



འཕགས་པའི་འཕེལ་བྱེད་ལྷན་ཁག་གི་འཕེལ་བྱེད་ལྷན་ཁག་

OFFICE OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Over the years, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has consistently and patiently discouraged Tibetan Buddhists from practicing or propitiating the Dholgyal (Shugden) spirit. In the past His Holiness had also practiced Dholgyal but after thorough investigations, His Holiness made an informed decision to cease propitiating this spirit since 1976. The discouraging of the propitiation of Dholgyal lies in the interest of the people in general and the Buddha Dharma in particular. It is a spiritual endeavour started from the time of the Great Fifth Dalai Lama (1617-1682) to discourage this practice and carried on through the ages by Tibet's most accomplished masters.

His Holiness has also adopted this course to promote closer harmony among Tibetan Buddhist traditions. However, proponents of this spirit threaten people of their own tradition or lineage that those who mix their spiritual practice with that of other traditions would be dealt with dire consequences by Dholgyal.

His Holiness has advised against the propitiation of Dholgyal on the grounds that such practices corrupt the profound and vast teachings of Buddhism, wherein our ultimate refuge is the Buddha, Dharma and the Sangha. While the profound teachings of the Buddha are based on the two truths and the four Noble Truths, the appeasing and propitiating of Dholgyal to the extent it is done by those who do this practice, degenerates Buddhist practice into a form of spirit worship. (It is also believed that the spirit in reality does more harm than good to its own followers in the long run).

Proponents of this form of spirit have also resorted to violence by murdering three Tibetan monks in Dharamsala in February 1997 and also assaulting others who are suspected of opposing the propitiation of the Dholgyal spirit. Indian police blamed the killing on followers of Dholgyal (Shugden).

For further details on Dholgyal (Shugden) you may also visit: www.dalailama.com

We hope this information will be useful to you.



Chhime R. Chhoekyapa
Secretary

