

The Song Lhündrup Tsé Dzongchen



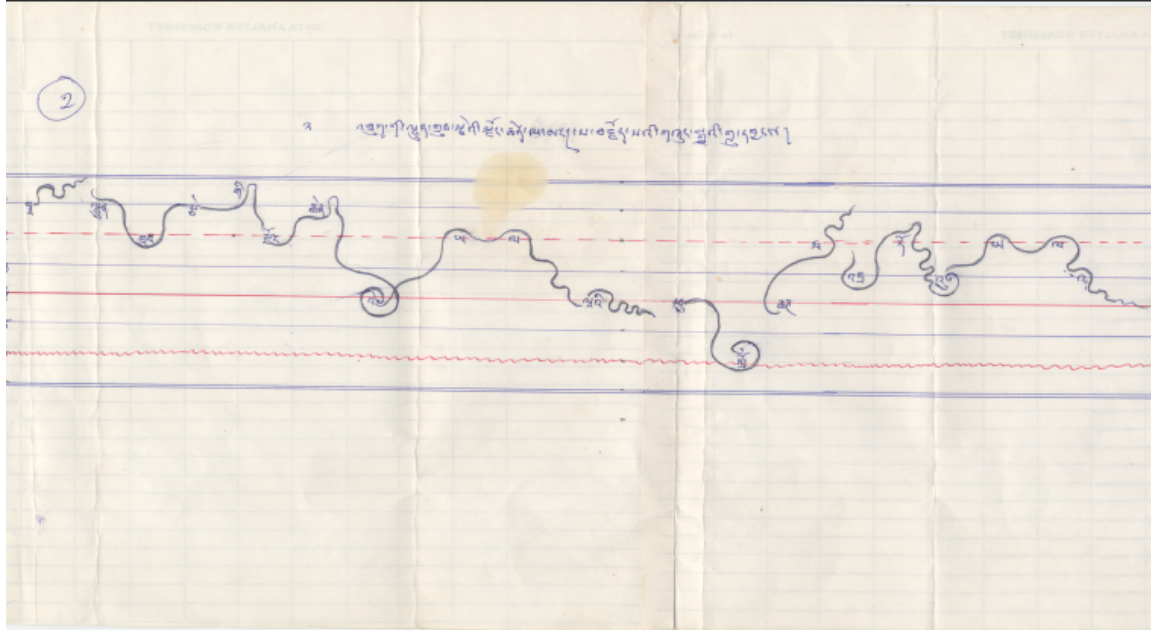
Lhündrup Rinchen Tsé Dzong, Lhuntse

Today Lhuntse is a northeastern district of Bhutan, but originally it referred to the place where Khedrup Künga Wangpo, son of Tertön Pema Lingpa, meditated. As well, Yongzin Ngakgi Wangchuk, the youngest son of great Drukpa Lama, Ngakwang Chögyal built a temple there in the mid 1540s. Later, Trongsa Chila Chogyal Mingyur Tenpa brought the whole of Kuri Dozhi under the control of the central government. The dzong was built at the site where Yongzin Ngakgi Wangchuk had built his small temple. The new dzong was named Kurtö Lhuntse Phodrang.

It is said that the dzong was constructed by the troops of Shar, Wang, Mangdé and Bumthang in less than two months and appointed Lam Phuntsho as its first *dzongpön* ruler. When the dzong was being built, it is said that the laborers formed a line from the banks of Kurichu to the lower edge of the ridge on which the dzong rests. The Dzong was named Lhündrup Rinchen Tsé Dzong, which means the Fortress of the Precious Peak of Spontaneous Fulfillment. The Trongsa Pönlop was given the authority to appoint all the Dzongpön of Kurtö and decide their tenure. Thereafter, the Dzongpön was entrusted with the responsibility to watch over the dzong and use local human labor for its maintenance and repair.

In 1962, the Third Druk Gyalpo Jigme Dorji Wangchuck commanded that Lhuntse Dzong be rebuilt, coinciding with the construction of Trashichö Dzong in Thimphu. The resulting dzong structure resembles a pigeon perched on ridge overlooking Kurichu below. The dzong was later restored in 1972 and again in 1974. A unique feature of Lhuntse Dzong was its division into two parts known as Dzong Thokma and Dzong Wogma. The Thokma or upper part belongs to the dratshang monastic body while the Wogma or lower part houses the offices of district administration. There are eight temples in Dzong Thokma.

About the Song



The high and low notes of the Lhündrup Tsé Dzungchen song, collected from the late Dasho Shingkar Lam Künzang Wangchuk's private collection

Like other dzongs, the Lhündrup Tsé Dzong is built on a strategic location commanding the whole valley. Its architectural magnificence is captured in the song Lhündrup Tsé Dzungchen, attributed to one of its *dzongpön* ruler. The song Lhündrup Tsé Dzungchen is one of the most popular folk songs from Kurtö region (Lhuntse) and it describes the glorious fort of Lhuntse dzong. It is said that the song was composed by one of the *dzongpön*-s of Lhuntse district but nothing is known about the author, and there were many *dzongpön* who served in Lhuntse Dzong.

According to some sources, when Jigmé Namgyal was holding the post of Trongsa Zimpon, he was also given position to look after Lhuntse Zimpon responsibilities. During his frequent visits to Lhuntse, he was assisted by *bögarp* courtiers who travelled with him from Trongsa. As they spent many months in Lhuntse, the *bögarp* from western Bhutan are said to have gotten homesick and composed the song called Lhündrup Tsé Dzungchen. The song praises the dzong and its surroundings but in original version, the verse are said to end with the sentence ང་ནི་མི་ཚོང་ལོག་འགོ།, (“I am not staying; I want to go back.”) which was said to have been replaced by the line ཉེན་འབྱེལ་བཟང་པོ་འདུག་གོ། “There is good auspiciousness”. The song is considered quite old and today it is sung by *pazaps* during Puna Drupchoe and other festivals. The song was passed down for many generations in its revised version and today can be heard throughout Bhutan.

ལྷན་གྲུབ་ཚེ་གི་རྫོང་ཆེན། འཕྲར་འགོ་ཆགས་པ་འདྲ་དོ།
འཕྲར་འགོ་ཆགས་པ་འདྲ་བུང་། རྟོན་འབྲེལ་བཟང་པོ་འདུག་གོ།

The great fortress of Lhündrup Tsé
Resembles a resting pigeon.
Although it resembles a resting pigeon,
There is good auspiciousness.

ལྷན་གྲུབ་ཚེ་གི་སྒོ་ར། གསེར་སྒོ་དུལ་སྒོ་འདྲ་དོ།
གསེར་སྒོ་དུལ་སྒོ་འདྲ་བུང་། རྟོན་འབྲེལ་བཟང་པོ་འདུག་གོ།

The door of Lhündrup Tsé
Is like a gold and silver door.
Although the door is like gold and silver door
There is good auspiciousness.

ལྷན་གྲུབ་ཚེ་གི་རྫོང་གཅེས། གཡུ་རྒྱུ་ལྷ་དཀར་འདྲ་དོ།
གཡུ་རྒྱུ་ལྷ་དཀར་འདྲ་བུང་། རྟོན་འབྲེལ་བཟང་པོ་འདུག་གོ།

The courtyard of Lhündrup Tsé
Is like a mosaic of turquoise.
Although the courtyard is like mosaic of turquoise
There is good auspiciousness.

ལྷན་གྲུབ་ཚེ་གི་སྒོ་ཐེན། ཚོས་ཀྱི་པོ་ལྷེ་འདྲ་དོ།
ཚོས་ཀྱི་པོ་ལྷེ་འདྲ་བུང་། རྟོན་འབྲེལ་བཟང་པོ་འདུག་གོ།

The doorsteps of the Lhündrup Tsé
Is like a stack of religious scriptures.
Although the doorsteps are like religious scriptures
There is good auspiciousness.

ལྷན་གྲུབ་ཚེ་གི་གཞིས་རྒྱུང་། བཀྲིས་སྒོ་མང་འདྲ་དོ།
བཀྲིས་སྒོ་མང་འདྲ་བུང་། རྟོན་འབྲེལ་བཟང་པོ་འདུག་གོ།

The residences in Lhündrup Tsé
Resemble an auspicious multi-door shrine.
Although the residences resemble a multidoor shrine,
There is good auspiciousness.

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