

Presentation on Trial of Guru Rinpochey to
Bumthang

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National Library and Archives of Bhutan.

The brief legend of King Sindha

- There lived a King named Singgala in Kapilavastu in southern Nepal with 500 wives.
- King Singgala has seven son and the middle one was known as Kunjom believed to be reincarnation of King Namkha Jarichen.
- Ever since he was born, many evils began to appear like killing, beating and robbing.
- Ministers had discussions with King to banish him to pursue a life of religion.
- Some ministers were evil themselves and had a protest, but finally defeated and banished him.

The brief legend of King Sindha contd....

- He was banished by his father to the country called Siddhi in eastern India located in Duar area.
- Kunjom became the King of Siddhi and later on known as Sindha
- Not long ago he was attacked by King Nawoche the ruler of another country.
- King Sindha was defeated once more and he fled to Bumthang as a refugee followed by his eighty followers with some of his ministers.
- He founded a new Kingdom in the beginning of 8th century.
- He constructed nine storied Iron Castle and was known as Chakhar Gyalpo .

Brief history about his married life.

- According to legend he took one hundred consorts from India, Tibet and Mon(Bhutan).
- Consort Nyizerdan gave birth to Lhachig Bumden Tshomo (Monmo Trashi Khyeudron)
- Consort Kunkyongma gave birth to Taglha Mebar.
- The king has eighty ministers from three countries

God and goddess worshiped by King Sindha

- Nodjin Dudul as a God (Lha)
- Dorji Drakdhen as a battle god (dgra Lha)
- Ludu Chenpo Chidu Khalamebar as a local spirit (gzhi bdag) and
- Wangchuk Chenpo as God (Lha)
- Beside that he also adopted the practice of worshipping the local spirits of Bumthang.
- The King with his consorts and ministers lived in the palace of Chakhar, admits power and wealth.

Event leading to the visit of Padmasambhava

- King Sindha had not been in good term with King Nawoche for a long time.
- He was jealous of King Sindha gaining popularity in Bumthang and did not want his enemy to settle as a permanent treat in north.
- He invaded the Kingdom of King Sindha in Bumthang.
- King Sindha performed a grand ceremony to invoke the help of local guardian deities.
- King Sindha appointed his son Tagla Mebar as a Commander-In-Chief against invading troops.
- The Bumthang forces were defeated and the prince was killed.
- King Sindha retaliated by burning one thousand settlement belonging to King Nawoche who in turn burnt twenty settlement of King Sindha.
- King Sindha was so greatly distressed at the loss of his son and ordered all the temples in his kingdom to be destroyed .

Event leading to the visit of Padmasambhava

- The Chief of local spirits, called Shelging Karpo took offence and in revenge took away the vital life of King.
- The officials at the court held discussion to find remedy.
- The astrologers of the region suggested remedies that failed to take any effect.
- One of the officials had heard about greatest Buddhist masters of Oddhiyana country, reputed for his miraculous powers.
- The tantric master happened to be meditating in a cave called Asura in Pharping valley in Nepal .
- A Minister messenger with religious mind was dispatched to Guru with gift of 7 cups gold dust.
- Guru was requested to destroy evil deities and rescue their monarch.
- Guru Rinpoche accepted the invitation and come to Bumthang.

Subjugation of Local Spirits to cure King Sindha.

- King promised to fulfill any command of Guru.
- Guru needed a tantric consort with twenty one mark of dakini Lhachig Bumdhen Tshomo.
- Guru meditated in Drakmar Dorje Tsegpa (Kurjey) for sensing that spirit harming to King was residing in that cave.
- Lhachig Bumdhen Tshomo helped to fetch water and prepared sacrificial meals.
- She made all gods, demons and human happy for which she was called as Machig Bumdhen (Single mother)
- She could fly like bird in the sky and swim like fish in the river.
- She transformed herself into flowers and dissolved into the right ribcage of Yeshe Tshogyel when she met with one of Guru's consort.

Subjugation of Local Spirit to cure King Sindha contd....

- Guru meditated for seven days in cave at present Kurjey
- Guru performed ritual dance with his magic powers in the form of eight manifestations.
- All evil spirit including Shelging Karpo Chief spirits came to watch the spectacles in the form of lion.
- Guru transformed himself in the form of mythical bird Garuda (jachung) and pounced into neck.
- Subdued the Shelging Karpo and bound him with an oath to protect Buddhism and made him as a Kasung.
- King Sindha life was retrieved and was cured which great celebration ensued with initiation of Vajrapani .
- An amulet called Sengdig Khajor was tied to his body for future relapse
- King offered anything as promised but Guru denied other than to follow path of virtue which King agreed to abide by his command.

Guru Rinpochey Time in Bhutan

- According to the Bhutanese calendar, Guru Rinpoche first visited Bhutan in 810 AD, the year of the Iron Tiger at the invitation of King Sindhu Raja of Bumthang.
- The local deity, Shelgin Karpo, snatched the king's life-soul making the king ill. Guru Rinpoche came from Nepal and entered Bhutan via Nabji Korphug in Zhemgang.
- He came to Bumthang, subdued the local deity, and the King recovered.

Route of Padmasambhava

- Neither the biography of King Sindha nor parallel source provide the details of exact travel route while making journey to Bumthang.
- Guru commenced his journey from Asura cave in Pharping in Nepal through Indian plains by Meritsemo ? Bongo ?.
- From there Guru traveled to Beyulgang (Nabji valley in Trongsa)
- Travelling towards Trongsa via Kudra in the area of Monpa tribes.
- Travelled to Phrumzur where he thrust his Phurbu into rock while subduing demons can still be seen.
- According to oral account Guru travelled to Bumthang from south of Trongsa via Buli and Shingkar as there are foot prints and body prints along Chamkhar river below Chhumei, the present Zhuri village.

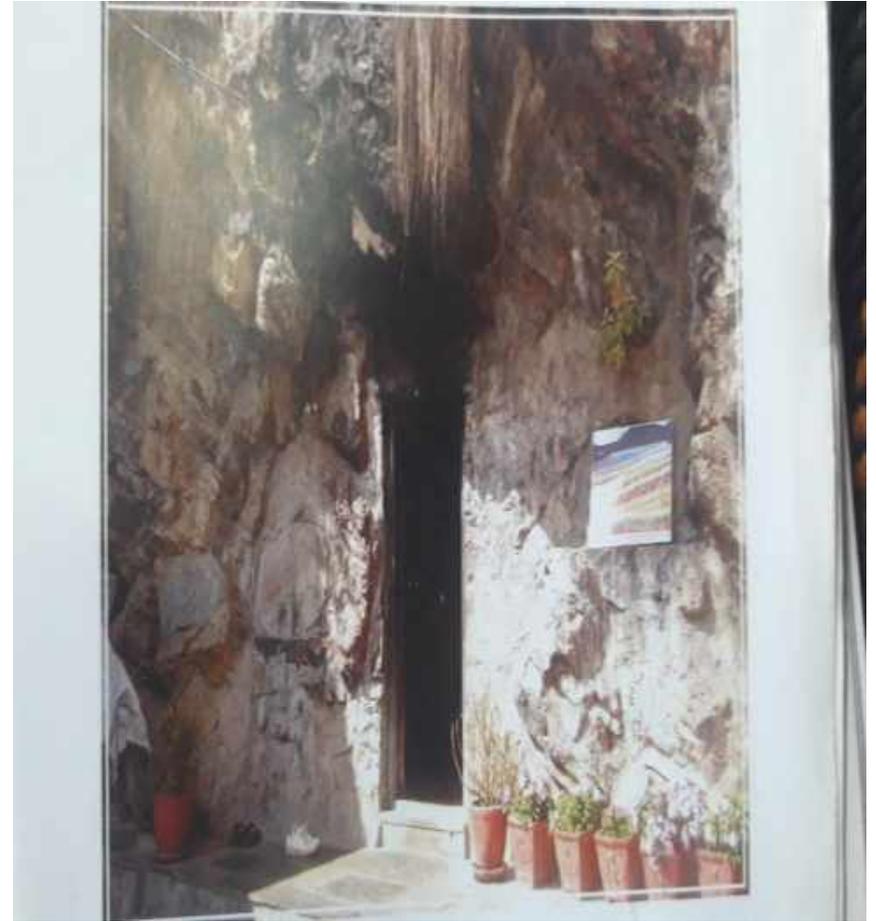
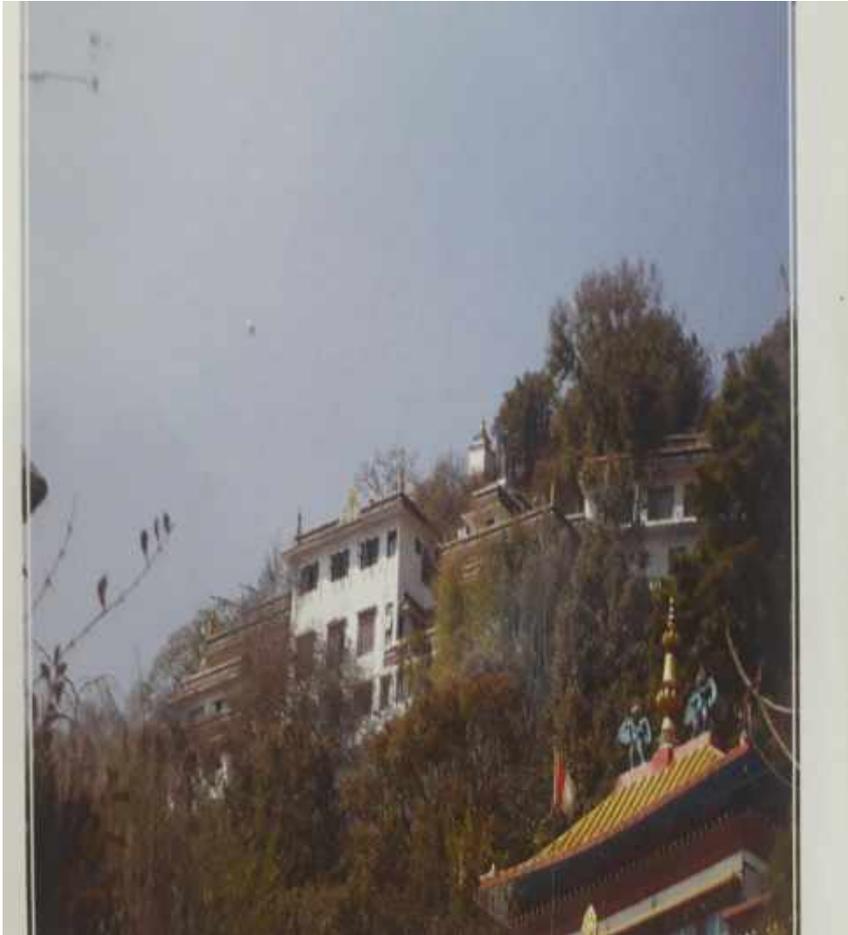
Reconciliation between King Sindha and King Nawoche

- Guru desired to bring peace between two Kings and instructed both Kings to meet him on the southern border of Mon.
- Both parties assembled and agreed to maintain peace which was a long standing dispute.
- Both the parties were blessed with initiation of Drubpa Kagyad.
- Pillar was erected on the spot and made Kings, Ministers and subjects to place their hands and confirm their friendship with an oath.
- After that Guru proceeded to India promising that he would return Bumthang for preach.
- Following the command with Buddhist Principles King Sindha ruled Bumthang with peace and prosperity.

Guru Rinpochey Time in Bhutan contd....

- During Guru Rinpoche's first visit, Lopen Gembo Dorji said he visited and founded Kurje Drak, Kunzang Drak, Mebar Tsho and many other sacred sites in central Bhutan.
- Guru Rinpoche visited Tibet in 822AD to build Samey monastery. On his way back, he said Guru Rinpoche visited Bhutan for the second time with Khandro Yeshey Tshogyel.

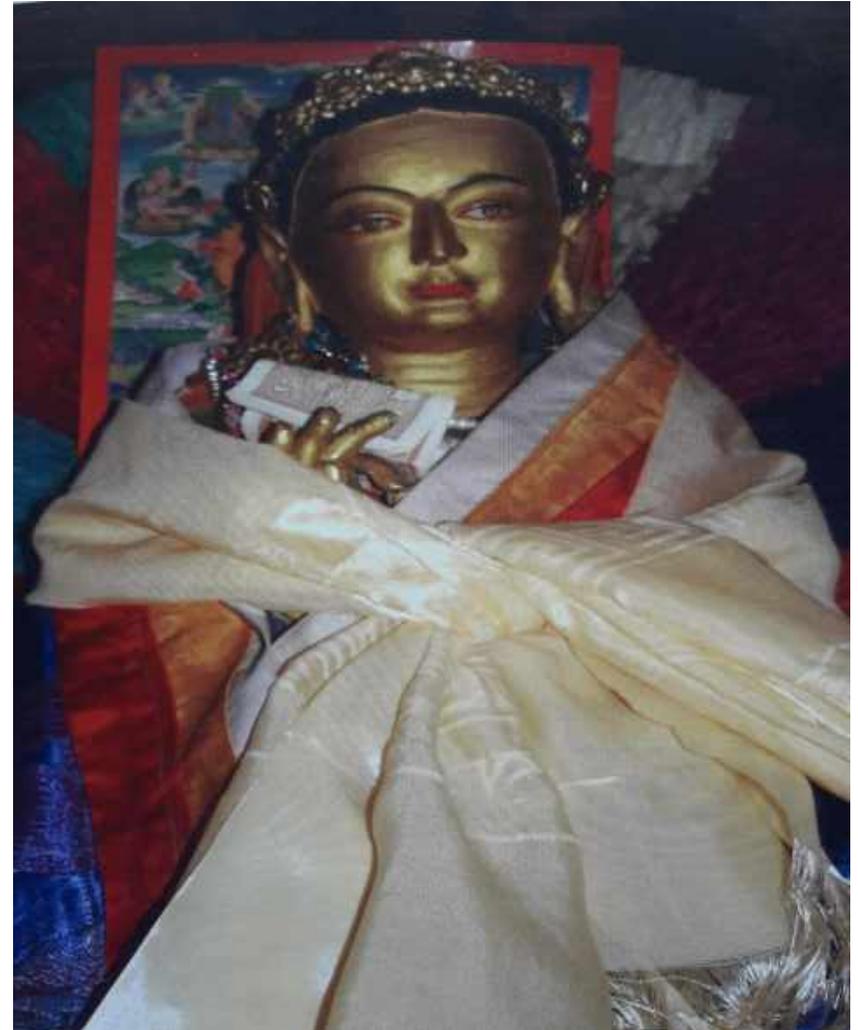
Buddhist temple complex with entrance at Asura, Phaling, Nepal



Google earth view of Nabji and Korphu Village under Trongsa Dzongkhag



Figure of Monmo Trashi Kheudron, the daughter of King Sindha at Chakar Lhakhang



Thangka Painting of Chakar castle



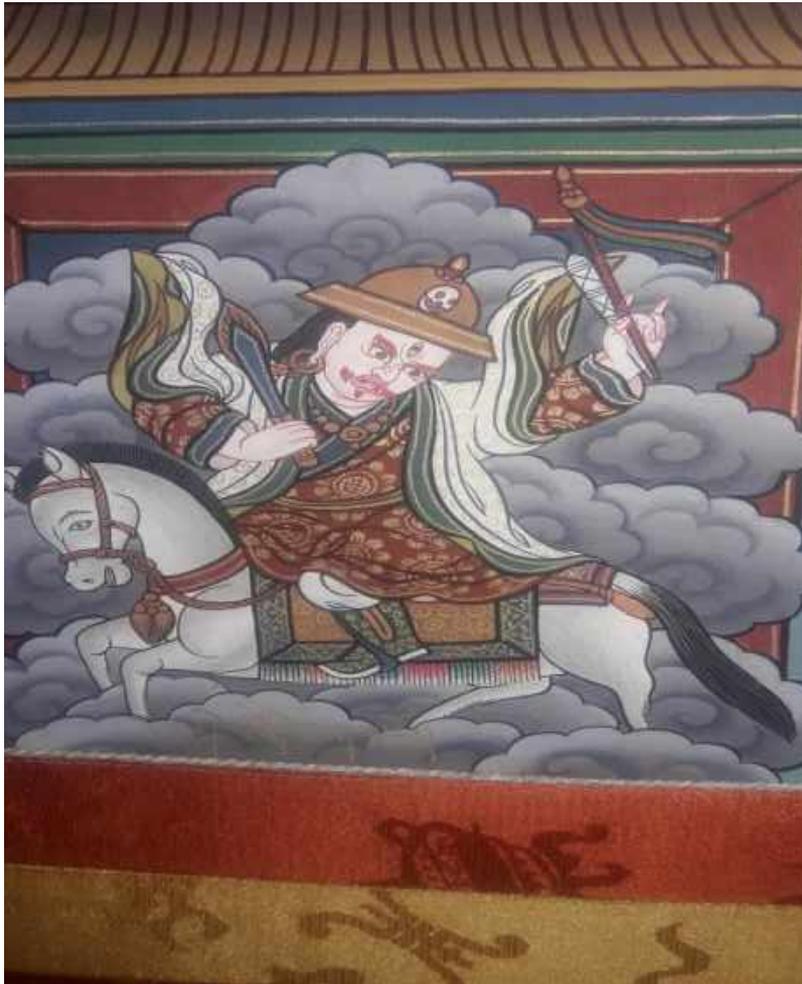
Main Features

- Chakar castel
- Guru Rinpochey
- King Sindha Raja
- Denmang Tsemang
- Syljin Karpo
- Monmo Trashi
Kheudron

Guru Rinpochey who subjugated Sheljin Karpo in the form of Ja-Chung and made him as a Kasung for not harming living beings.



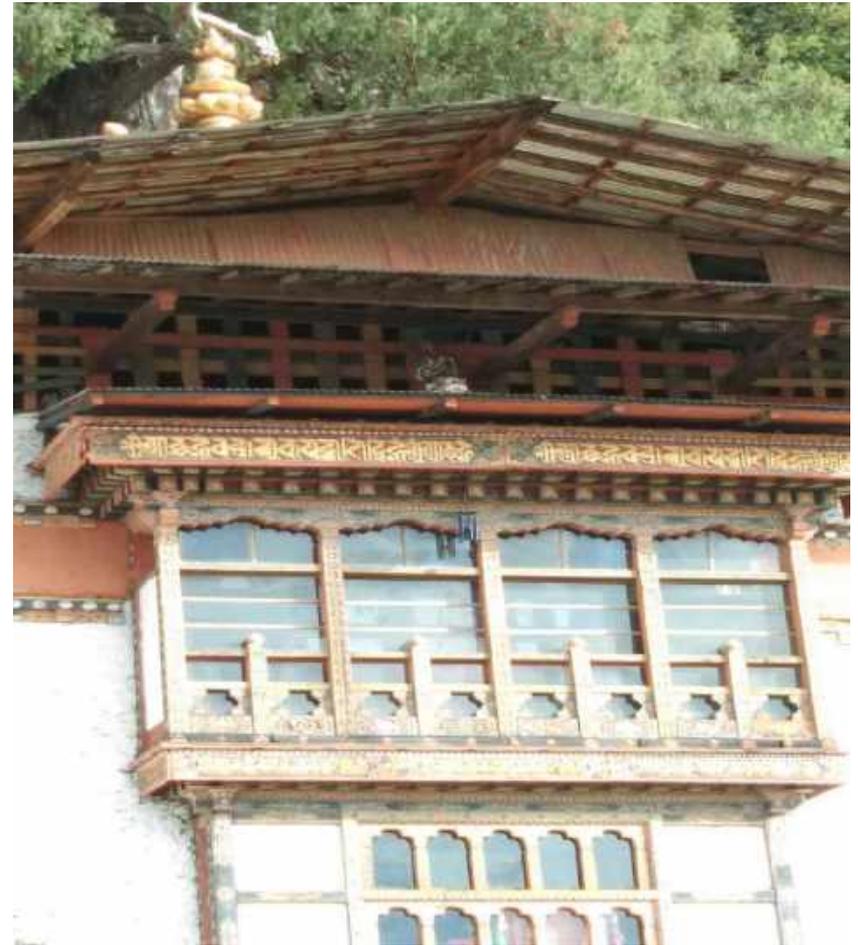
Thangka painting of Sheljin Karpo at Chakar(L) and Kurjey (R)



The main Kurjey temple with extended structure for Sheljin Karpo



Guru in the form of Jachung while subduing Sheljin Karpo in painting and sculpture



Khandro Trashi Khudren offering Dutshi to Guru Rinpochey



Features of cypress tree, drupchu and Lue.



- The cypress tree located above Kurjey Drupchu
- Monmo Trashi Khudren receiving first ever drupchu to offer King sindha
- Drupchu offered by Lue as a medicine to cure King Sindha.

View of Nabji village, Trongsa

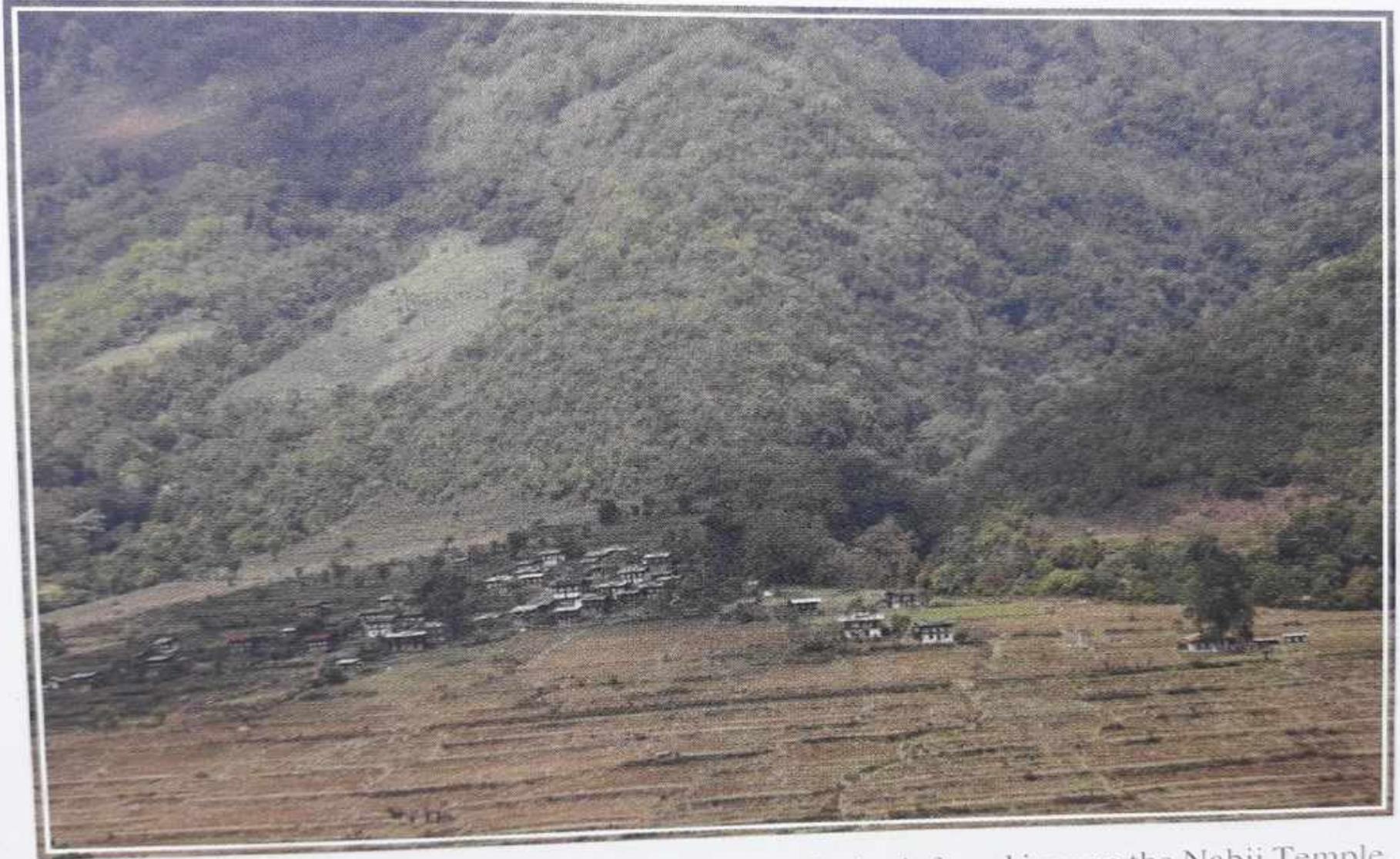
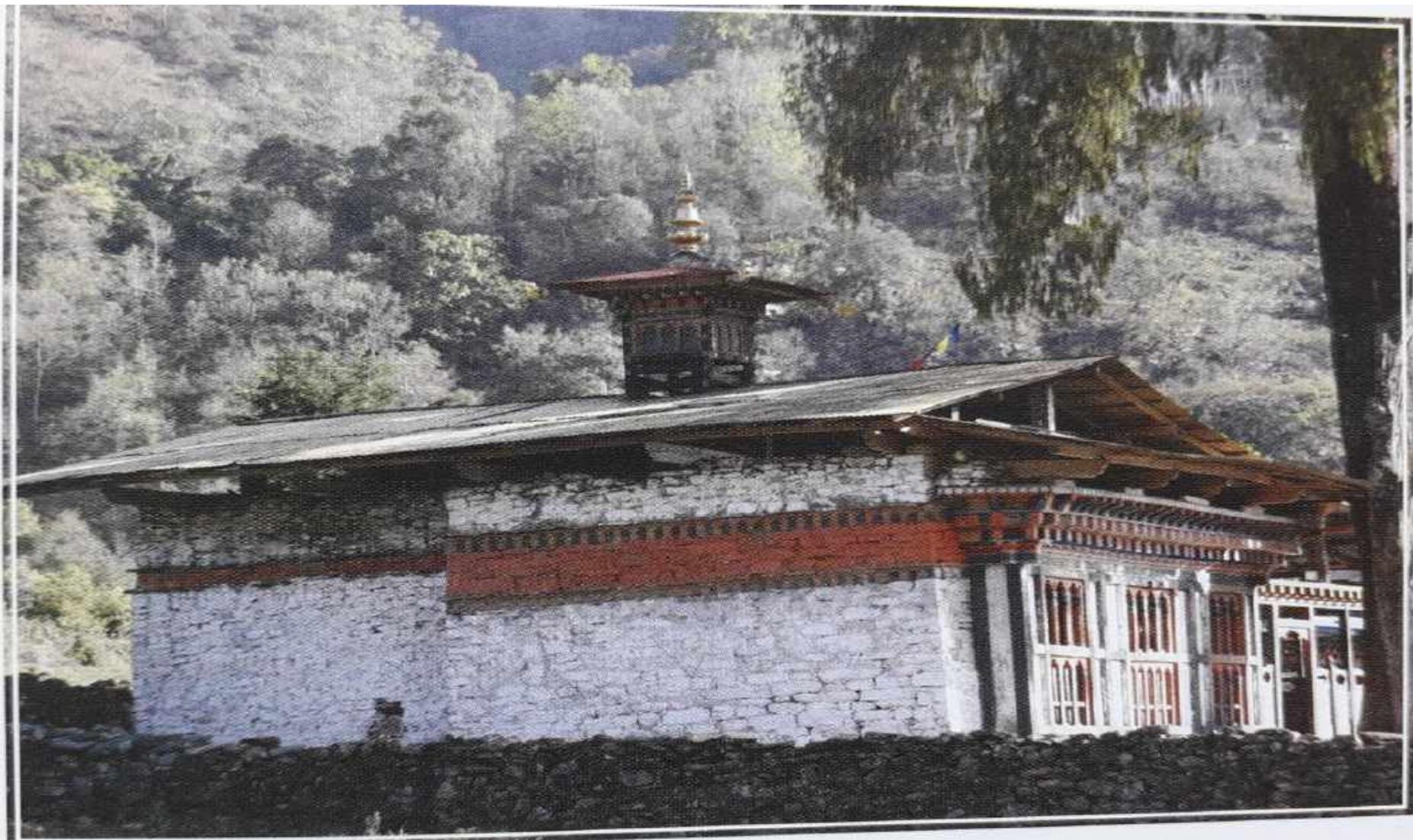


Fig. 7. View of Nabji Valley in lower Trongsa. In the left end is seen the Nabji Temple.

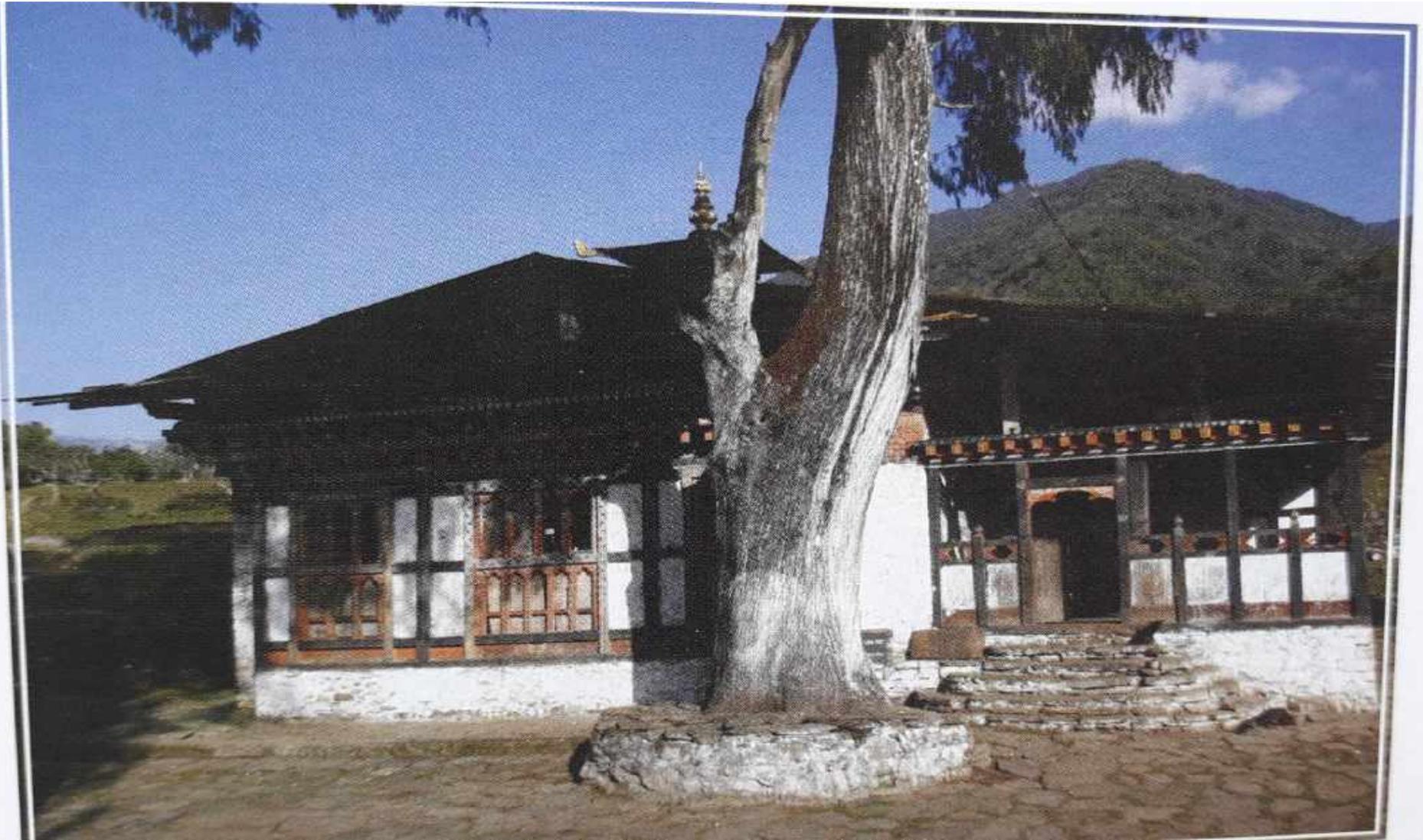
View of Korphu village, Trongsa



Current Nabji Lhakhang from the southern direction at Trongsa



Current View of Nabji Lhakhang from south eastern direction at Trongsa



The stone known as “NADO” the stone of oath
preserved at Nabji Lhakhang, Trongsa



The image of Guru Rinpochey at Nabji Lhakhang
made by Trulku Chogdhen Gonpo 1497-?



Symbolic script known as Khandro Dayig on rock in the vicinity of Nabji Lhakhang.



The rock symbolizing “Grinding Stone” Rangthang on the way to Kudra and Nabji, created by Guru to subjugate demons



A stone throne of Guru Rinpochey on
the way from Kudra to Nabji, Trongsa



Mark of Phurpa created when Guru thrust it into a rock to subjugate a demon at Phrumzur with a mark on rock at Phrumzur



Meditation cave at Ugyen Drak where Guru left imprints of his head and hand with close –up view



Meditation cave above Dekiling town where Guru meditated prior to meeting with King Sindha with close view on right.



A chorten at Naspheh in Bumthang where King Sindha and King Nowche said to have fought the war.



The present Chakar Lhakhang in Bumthang, at this very spot the iron castle palace of King Sindha is believed to have been existed in the 8th century.



Foot print of Monmo Trashi Kheudren when she was eight years old preserved at Chakar Lhakhang , Bumthang.



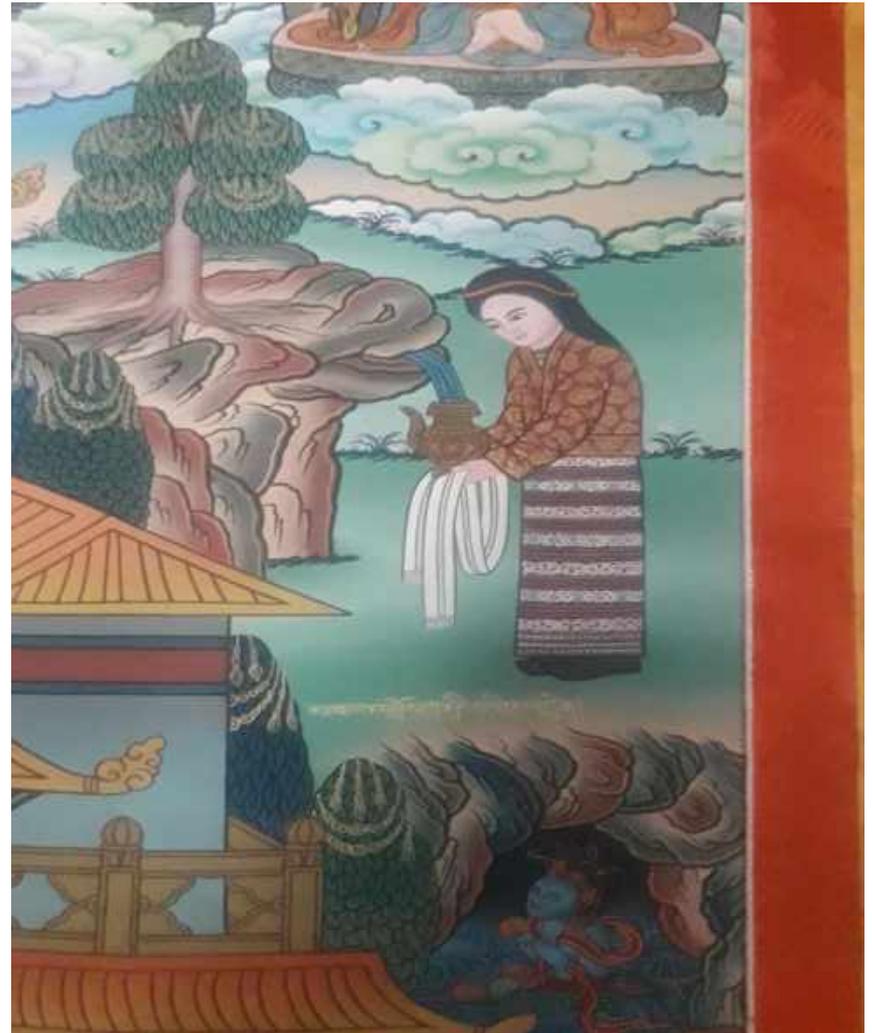
A sword believed to have belonged to King Sindha at Chakar, Bumthang.



The three headed Chorten or Rigsum Gonpo at Chakar, Bumthang (Right Jampelyang, Left Chagna Dorji and Central Chenrig Dzig)



A cypress tree above the Kurjey Temple believed to have sprouted from the Guru walking stick .



2nd Visit of other place by Guru Rinpochey

- He visited 10 sacred places in Trashiyangtse, Mongar and Lhuntse. From Singye Dzong, Guru Rinpoche and Khadro Yeshey Tshogyel flew to Taktshang (Tiger's Nest) in Paro. He continued to visit Dragkarpo, Dzongdrak, Ragoed, Chimphu, Beyul Rinchenshong and went further southwest till Sangbekha in Haa. From there, Guru Rinpoche and Khandro Yeshey Tshogyel returned to Jomolhari and then flew back to Tibet.

3rd Visit of Guru Rinpochey

- The third visit, Lopen Gembo Dorji said, was thought to be during Guru Rinpoche's final journey to the south-west land of the (demons) in 876AD of the Fire Monkey Year.
- Guru Rinpoche, this time visited 21 sacred places in Thimphu, Punakha and Wangdue, after which he proceeded south via Dagana visiting Thanamkha Dzong and Beyul Gomdrak.
- Finally he visited Tumdrak Tshangtshig Ney, one of the 24 sacred sites of Chakrasambhara in Pasakha.

- Historical record indicates that Guru visited Bhutan three times. Second and third visits were via Tibet. His multiple visits to Bhutan have significant impact to the Bhutanese society, as his teachings and contributions to Buddhist civilization in Bhutan holds central place in Bhutan's religion and history.

Description of Chakar Castle

- Bhutan has important places and monuments and religious sites which are considered as a virtuous legacies of Guru Rimpoche.
- Iron Castle (ལྷགས་མཁར་སྒོ་མེད།)
- Iron castle, Chagkhar, was believed to be the palace of Sindha Raja dating back to 7th century A.D. “Ugyen Zangpo describes with fantastical details.
- The iron castle has nine floors, five levels of underground passage to enter it, and 108 windows made of precious metals and stones and when the sun and moon shine on it, the palace radiates to the sky and its surroundings like rainbow.
- It is filled with treasures and one entrance is to the river and the other facing west. It was from such a palace Sindha raja started to extend his domain as far as Dorji Drak in Tibet and Sindhabari in India” (phuntsho, 2103, p. 93).

- Today there is nothing visibly left in Chagkhar in terms of structural remains which remind of an important ancient establishment. One version of the accounts tells about the prophecy that the iron castle will fall simultaneously with fall of the Tibetan dynastic rule. -Not a single fragment of iron castle will be left in future.
- Kurjey Lhakhang today is known as one of most important sacred place, and has become central place for religious worship. It is believed that on the cave of red cliff where Guru meditated/retreat, Dorji Tsegpa to subdue Shalging Karpo who took the sog(la) of Sindha Raja left an impression of his body and, therefore, it was known as kurjey(ཀུ་རྗེ།).
- Later on the temple was built which was known as Kurjey Lhakhang. The body impression can be still seen. The spring that was created by the Guru is considered as Drupchu (ལྷུབ་ཆུ།). The cypress tree that is near the temple is believed to have grown from the Guru's staff.

- It was during this stay in Tibet that Guru Rinpoche decided to visit Bhutan, “the land of demons and powerful local gods” a second time, as promised during his first visit.
- This time he stayed in the country for a considerable period and travelled extensively. While in Bumthang he preached the doctrine to the inhabitants in particular the Dzogchen Selwai Melong (clear mirror of mysticism),
- The Guru also visited and blessed kuzangdra, Zhabjethang, Choejedra, Mebartsho and other places in Bumthang. He then proceeded onwards to eastern Bhutan and blessed Ajaney valleys, on the borders of the present day Mongar and Lhuntse districts, into Beyuls (Hidden Lands) which are believed to be the secret entrances to the Guru’s Paradise.
- Such places also exist in many other parts of Bhutan, such as, Nabji village in Trongsa. While in eastern Bhutan he also meditated at Gomkora and subdued the local deity. Like at Kuje in Bumthang, body impressions of the Guru, including that of his head with the hat, can be seen on a huge rock at Gomkora.

- From Singye Dzong in Lhuntse Guru Rinpoche is said to have flown in the form of Dorje Droloe to Paro Taktshang on a flaming tigress, hence the name Taktshang(Tiger's Nest).
- He meditated at Taktshang for three months and then visited Drag Karpo, Namthog Karpo, Chumphu and Tshalungdra in Paro valley.
- He also visited Haa which he blessed into another Beyul. He finally visited Bi langdra in Shar and Goen Tshephu in Gasa region, and most probably returned from there to Tibet.

Guru's Third visit -Banishment of Khikha Ratho

- One version of the story about Khikha Ratho narrates that Margyen, one of the non-Buddhist queens of the Tibetan King Tri Songdetsen, had relations with a dog and a goat and as a result a boy with the mouth of a dog and the skull of a goat was born.
- His ugly appearance and when secret of the queen was known, the king banished Khiha Ratho was banished to the border area. He went to Lhodra but from there too he was expelled further south beyond the Tibetan border , to the valley Khenpalung in the northern part of Bhutan.
- He settled there in exile and practiced the Bon faith. After a few years, King Tri Sondetsen died and Khikha Ratho, not having forgotten the ill-treatment of the King, managed to raise a small army with the help of the local rulers and decided to lead against Tibet and destroyed Samye Monastery.
- The new King of Tibet, Muthri Tsenpo, appealed to Guru Rimpoche to help him repel Khikha Ratho and expel him from bordering area of Bhutan which threateningly too close to Tibet.
- Guru's Third visit to Bhutan was to Banishment of Khikha Ratho.

- Guru Rimpoche disguised himself as a priest and went to Khikha Ratho to offer his services. At first, Khikha Ratho had correctly guessed it was a trick and he attempted to kill the visitor, but the Guru used magical power to convince him that he agreed to do whatever the priest wished him to do.
- He was asked to build a huge wooden bird in the form of Jachung, large enough to hold Khikha Ratho and his attendants. When it was completed, Khikha Ratho and his attendants were made to enter it. Once there inside, Guru Rimpoche with his magical powers made the wooden bird fly across valley and mountains and land at a place called Khitsom in Tang valley of Bumthang. Khikha Ratho lived in this region in exile for many years. Guru Rimpoche he then sealed Khenpalung and called it Beyul.