

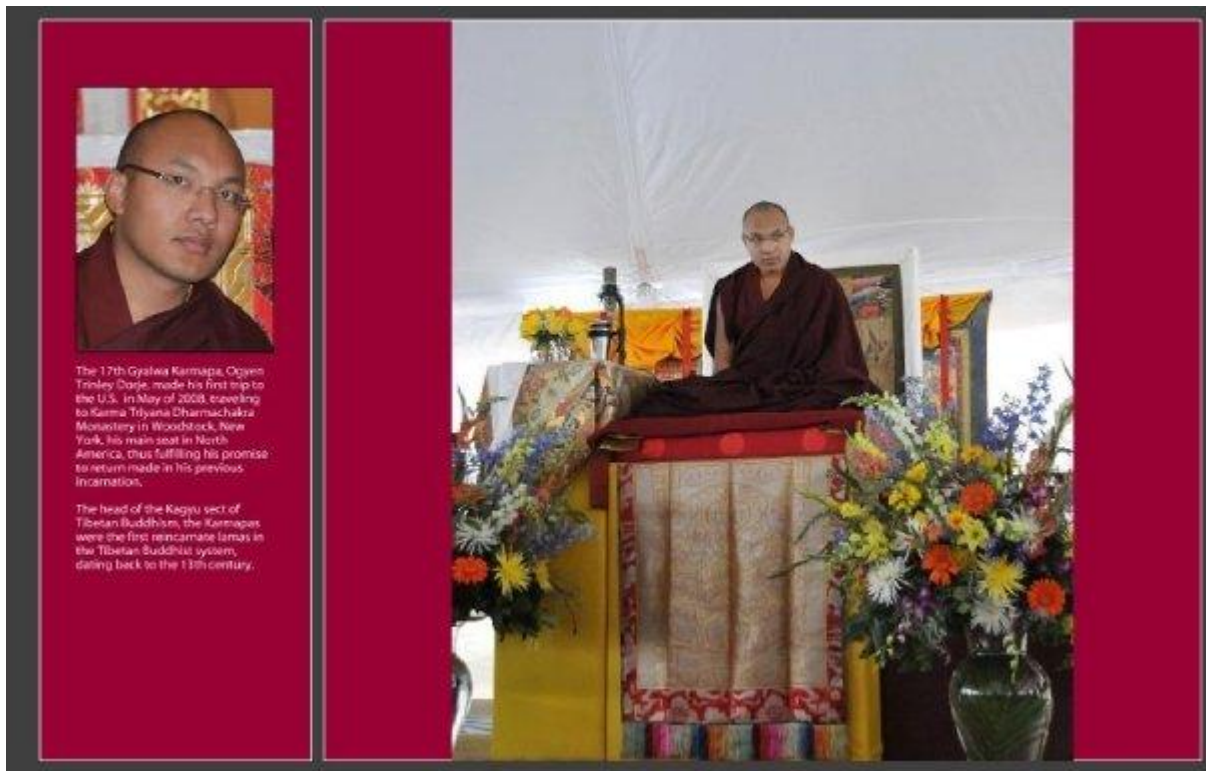
**THE 17th KARMAPA'S FIRST VISIT TO THE U.S.
November 21, 2009**

By Michael Erlewine (Michael@Erlewine.net)

Taken at Woodstock, New York

BOOK ON HIS HOLINESS THE 17th KARMAPA: Someone asked for some of these photos today, so I thought I would share info about this book with you. I published this coffee-table-sized 200-page book of photos of His Holiness the 17th Karmapa's first trip to the U.S. in May of 2008. In fact, I had to leave the UAC Astrology Conference in Denver early to join the video crew for the visit. There were secret service men and all that stuff. I took these still photos, wrote and illustrated the book, and published it mostly for a private audience. But I post a few pictures here for those interested.

Needless to say, it was incredible to be in the same room with His Holiness, who is like the Dalai Lama, except he is the head of another lineage. Photos and book by Michael and Margaret Erlewine.



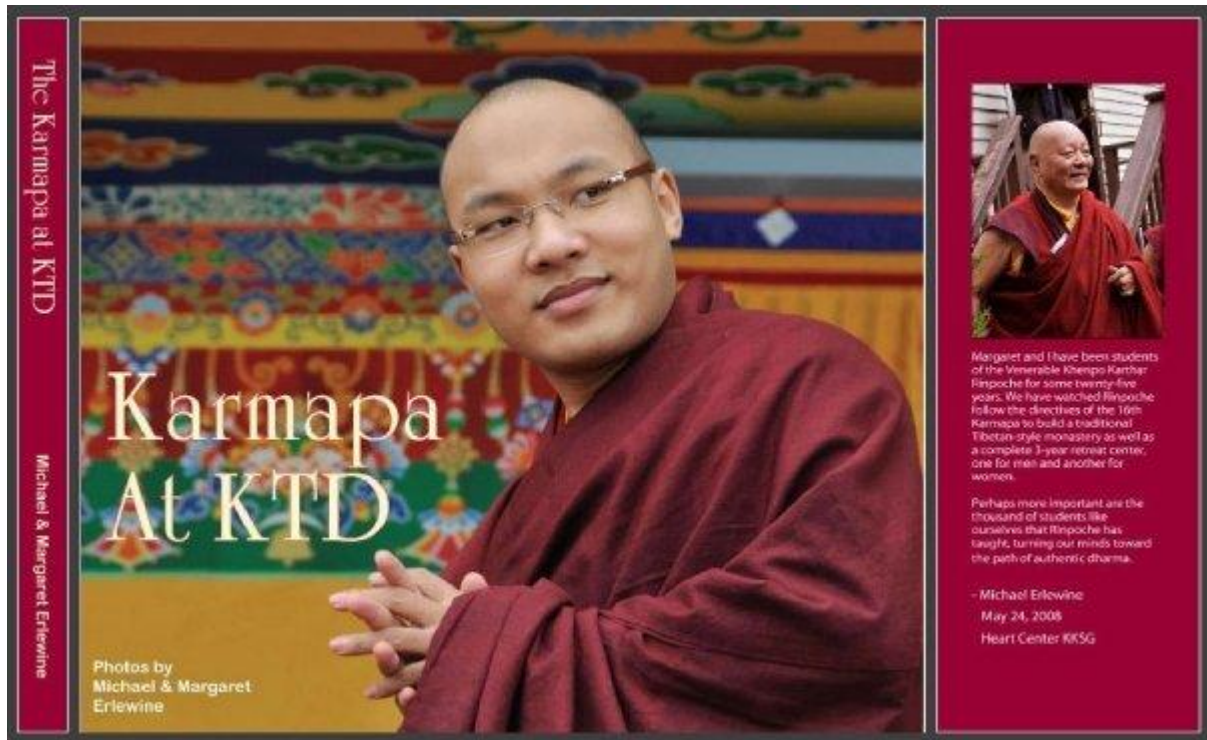
The 17th Gyalsei Karmapa, Open Trilay Dorje, made his first trip to the U.S. in May of 2008, traveling to Karma Triyana Dharmachakra Monastery in Woodstock, New York, his main seat in North America, thus fulfilling his promise to return made in his previous incarnation.

The head of the Kagyu sect of Tibetan Buddhism, the Karmapas were the first reincarnate lamas in the Tibetan Buddhist system, dating back to the 13th century.

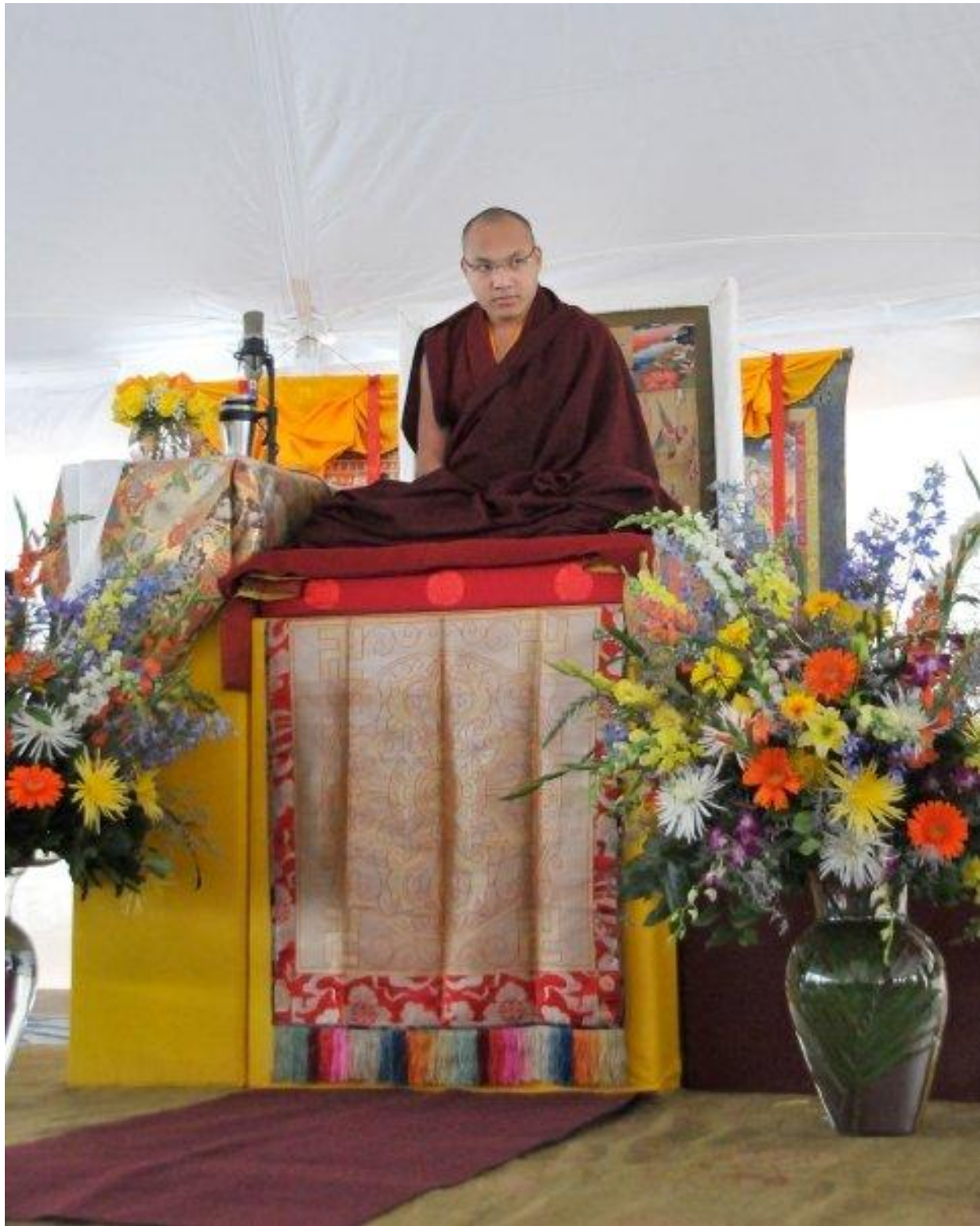
This is the back cover of the book, a photo of His Holiness the 17th Karmapa teaching to hundreds of people.



This is an interleaf page. Throughout the book are wonderful illustrations by the artist Sange Wangchuk, who lived with us for some years. An astrologer, Wangchuk is now the cultural minister of Bhutan.



Here is His Holiness the Karmapa on the steps of Karma Triyana Dharmachakra Monastery in the mountains above Woodstock, New York. This is the front cover of the book.



This is a photo of His Holiness the 17th Karmapa teaching to hundreds of people. A better image [here](#).



His Holiness the 17th Karmapa in the Karma Ling Retreat Center shrine room.



This photo is at one of the three-year closed retreats at Karma Ling Retreat Center, where men and women (in separate buildings) do 3-year closed retreats. This is my teacher, the Ven. Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche, with Ani Lodro, a nun who has done more than 9 years of closed retreat and is now a retreat master.



Here is His Holiness the 17th Karmapa with my teacher the Ven. Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche and other dignitaries at the blessing of the retreat land by His Holiness.