

GLOSSARY OF BHUTANESE TERMS

Alo (a lo): A traditional Melancholy song of eastern people mostly the Tshangla speakers, usually sung during the departure of their loved ones.

Ara (a rag): Ara is locally brewed distilled wine.

Atsara (a tsa ra): One of the enlightened spiritual masters that has already renounced material wealth and trying to enlighten sentient beings through jokes and humours; clown; Acharya (Skt).

Ausa (a'u sa): A traditional song of Ha district.

Bangchang: A common local warm drink like beer obtained when hot water is poured over fermented grains.

Bardo (bar do): Intermediate state between death and rebirth.

Baza guru (skt. Vajra guru): It is a mantra dedicated to Guru Rinpoche. The mantra is *Om Ah Hung Banza Guru Padma Siddhi Hung*.

Boedra ('bod sgra): Two explanations are given for the origins of *Boedra*. The first one claims that they were popularized by *Boed Garps*, who travelled through villages on official assignments. The songs they sang were called *Boedra* or the Melody of the *Boed Garps*. The second explains that pilgrims and traders who travelled to Tibet composed songs by imitating and adapting Tibetan songs, and therefore the name, *Boedra* which also means, the Melody of Tibet. This second explanation is unlikely as the language, rhythm and tune of Tibetan songs are very different from Bhutanese folk songs.

Cham ('cham): Mask dance.

Chamok (lcags rmog): Warrior helmet.

Changkoe: a slight alcoholic soup made from fermented rice.

Cho-drom (lcog sgrom): Traditional wooden portable table.

Choesham: Dzongkha word for Altar or Shrine

Choesi zungdre (chos srid zung 'brel): System of government based on both religion and politics.

Chorten (mchod rten): Receptacle of offering; Stupa (skt.).

Chugo: Hard dried cheese

Dashe (dar bshad): Auspicious narration while offering scarf.

Daka (skt.): Emanation of enlightened mind; male tantric deity who protects and serves Buddhist doctrine and those who practice Buddhism.

Dakini (skt.): Emanation of enlightened mind; Female tantric deity who protects and serves Buddhist doctrine and those who practice Buddhism.

Dangphu dingphu (dang phu ding phu)/**Nyema nyema** (sngon ma sngon ma)/ **Hema hema** (he ma he ma): Long time ago; Once upon a time.

Desi (sde srid): Temporary ruler; regent.

Dharma (skt.): Body of teachings expounded by the Buddha; one's righteous duty.

Doenchoe (gdon bcos): Propitiation of evil spirits; ransoming.

Dom ('dom): A unit of measurement equal to the length of both arms outstretched in opposite direction.

Dralham (grva lham): Traditional leather and silk boot.

Draktsen (brag btsan): Mountain deity.

Dram-nyen (sgra snyan): Traditional guitar.

Dromchoe (sgrub mchod): A grand ritual service performed to propitiate Gönbo and Lhamo, the principal guardian deities of Bhutan.

Drungtsho: Doctor of Bhutanese indigenous medicine.

Dungkar (dung dkar): Conch shell.

Dungkar gi alo (dung dkar gyi a lung): A conch ring.

Dzong (rdzong): Fortified complex serving as the religious, military and administrative centre for a district.

Gar (gar): The dance performance involving movements of hands and legs; mask dance.

Garpa (sgar pa): Courtier; menial attendants.

Garuda (skt.): A mythical bird.

Gelong (dge slong): Ordained celibate monk.

Goleng: Goleng is a local bull in places of Merak and Sakteng. It is identified as Bos Taurus. The female breed is known as Golengma.

Gomchen (sgom chen): Literally, it means 'great meditator'. Lay religious practitioner often involved in healing rituals.

Gunduruk: a preserve made by fermenting turnip, mustard, radish leaves or other leafy green vegetables.

Guru (skt.): Lama; a spiritual teacher.

Guru Rinpoche (guru rin po che): Guru Rinpoche (the precious one) is the founder of vajrayana Buddhism; Padmasambhava or the Lotus-born.

Guru Tshengye (guru mtshan brgyad): Eight miraculous manifestations of Guru Rinpoche.

Indra (skt): The Lord of the Desire Realm or the King of Gods; Jain (brgya byin).

Jowo (jo bo): Lord; Buddha Maitreya.

Kharang: coarsely ground maize.

Khashe (kha bshad): Narration or an art of speech.

Khorey (kho re): A traditional song originated in Dungsam, Pemagatshel district and widely sung by Tshangla speakers.

Kortam (bskor gtam): Indirect statement; pun.

Lama (bla ma): Vajrayana Buddhist master.

Lamai zhaldam (bla ma'i zhal gdams): Quintessential instructions of spiritual masters.

Legshe (legs bshad): Elegant sayings; instructions; proverbs; narrations.

Lhakhang (lha khang): Temple; sanctuary.

Lheu (lhi'u): A large mortar.

Loju (lo rgyud): An account; information; story.

Lu (glu): Song; melodious voice; ditty.

Mandala (skt.): Mystic cosmic diagram; abode of world of deity, symbolically depicted as a cosmic diagram.

Mani (skt.): A mantra dedicated to Buddha of Compassion, Avalokitesvara. The mantra is *Om Mani Padme Hung*.

Menpa: local healer or health worker.

Meyo (smad g'yog): Skirt-like attire; petticoat.

Ngatse (ngag rtsal): Art of speech; oral skill.

Par shing mindru gyem (spar shing smin drug rgyal mo): Refers to a traditional western song or a ballad dedicated to the instruments used for ramming earth.

Pata (dpa' rtags): Sword.

Poenlop (dpon slob): Governor; chieftain.

Rabney (rab gnas): Consecration ceremony; religious festival.

Rangtha (rang 'thag): Grinding stones manoeuvred by hands.

Sabda (sa bdag): Earth deity.

Serga khotkhen mathang: It is a Tshangla term. The first male cousins from paternal aunts and maternal uncles are known as *serga khotkhen*, meaning Golden Brother In-laws and first female cousins from paternal aunts and maternal uncles are known as *serga mathang*, meaning Golden Sister In-laws.

Singchang: Juice of fermented grains.

Sowa Rigpa: indigenous medicine

Tashi Gacha: horse dies and the saddle breaks.

Tendre (rten 'bral): Ceremony, function or celebration; religious festivals.

Tercham (gter 'cham): Treasure dance; secret dance; naked dance.

Terdag: male shaman of superior status during the possession by powerful deity/deities diagnoses problems and propose remedies through long trances.

Tertoen (gter ston): Treasure revealer; discoverer of religious treasure hidden by Guru Rinpoche.

Tho (tho): A unit of measurement equal to the length of one's outstretched tip of middle finger and the thumb.

Thoe (thod): Turban; head gear.

Thrikor chusum (khri skor bcu gsum): The thirteen districts of Tibet governed by Drogoen Phagpa Choegyal (1235-1280), Lord of Sakya school.

Thuenpa puenzhi (mthun pa spun bzhi): Four Harmonious Friends.

Trimi: container used for storing lime for those who betel nuts.

Toego (stod go): Jacket dress worn by women.

Trashi khadar (bkra shis kha dar): Felicity scarf.

Trashi monlu (bkra shis smon glu): Aspiration songs.

Trashi ngasoe (bkras shis mnga' gsol): Auspicious enthronement.

Trashi tagye (bkra shis rtags brgyad): Eight Lucky Signs.

Tsezem (rtse gzeb): Luggage bamboo basket.

Tshering namdru (tshe ring rnam drug): The Six Symbols of Longevity.

Tshoglham (tshogs lham): Traditional formal boots for men.

Tsipa or Tsip (rtsis pa): Astrologer specialized in different types of divinations and astrological calculation. This term varies from community to community and hence it is known as *Phajo* as well as *Jampel Yang* in other parts of Bhutan.

Wonju ('on ju): Bhutanese blouse.

Zangdo pelri (zangs mdog dpal ri): Copper-coloured Mountain believed to be the abode of Guru Rinpoche.

Zhabdrung (zhabs drung): Honorific title which means 'at whose feet one submits'.

Zhey (gzhas): Dance of the folk heroes.

Zheypoem (gzhas dpon): Lead dancer.

Zhey-yop (gzhas g.yog pa): Dance assistant.

Zom (zom): Barrel

Zurchen (zur chen): Phallus attached with a wooden sword installed on the four directions to ward off the evil eye.

