



THE SAKYA TRIZIN

I am happy to see this informational booklet prepared by the Committee for Bhikshuni Ordination in the Tibetan Buddhist Tradition. This booklet will help to educate monks, nuns, and the general public on the history and issues concerning bhikshuni ordination and the possibilities for establishing it within the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. Such efforts to share clear and accurate information about this topic are very helpful and important.

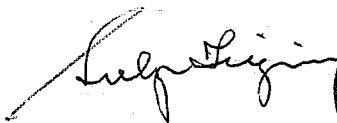

I support the efforts of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and other lineage holders to bring the bhiksuni vows into the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. In the time of the Buddha and for centuries afterward, many nuns received bhikshuni vows. Still today, some Mahayana countries, such as China, Taiwan, Korea, and Vietnam preserve the lineage of bhiksuni ordination. Making the opportunity for bhiksuni ordination widely available to nuns within the Tibetan Buddhist tradition would strengthen the Buddha's doctrine and also provide an opportunity for women to deepen their Dharma practice. I strongly support this goal.

In our own Sakya tradition, both the number of nuns and their level of practice and religious education is increasing. I very much wish to make the opportunity for bhikshuni ordination widely available soon to nuns in our tradition.

I encourage scholars and vinaya lineage holders to redouble their efforts to reach a consensus on the most appropriate method for bringing the bhiksuni vows into the Tibetan tradition. It is important that the method that they chose provide a firm and authentic foundation for nun's monastic practice in future generations.

I encourage those who read this booklet to share this information with others.

May all those who have interest in and responsibility for bringing bhiksuni vows into the Tibetan tradition join His Holiness Dalai Lama, me, and the other lineage holders in working to swiftly bring this long-awaited opportunity to pass. It will be of great benefit to the Doctrine now and in the future.


Sakya Trizin 

26 June, 2011