



To all followers of the Glorious Drikung Kagyu Lineage,

As I approach my 80th year, many of my disciples have requested, since last year, to hold an elaborate birthday celebration. However, I have declined this request and have decided to enter into retreat starting from my birthday.

In general, the custom of celebrating birthdays is a Western tradition that has been spreading in the East. During our parents' generation, and even among siblings of our generation until now, there has been no tradition of celebrating birthdays or exchanging birthday greetings. Therefore, I have decided not to celebrate my birthday either.

While I deeply appreciate the devotion shown by both lay and ordained disciples, as well as the goodwill expressed by all who wish to celebrate my birthday, I request instead that:

- Monasteries and Buddhist centers with adequate facilities perform *Nam Gyel Tong Chod* (Thousand Offerings to Namgyalma).
- Those without such facilities perform as many *Drub Gyalma Tse Drub* (Long Life Prayers) as possible.

Please pray that there will be no obstacles or hindrances to my retreat, which I will undertake for the benefit of the teachings and all beings.

Furthermore, regarding discussions on some social media groups about organizing Long Life Offering ceremonies and other events, I wish to clarify that:

As stated above, there will be no birthday celebrations of any kind. There will only be **one** Long Life Offering ceremony, which will take place together with everyone at the conclusion of the teachings at Jangchubling Monastery. No separate arrangements should be made.

Drikung Kyabgon Tingle Lhundup

January 28, 2025