahayana path and follow His Holiness’s footsteps by becoming an ordained novice nun.

D. His Holiness Jigme Phuntsok’s Kind Acceptance

Three hundred years ago when His Holiness was reincarnated as the great tertön Minling Rinpoche, Dakini Muntso reincarnated as his daughter, Mingyur Paldon. As documented in *The Biography of Minling*, Minling Rinpoche had fully mastered the Tibetan language in both reading and writing at the age of 3, and he was able to recite the sadhana of consecration and many others. He started teaching *The Guhyagarbhatantra*, *Mahāyānottaratantra-śāstra*, *Finding Comfort and Ease in the Nature of Mind* (rDzogs pa chen po sems nyid ngal gso), and *The Wish Fulfilling Treasure* (yid bzhin mdzod) at the age of thirteen. By the time he reached twenty-one, Minling Rinpoche became the scriptural teacher of the 5th Dalai Lama and revealed countless terms. During the era when the lineage, sadhanas, and myriad teachings of the Nyingmapa was on the brink of extinction, it was due to Minling Rinpoche’s kindness that the complete Nyingma lineage was preserved in its entirety. Minling Rinpoche also personally and rigorously trained his daughter, Mingyur Paldon. Rinpoche’s consort recounted, “Most families favor boys, but our family values a girl”. Thus, Minling Rinpoche had passed on all of the teachings to his daughter and personally validated her level of realization. After Rinpoche had passed into parinirvana, his daughter inherited his throne and became the torchbearer of his lineage.

His Holiness's previous incarnation was the renowned Tibetan master, the great tertön Lerab Lingpa. Dakini Muntso, the reincarnation of Mingyur Paldon, took rebirth as Pumo, the consort of tertön Lerab Linpa. Throughout her life, Pumo stayed in extended retreat, completing 1.3 billion recitations of the Avalokiteshvara mantra. His Holiness and Dakini Muntso's close connection seemed to have manifested since previous lifetimes and continued to repeat again in this very lifetime. Wherever His Holiness went to conduct his enlightened activities, Dakini Muntso was always by his side. His Holiness had mentioned repeatedly during his teaching, "The three of us, myself, Medru, and Muntso, were never apart from each other in the past; we will remain together and never separate from one another in this life and all future lives".

E. Observing Pure Precepts

Following the conventional tradition, Dakini Muntso regards and observes precepts rigorously. She holds up His Holiness's standards and instructs sangha to abide accordingly in their practices, respectable bearing, and other day-to-day mannerism. She strictly observes her own disciplines according to the regulated conducts as laid out by the Buddha, without ever compromising them regardless of the time and place. She never speaks ill of others and always maintains pure view when approaching fellow practitioners. Whenever she hears gossips involving slander and criticism of others, she stops it and says, "When we see faults in others, it only proves that our mind is polluted; we never know others enough to make fair judgments. We should closely watch our own speech and the karma it creates".

F. Learning, Reflecting, and Practicing

Dakini Muntso began her path of learning, reflecting, and practicing with His Holiness at a very young age; since then she has been able to partake of inconceivable nectar of the supreme Dharma. Over the years, she never ceases to progress on her path and refuses to waste time on trivial matters unless it's relevant to learning, reflecting, and practicing scriptural teachings. When she learns, she takes the time to discern carefully on the subtlest meaning of any given verse without just comprehending its literal meaning. She does not proceed to learn the next concept until she has fully comprehended the previous one. This is how she persevered to fully master the tripitaka in its entirety both in breadth and depth. Even though Dakini Muntso is free of the two obscurations and has become fully enlightened, she continues to persevere in learning, reflecting, and practicing in order to inspire beings like us who are of low capacity in this degenerate time. She perseveres unwaveringly in guarding and maintaining the purity of her vows; she carefully discriminates the cause and effect to the subtlest level; she teaches beings by embodying these values and disciplines. His Holiness praised, "Muntso applies herself to ensure clear and precise pronunciation in mantra chanting; she disciplined herself hard with exceedingly strict standards in her recitation; she has accomplished billions of recitations in this manner!" Dakini Muntso gets up at 3 am to practice until 9 am every morning. She then spends time on certain daily routines before returning to her practice again and does not rest until mid night. She often preaches to people about how laziness, sleepiness, and lust are the causes of degeneration; she leads whoever makes a connection with her to reflect on the meanings of The Preliminary Teachings of the Great Perfection and encourages them to conduct themselves virtuously and avoid non-virtues at all cost. She rarely leaves her homeland in Tibet and simply immerses herself in her practices most of the time. Her life style is simplistic and non-attached to worldly matters; practicing Buddha Dharma is her only focus.

G. Accomplishing Dzogchen

Since she was little, Dakini Muntso has followed His Holiness all along and practiced according to the stages of the path: sutras, tantras, accumulations, generations stage, completion stage, and Dzogchen pith instructions. She has become the most important successor of His Holiness. The Gracious Guru, His Holiness Jigme Phuntsok Rinpoche, personally recognized, “My niece Muntso’s vows — pratimoksha, Mahayana, and Tantric Samaya — are undeniably pure; she has accomplished the unsurpassable Dzogchen realization”.

H. Compassion and Clairvoyance

Dakini Muntso has unceasing compassion for beings. She’s always concerned about the monks, nuns, and the lay practitioners who suffer from hardship or poverty; she often urges her attendants to send food, clothing, and other necessities to those who are in urgent need. she offers money to sick people, selflessly prays and gives her blessings to filthy, feeble animals in her presence regardless of her own physical ailment.

In order to help beings cleanse their negative karma, Dakini Muntso constantly practices Tonlen to take on the sufferings of others’ illnesses. Although her physical health appears fine, Dakini Muntso has been told multiple times by doctors that her medical test results are far outside the norm and it is a miracle she is still alive. Dakini Muntso remains optimistic and continues to focus on benefitting people who came into contact with her. When she was hospitalized, occasionally, doctors or nurses, out of ignorance, treated Dakini Muntso with disrespect. Eventually, after experiencing her compassion, the doctors and nurses changed their demeanors towards Dakini Muntso. Because they grew so fond of her, the staff had a hard time letting her go when she was discharged from the hospital.

Dakini Muntso is especially well known for her miraculous ability. Many witnessed Guru Rinpoche’s manifestation during the Amitabha practice and empowerment in 2007. Her attendants are no strangers to incredible happenings surrounding Dakini Muntso. Once, her attendant went out to take care of some business and upon returning couldn’t find Dakini Muntso or her pet dog anywhere in the room. Knowing her master never leaves her room unattended, the attendant started to worry and panic. As she called out to her master, Dakini Muntso’s voice and appearance emerged on the throne behind her, saying, “Can’t you see me?”, The pet dog barked in the background. The throne had been empty just seconds ago. In another instance, an attendant locked the door and took away the key after Dakini Muntso left the shrine room upon completion of her practice. The next morning when the attendant returned to the shrine, she found a Sarasvatī statue carved from sandalwood. The statue had never been there before. It’s not uncommon for Dakini Muntso to coincidentally address a question that is in the mind of her attendants. There are countless reports such as these.

I. Enlightened Activities

Dakini Muntso always actively assisted His Holiness in his enlightened activities. Eventually, there was really no difference between the two of them in what they did. She has been teaching the sangha in the monastery on scriptures such as, *The Flight of the Garuda*, *Pith Instructions to the Nature of Mind*, *Tantra of the Single Son of the Doctrine*, *the Root Tantra of Manjushri*, and other pithy instructions of Dzogchen. She addresses subjects from beginning Renunciation all the way to the actual guidance of the unsurpassable Dzogchen according to *Finding Comfort and Ease in the Nature of Mind* and other important teachings. Both His Holiness and Dakini Muntso gave empowerments to hundreds of thousands of ordained and non-ordained sangha in Shinlong, Sertha, Daofu regions. New York Times reported on one of the biggest events attended by over a million people.

Dakini Muntso has no attachment to any worldly belongings. She never keeps offerings for herself but instead quietly donates to charity or funds towards sangha's meals, lamp offerings, building/renovating temples, and life release, etc. She constantly warns her attendants, "Do not create unjustifiable causes to elicit charity donation; do not socialize with beings with hidden agendas; do not make a living out of evil means. Do follow the teachings in The Precious Garland of Mountain Dharma and conduct yourself accordingly to become a genuine practitioner of Buddha Dharma."

J. May Dakini Muntso Forever Abide in the World

Even though Dakini Muntso has not been in the best of health, she has looked past the phenomena of life and death and focused on nothing else but living in this world to benefit beings. She brings those around her to tears when she often asked, "What would you do when I'm gone?". As her followers, we should be inspired by our guru's extraordinary qualities and heartfelt stories, vow to confess all of our negative downfalls, and turn towards practicing virtuous conducts. May Dakini Muntso and all lineage masters be pleased! May they enjoy health and longevity! May they forever turn the wheel of Buddha Dharma!

To beings who fell into and endure the sufferings in the boundless ocean of samsara,
Please bestow the supreme illumination of pure wisdom.
You, the ocean-born goddess, with pleasing voice like the melodic sound of ocean waves,
To the most eloquent, supreme Dakini, I pray!