# "The Laughter of the Khandros," The Offering of the Body from *The Great Treasury* of the Ultra Profound Sky

#### INTRODUCTION

There are many chö (gcod) liturgies within the Bön tradition. As Western students, we have been fortunate to receive teachings of chö from the venerable Bön masters Yongdzin Rinpoche (Lopon Tenzin Namdak), His Holiness Lungtok Tenpa'i Nyima, and Tenzin Wangyal Rinpoche. On all occasions the teachings were based on the oldest and most important source, the "Path Transforming a Fearful Place" (Nyen sa lam khyer) chapter of the Mother Tantra (Ma rgyud); the sadhana prescribed was the Laughter of the Khandros (mKha' 'gro'i gad rgyang), composed by Shardza Tashi Gyaltsen Rinpoche, who achieved the rainbow body in 1934.

Chö is a meditative practice that traditionally is performed not by sitting quietly and comfortably on a cushion inside a shrine room, but in frightening places such as cemeteries and charnel grounds. Nonetheless, the practitioner of chö should first develop familiarity with the practice in a peaceful place such as a shrine room before actually practicing the chö in more frightening places. The purpose for performing it in frightening places is to help the chöpa or chö practitioner to connect to the gods and demons both inner and outer while heightening fear and thereby presenting the opportunity to cut through it. Singing the liturgy while playing special instruments, the chöpa visualizes the dismemberment, cooking, and finally offering of the body.

Chö is also one of the four daily offerings of the monastic Bön tradition. The other three are smoke offering (sang mehod), water offering (chab gtor), and burnt food offering (gsur mehod). Usually these sessions begin with prayers (mostly from the Threefold Practice of the Secret Mother Tantra) followed by the central part of the practice in which these offerings are included, and conclude with prayers. As the last offering of the day, around nine p.m., chö is performed. When it is practiced in this way in Menri and Triten Norbutse monasteries, this sadhana of Laughter of the Khandros is used. It is done at night to heighten the terrifying aspect for the chöpa, and also to prevent outsiders from entering the monastery complex by provoking a response of fear similar to that toward a charnel ground or any of the other terrifying localities in which chö is traditionally practiced.

The *chö* practice is seen as an expeditious route to enlightenment. Through the practice you can recognize obstructions/demons and use them as a bridge to reconnect to your own nature by cutting the veils of ego (the self-grasping demon). The object to be cut depends on the practitioner. If what are cut are the demons of external natural forces or illnesses in the form of malignant spirits, this is a shamanic perspective. If the poisons or negative emotions are cut by means of abandoning them and acting in accordance with the Perfection of Wisdom teachings or Prajñaparamita, this is a sutric view. If you cut your defiled aggregates and transform them into pure offerings acceptable for the jewels of refuge, this is a tantric view. Cutting through the root of the thought process—i.e. cutting off the demons of self-grasping and remaining in the non-dual state—is a dzogchen view. This practice encompasses all of these views, and as far as the efficacy of this practice is concerned, *chö* is said to be "like taking a jet plane to enlightenment rather than walking."

#### Explanation of the Sadhana

In "Laughter of the Khandros," you begin the practice with <u>Performing the Dance</u> of non-dual view. Upon sitting down to practice, settle into the understanding that the deities and demons are mere creations of your mind—therefore there is no reason to fear them. Supported by this understanding, connect with your own strength and energy and blow the *kangling* (thigh-bone trumpet) to summon all the spirits and invite them to the feast. With the aid of the *damaru* (drum) and bell, abide in the state of the non-duality of emptiness and appearances and dance on the head of the demon of grasping—your mistaken belief in an existing identity or self.

In <u>Going for Refuge</u>, you take refuge in the Great Mother Satrik Yum, the emptiness from which all emerges, and beseech her to embrace all sentient beings with her protection. In <u>Developing the Mind of Enlightenment</u>, you request the aid of Satrik Yum to liberate you and all the so-called gods and demons from the delusion of duality, which is the cause of harming others. With <u>Prayer to the Khandros</u>, you connect to the female deities and invoke their power to tame the harmful spirits and guide them to liberation.

In order to perform the main part of the practice, Offering the Body, sound  $P\acute{E}$  and expel your consciousness upward through your central channel and out through the crown of your head. With a second  $P\acute{E}$  your consciousness becomes the red-orange *khandm* [Sanskrit: dakini] Kalzang Ma, standing in the dancing posture and adorned with bone ornaments. Your former body becomes a corpse. As Kalzang Ma you offer this corpse, which represents your ego, in two feasts or banquets: a white feast and a red feast.

Beginning with the White Feast, you [as Kalzang Ma] sever the cranium with the curved knife held in the right hand, chop the corpse into pieces, and place the flesh, blood, and bones inside the cranium, which becomes a cauldron (Sanskrit: kapala). A short A, red in color, emanates from your heart to create a fire. Externally this fire melts all the elements of the physical body, which become nectar. Internally feel that the fire from the red A melts the upside-down white HAM located at the crown of your head. The resulting melted nectar fills sky and earth. Now you present this offering to the four guests. These guests are the jewels of refuge (i.e. enlightened beings), the worldly protectors, the eight classes of hindering spirits, and the beings of the six realms of existence. Having delighted the enlightened beings, you complete the two accumulations of merit and wisdom; the rejoicing protectors maintain their promise to safeguard the teachings and its practitioners; the satisfied hindering spirits become pacified; and the debts you owed to all beings of the six realms are repaid.

No one is to be excluded, and that is why there is also a <u>Red Feast</u>. Hollow out the skin and pile the corpse's flesh, bones, internal organs, and blood on it. As Yongdzin Rinpoche explains, this banquet is for the more carnivorous guests (usually among the third and fourth guests), who are said to arrive like vultures on a corpse. Although they are also invited to the white feast, these guests prefer the red one in which they eat the flesh, drink the blood, chew the bones, and swallow the internal organs. Eating until totally satisfied, the guests become pacified and your karmic debts of past and future lives are repaid.

Both the red and white feast offerings are boundless in that they suffice no matter how many guests come or how big their appetites are, and infinite in that they transform into whatever the guests desire. At the end, feel that everything you have to offer has been offered, and all the desires of every guest have been thoroughly satisfied.

Now that the gods and demons are totally satisfied and pacified, you present them with the <u>Gift of Dharma</u>, requesting them to cause no further harm to others and instead to

take refuge and develop the mind of enlightenment, or bodhicitta. The <u>Gift of Protection</u> is to prompt the recognition of their own true nature as buddhas, or enlightened beings. These are the teachings of the nature of mind.

Finally, with the <u>Prayers and Dedication</u>, you dedicate the merit of the practice to those gods and demons who have created obstacles as well as to all sentient beings, with the wish that all will attain enlightenment.

# 

Yang zap nam kha dzö chen lé lu jin khan drö gé gyang zhuk
"The Laughter of the Khandros," The Offering of the Body from The Great Treasury
of the Ultra Profound Sky

**INTRODUCTION** (not chanted)

अथा ईःर्हें ई: र:तम्री:दे:यार्हे।

#### Hri ho dzi ra da ki de pa ho

I pay homage to the knowledge holders, khandros, and deities.

#### Khan dro gong chö ngö drup drup pa la

In order to accomplish the intention and conduct of the khandros

#### Gyu lu tsok kyi khor lo kor wa la

This illusory body is circulated as a wheel of offering.

#### Thok mar nyen né chin né sa dül wa

Begin by going to a fearful place and taming the land.

#### Khor dé nyam nyi tok pé nel jor gyi

The yogi who realizes the equality of samsara and nirvana ঋ'প্রশ্বর্শন্ত্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্ত্রশ্বর্শন্

#### Ye shé röl pé lu len dro trap ching

Sings the song and dances the dance of playful primordial wisdom.

#### Tap shé yer mé da sil dra dang ché

Together with the sounds of the drum and bell—the inseparability of method and insight—
यन्गासेन् प्रस्काल्या विश्वास केंग्र विश्वास केंग्र

#### Dak mé ngang né shuk chung tsik di jö

[This yogi] chants the following words which well up from the state of selflessness:

#### THE PRACTICE

# र्ते पहुर पादी

**Dro dung wa ni** ~ Performing the Dance (Kangling [thighbone trumpet], and then with drum [damaru] and bell [sulnyen], daru phep and 2 sets of 3 beats)

# वर्दे तुः वुः ददः वर्दे लेश श्रूदः वः ष्यदा

#### Di na lha dang dre shé nang wa yang

Even though so-called gods and demons appear here,

#### Yum chen bha gé long né shen ma gyi

They were created from nothing other than the vastness of the Great Mother's bhaga.

#### Zhi tsel gak mé rang nang gar gyur wé

The unceasing dynamic energy of the base becomes the dance of self-appearance,

#### Nyi mé ye shé ngang du ya la la

Which naturally dissolves into non-dual primordial wisdom. YA LA LA!

## Nyi dzin dre gö go la dro zhik dung

[I] dance upon the heads of these wild demons of grasping at duality

## Dak dzin gong pö phung po shik se shik

And upon the corpse of the great demon of grasping at a self, destroying them.

## Dak mé nyuk mé lu yang ying su tön

My song of natural egolessness draws them into space.

## Den mé gyu mé dro gar kha la trap

Leaping into the sky, I gesture and dance, creating a magical display,

### Nel jor tong nyi kha ngé ngar ké di

And with the lion's roar of emptiness, this yogini

## Gyal gong wa kyé po mö lé kem shik

Shatters the skulls of these foxes, these male and female hindering demons.

## यदे केव यो विकार्येया यदि मुँ केव ग्रीका

#### De chen ye shé röl pé dro chen gyi

With my dance of the play of great bliss and primordial wisdom,

#### Nga dak zung dzin nyön mong dül du lok HUNG HUNG HUNG PÉ PÉ

I pulverize dualistic self-clinging and emotional afflictions.  $HUNG\ HUNG\ P\'E\ P\'E$ 

# व्यान्त्रम्भूयम्भुःदर्ग्याः वर्षे

Chap su dro ~ Going for Refuge (no instruments)

# ग्रिक्षः प्रदेशः ह्रिंदः केवः श्रेष्णः सुम्रा

#### Zhi ma chö tong chen Satrik Yum

O Mother, Satrik Yum, you are the uncontrived base, the great emptiness.

#### Ma yum chen long la kyap su chi

I go for refuge in the vast space of the Great Mother.

#### Ma nyen sé lhan dré rik druk dro

O Mother, please regard with your compassion all gods and demons of this untamed, frightening place

## Ma khyé kyi tuk jé zung du söl PÉ

As well as the sentient beings of the six realms, all who have been my mother.  $P\acute{E}$ 

### Sem kyé pa ni ~ Developing the Mind of Enlightenment [Bodhicitta]

# रदःत्वुत्यःदाः सः वेश्वान्तेश्वः दहितः श्रीश्रा

#### Rang trül pa ma shé nyi dzin gyi

Through delusion, unknowing, and self-grasping,

#### Zhen sem chen yong la nö ché dré

These demons have caused harm to other sentient beings.

## ५:वुटःद्ध्यःश्रेशशागुःर्देवःहॅगशवश

Ying ka dak ngang du dröl gyur chik PÉ

May these beings be liberated within the primordially pure space.  $P\dot{E}$ 

# श्रेमश्रक्ष्मित्रश्चेत्रम् श्रियायामित्राया

Sem chok kye ching söl wa dep pa ~ Prayer to the Khandros

षे'अ'र्रे'तेंद्र'ञ्जू'गुद्र'तृपवदार्थे'याव्येयापाददेपवा

EMA HO! Bön ku Küntu Zangmo la söl wa dep How marvelous! I pray to the body of truth, Küntu Zangmo. ই্ল্ম্স্ন্র্র্ম্ম্

Dzok ku Sherap Parchin la söl wa dep

I pray to the body of perfection, Sherap Parchin. এ্মান্টব্যুভিমার্নির্মিন্ত্রির্মান্ত্রির্মা

Yum chen Chema Ötso la söl wa dep I pray to the Great Mother Chema Ötso. মানবে:বর্ণা অঙ্গুঝাবার বাহারী থাকারী আন্তরের বিশ্বা

Khandro Kalpa Zangmo la söl wa dep I pray to the khandro Kalpa Zangmo. মান্বে: বের্ন্ 'ব্যুম্বার' ক্র্রিঅ'অ' নার্ন্নিঅ'অ'ন্বেন্নিম্বা

Khandro Tukjé Kündröl la söl wa dep I pray to the khandro Tukjé Kündröl. মানবে বের্শ্ বিদ্বাধ্ব বিশ্বেমাণা শ্বিমান্ত বেদ্বিমা

Khandro Öden Nyibar la söl wa dep I pray to the khandro Öden Nyibar. মানম'নের্শু শ্রীদ্ব'নেরিন্ধু মে'মার্শ্বম্মান্ম'ন্ম'ন্

Zhi wé khan dro kar mo la söl wa dep I pray to the white peaceful khandros. क्रुबायदे:आयदःदर्गे:वृद्धः व्यामर्बेदायः तदेवबा

Gye pé khan dro jang mo la söl wa dep

I pray to the green increasing khandros.

Wang gi khan dro mar mo la söl wa dep

I pray to the red powerful khandros.

न्या वितः सायतः तर्यो क्षेत्र से तथा य क्षेत्यः च तरे नक्षा

Drak pö khan dro ngön mo la söl wa dep

I pray to the blue wrathful khandros.

दह्मशाचुरार्झ्स्यार्श्वाचित्राम्बर्ध्यायादन्यश

Jik ché go ma de zhi la söl wa dep

I pray to the four classes of terrifying gatekeeper goddesses.

देव उव स प्रति त्रु या व मिला प्रति व मा

Drin chen tsa wé la ma la söl wa dep

I pray to my kind root master.

अर्क्षेत्रश्चित्रश्चर्या अर्हे न्वेत्रश्चरतिः स्वाधुन्या

Ma tsok tuk jé gong pé tsel chung la

May the overflowing dynamic energy of the intention of these hosts of mothers

याञ्चलामानुन् सदि सूर् तर्रे प्राप्त प्राप्त स्था

Ma tül nyen sé lhan dré wang du dü

Subdue the gods and demons of this untamed, frightening place,

अ:र्ट्स्यान्त्र:श्रदे:श्रे.पर्टे:श्रेताश्रीशयार्वेत्।

Ma rung nyen sé lhan dré zil gyi nön

Vanquish the gods and demons of this untamed, frightening place,

अःहॅ्रिवायात्रस्यात्रस्यात्रस्याः श्रेस्याः उत्। द्वीदश्याः शुर्देदश्या

Ma tok kham sum sem chen ying su drong

And guide all the unrealized sentient beings of the three worlds into space!

য়৻ঽয়৻য়৸৻৻৻ঽঀৢৼয়৻য়ৄয়য়৻য়৻য়৻য়য়৸

Ma chik kha ying tsöm bu chik dré né

O sole Mother, having been mixed into a single mass of space,

भ.जीबार्ड्स्वाबाजापु.बादबाश्चेबाबार्ड्स्वा स्वा

Ma lü dzok pé sang gyé sa top shok [repeat this line] PÉ

May all beings without exception achieve perfect buddhahood! PÉ

## ন্ৰ্ৰ্ৰিম'ন'নদ্ন'ন্ৰ্ৰাণ্ড্ৰাৰ্ক্ৰিন্ৰাণ্ডা

#### Lu tsok la ~ Offering the Body

## इस्रक्षाश्चरक्षेत्रच्चे

Nam shé par té zuk pung drel

[My] consciousness flies upward and is liberated from my physical body.

सुबायद्यायहें कुर्येर यदि क्रुं से द से सब्

Lü dak dzin bor wé kye mé sem

My unborn mind abandons this body and self-grasping,

**इ**.रचि.शतुःजन्नः भाषतः जन्नः चर्धः

Tsa u mé lam né kha lé tön PÉ

Expelled into the sky through the path of the central channel.  $P\acute{E}$ 

क्रिंत्र सॅर्का ग्री पत्र पत्रें स्वायम् व्याय बरास्य

Nyön mong kyi dü chom Kalzang Ma

I arise in a rainbow display as Kalzang Ma, destroyer of the demons of conflicting emotions,

श्रुः क्रुवः दुवा विः त्येः वानः क्षेत्रः विद्या वतः

Ku gyen druk tra le gar gyi zheng PÉ

In a dancing posture, adorned with the six [bone] ornaments.  $P\acute{E}$ 

# **५ग×७३५३५३**१

#### Kar gyé ché ni ~ White Feast

# म्याया म्याया मित्रास्य स्टार्स स्टार्

Yé dri guk gi phung po dü po drel

With the curved knife in her right hand, she liberates the demon of the aggregates.

यर्द्रक्षेत्राचेद्रासर्गे यउद्धिरायाचेगा

Dü nyem ché go ché tö pa drek [damaru, bell]

She cuts off the head of that arrogant demon. The severed skull

<u>ষ্ট্র্</u>দের্ঘাধ্যমান্ত্রী।ব'ঝ'রদধ্যধ্যমা

Tong sum gyi kha la zang su tsuk

Is placed as a cauldron as vast as the three-thousandfold universe.

ग्राच्याबास्टर्धे द्वित्त्र्येदायीबायत्या

Zuk pung po nö du ling gi zhak

The physical aggregates of my abandoned body are flung into the vessel.

## शुग्रामाश्रामायदः अर्हेन् त्रश्रादर्धेश्रामाणी

#### Tuk sang wé dzö né trö pa yi

The heart's secret treasure emanates a short A

#### A tung gi me yi zuk phung zhü

Whose fire dissolves the aggregate of form.

#### Lü phung kham dü tsir nar gyi zhu

Thus the physical body's constituents and elements melt into nectar.

#### A HAM le dü tsi zhün tik kyi

By the drops of the refined nectar from A and HAM,

### Ro gya den dü tsi nam sar kheng [repeat line] PÉ

This nectar of one hundred flavors fills sky and earth. PÉ

#### Kyap kön chok drön la chö pa bül

To the source of refuge, the three precious jewels, I make this offering.

## Ka ten sung tsok kyi gyé par zhé

To the hosts of protectors of the sacred teachings, accept [this offering] and be pleased.

## Gek jung po de gyé ngöm par röl

To the eight classes of obstructing beings and elementals, enjoy [this offering] and be

## Ma rik druk dro nam tsim par chö PÉ

To the beings of the six realms, our mothers, partake of this offering and be satisfied.  $P\acute{E}$ 

#### Lha chö drön nyé né tsok nyi dzok

Through pleasing the divine guests with this offering, may the two accumulations be perfected.

### Bön ten kyong gyé ne lé chöl drup

By delighting the protectors of the teachings of Bön, may their oath-bound commitments be upheld.

## यार्देव विरोधियात्या स्रोधसायार्वेद रवाया नि

#### Dön po mö duk sem nö gel zhi

May all harm and adversity caused by malevolent male and female demons be pacified,

#### Ma rik druk dö tsim len chak kher PÉ PÉ PÉ

[And] through satisfying the wishes of our mothers, all sentient beings, may all karmic debts be repaid.  $P\acute{E}$   $P\acute{E}$   $P\acute{E}$ 

# न्सरःवश्चेनःवै।

#### Mar gyé ni ~ Red Feast

# म्यायाः मी स्वापाः मी सम्बद्धाः विदेशयतुन् विद्या

#### Ye dri guk gi pung pö dü po drel

With the curved knife in her right hand, she liberates the demon of the aggregates.

#### Dü nyem ché go ché yang zhi teng

Cutting off the head of this arrogant demon, atop its flayed skin the size of the three-thousandfold universe

### Tong sum gyi kha la sha trak pung

She heaps the flesh and blood.

## Ja kö po ro tok lhak pa zhin

Like vultures feasting on the remains of a corpse,

### Khyö nyen sé lhan dré dir dü la

The gods and demons of this frightful place gather.

#### Sha dö nam sha la kham kham zo

May those who desire flesh tear it with their teeth and eat!

## Trak dö nam trak la chip chip thung

May those who desire blood drink it gulp by gulp!

# रुषायर्देर:सुराषारुषायर्के:यू:मदःयहेत।

#### Rü dö nam rü cho lha kang jip

May those who desire bones gnaw the bones and suck the marrow!

#### Nang tröl dang gyu ma khyur khyur röl

Pull out the organs and entrails and feast upon them!

#### Tse nga chyi len chak kher gyur chik

Thus may my karmic debts of [this and] previous lifetimes be repaid,

### Dré duk chen duk sem zhi gyur chik [repeat line] PÉ PÉ PÉ

[And] may the negative intentions of these male volent demons be pacified.  $P\acute{E}~P\acute{E}~P\acute{E}$ 

# र्चेंब हैंब दी

#### Bön jin ni ~ The Gift of Dharma

## यावश्याश्रदः क्रेवः बेदः योर्वेदः सूः यदेः इस्रश्रा

### Ne sang chen zhing khö lhan dré nam

Gods and demons who dwell in this great secret place,

## तुश्रम्मानुगवन्यमार्वेत् श्रेसश्चर

## Dü tak tu zhen la nö sem pang

Abandon forever the mind of harming others!

## Yül yung drung ne zhir kyap su söl

Take refuge in the four yungdrung (lamas, buddhas, shenrabs, and dharma).

## Ma sem chen yong la nying je kyé PÉ

Generate compassion for all sentient beings, our mothers. PÉ

# ৠৢয়য়য়ৣ৾য়য়

#### Kyap jin ni ~ The Gift of Protection

श्रेयश्चित्रः प्रश्नायाः स्त्रिः मिन्सः स्त्री

Sem dren sem khen pö zhi tsa chö

In cutting the root of the thinker of thoughts and memory,

र्देवर्द्द्रसर्थेयम्बुवर्द्वरथेय।

Dön ngö po ma drup sa le wa

Ultimately, it is vividly clear that there are no entities.

वर्रे गुत्र प्रबंद द्वींद्र सं प्राप्त प्रवाधिता

Di Kün Zang kong pa yang dak yin

This is the pure understanding of Kün[tu] Zang[po].

५. सर्ट्स्नेश्वश्चर्याच्याच्याच्या

Da rang ngo shé ne dröl war shok PÉ

Now, recognizing one's own natural face, may all be liberated!  $P\acute{E}$ 

# हेशकु'नहें ह्वेंव वे।

#### Je su ngo mön ni ~ Prayer and Dedication

यदग्निश्वग्वग्रोदः र्क्षेत् केव यदि यगुश्ययि।

Dak gi zak mé tsok chen di kyé pé

The virtue arising from this great stainless accumulation

दमोर्क्षेम्बामानुन् बादे खूरदरे खें दबाया या है।

Ge tsok nyen sé lhan dré yong la ngo

I dedicate [for the benefit] of the gods and demons of this untamed, frightening place.

गुत्र गुद्र र्ळेग्रा गाठेश गाठे र त्य त्यें द्रशा र्शेट्र हुँ प्रशा

Kün kyang tsok nyi ter la long chö né

From the richness of the treasury of the two accumulations,

त्म् गुरुष्टुयाम्डेग स्टबासुबासुरार्चेय म्वा यतः

Dro kun cham chik sang gyé nyur top shok PÉ

May all beings equally and spontaneously attain buddhahood. PÉ

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