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**The Dalai Lama And The Cult Of Dolgyal Shugden**

Posted: 03/05/2014 9:29 am EST Updated: 05/05/2014 5:59 am EDT

Ever since 1997, when, according to detailed Indian police investigations, pseudo- monks who infiltrated to Dharamsala from China murdered the Venerable Lobsang Gyatso, a noted lama close to the Dalai Lama, and his two young disciples, the cult of the Dolgyal-Shugden spirit has been on the attack. The well-evidenced culprits were not tried as they escaped back into Tibet and China, but the cult continued its campaign at the behest of, and with substantial funding from, the United Front department of the People's Republic of China, the agency handling relations with non-Chinese "minority nationalities." The futile effort of the cult backed by the agency seeks to alienate Tibetans from the Dalai Lama, their beloved leader and even to turn world public opinion against the acclaimed Nobel Laureate and Gandhi heir. The final aim is to disrupt the Dalai Lama's fifty-year-long nonviolent "truth and justice" campaign, to free the six million Tibetan people to be themselves in the special autonomous minority region offered them by the Chinese constitution, so far only on paper.

The cult and agency attack campaign is futile since its main claims are so easy to refute:

1) The worship of their chosen deity was not "banned" by the Dalai Lama, since he has no authority to "ban" what Tibetan Buddhists practice. "Banning" and "excommunicating" are not Tibetan Buddhist procedures.

Although they are Buddhists who should focus on emulating the Buddha, members of the cult are free to worship their chosen "protector deity," whom they call Dorje Shugden, as much as they like. The young Dalai Lama himself did propitiate it as a minor worldly spirit or angel, until he studied the history of its cult and decided it was not a protector at all, but instead a mischievous "king" spirit known as Dolgyal ("king demon from Dol"). Once his historical studies brought him to that conclusion, he recommended that other lamas in his school cease their relationship, or at least keep it to themselves, since its liturgy contains condemnation of the minority sects of Tibetan Buddhism and of non-Buddhist religions. In the late 80s', when certain individual lamas began to proselytize its cult, inducting even Western practitioners new to Buddhism, especially in England, he took the step of asking such persons to refrain from attending his initiations and associated advanced teachings, on the grounds that they were not following his advice and so should not take him as their teacher. They then went on the attack, claiming they had been "banned" and "excommunicated," etc., when in fact the Dalai Lama was exercising his religious freedom by not accepting students who reject his advice, and actually go so far as to condemn him!

2) The cult of Dolgyal Shugden is that of a minor angel or demon, and never has been mainstream, To claim that "four million" people belong to it, or even "millions," is untrue.

3) The members of the cult do not come from numerous Tibetan sects, but exclusively from the super-orthodox fundamentalists of the majority Gelukpa sect or order.

4) The Dalai Lama has never asked anyone to persecute anyone, and members of the cult who mind their own business and do not attack the Dalai Lama are not bothered by other Tibetans. Those who do attack the Dalai Lama with outrageous name-calling--"dictator," "false lama," even "demon," and "liar," etc., naturally do provoke the vast majority of Tibetans, who adore their Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama himself has never approved of either the provocations or any harsh responses, and remains steadfast in his adherence to nonviolence in principle and practice.

5) The whole fuss would have died down long ago except for the fact that the "hard-line" operatives of the "United Front Work Department" of the People's Republic of China, the agency in charge of dealing with China's "minority nationalities," sees the cult as a potential wedge they hope to drive between the Dalai Lama and his people and between him and world opinion. They therefore fund the leaders of the cult in Tibet, Mongolia, India and the West, and provide them the means to carry on their expensive propaganda campaigns. Evidence for this is very plain on the surface. For example, the so-called "Panchen Lama" reincarnation, whom the Communist party chiefs appointed after abducting and disappearing the five year old boy properly chosen in the traditional way by a committee of his monastery with approval of the Dalai Lama, is shown on the internet in various photographs sitting in front of a large icon of Dolgyal Shugden, as a sign of aggressive defiance of the Dalai Lama. The obvious fact is that the clearly stated purpose of the cult and the United Front agency of the PRC is to try to prove to the world that the Dalai Lama is not as nice as we all think, but is a bad, even "evil," person.

Whatever one believes about the reality of fierce angels or demons, it is clear that the leaders of the Dolgyal Shugden cult have done nothing over the last 30 years but cause trouble, both to their own followers and to the unity of the Tibetan people, both in exile and in Tibet. It has benefited no one except those misguided operatives in the Chinese government who wish to destroy Tibetan Buddhist culture, in order to assimilate systematically deracinated Tibetans into becoming second class Chinese citizens, and thus, through such a policy of crushing the identities and even lives of the "minority nationality" Tibetans, to secure forever their claim to the vast territories and resources of the Tibetan plateau. But as we have seen all over the world--and as aware persons can attest here in America with our still very much present First Americans--history never does end, people do not give up their distinctive identities, and truth and justice inevitably arise from the ashes of even genocidal flames.

Those who would like to read a thorough study of the Dolgyal Shugden cult by a distinguished professional journalist, can download a kindle copy of R. Bultrini, The Dalai Lama and the King Demon, published by Tibet House US.

And:

[**http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/04/dalai-lama-new-york\_n\_6097362.html**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/04/dalai-lama-new-york_n_6097362.html)

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**The Dalai Lama Gives New Yorkers A Lesson On Wisdom As Opponents Protest Outside**

Posted: 11/04/2014 9:25 am EST Updated: 11/06/2014 4:59 pm EST

NEW YORK -- As protesters milled on the sidewalk outside, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama took center stage at the Beacon Theater on Monday with a lesson on how to find wisdom and recognize "ultimate truths."

Surrounded by faithful monks, nuns and an audience of supporters, the Tibetan Buddhist leader urged his disciples to use reasoning when examining both scriptural texts and teachers. "Ultimate truths" can be evidenced in religious teaching, but can also be inferred through logic, he said.

"Anything that is violating norms of reason or is contradictory should not be accepted, even though it is coming from a high lama," the Dalai Lama said through an interpreter.

Tashi Khamshitsang, a member of the Tibetan Parliament who attended the teaching, explained it this way to The Huffington Post: "When you find a teacher, judge him by who he is, and once you are certain, then you can receive his teaching."

In the same vein, the exiled leader also spoke about distinguishing between provisional and definitive truths. Provisional teachings, he explained, are those teachings that masters use to nudge their disciples a little bit further along the path to wisdom, while definitive truths are more absolute.

The key is to determine whether the content of a particular scripture passage "stands to reason and validates experience," the Dalai Lama said, or whether there is another layer of truth still waiting to be uncovered. The Buddhist leader also applied that reasoning to the perceptions of individuals, which he said will always be subjective.

"We tend to think we are objective," the Dalai Lama said, "but our perception field is just a projection of our own mind."

No spiritual teaching can be taken "at face value," the Dalai Lama added -- a remark that may have been aimed as much at the swarms of protesters gathered outside the Beacon Theater as it was toward supporters inside the venue.

[Tibet House US](http://tibethouse.us/component/content/article/317-his-holiness-the-dalai-lama-in-new-york-city-november-3-a-4-2014), which hosted Monday's event, identified the protesters as followers of the [New Kadampa Tradition](http://kadampa.org/buddhism/the-dharma-protector/) (NKT), a breakaway sect that worships a Tibetan deity called Dorje Shugden.

Tensions within Tibetan Buddhism have flared up in recent years with the rise of the NKT, whose adherents the Dalai Lama has asked "not to attend his formal religious teachings," [according to his website](http://www.dalailama.com/messages/dolgyal-shugden/his-holiness-advice). The Buddhist leader has cautioned that the NKT may be spiritually misguided and politically divisive, and his supporters have accused the Shugden following of acting on behalf of the Chinese government to create schisms within the Tibetan community in exile.  As a result, Shugden followers have in turn accused the Dalai Lama of religious discrimination and have protested the leader's visits to the United States. They picketed with signs and chants outside recent events in Princeton, Boston and New York.

"Considering the Dalai Lama travels the world on a platform of human rights and basic human values, that he's instigated this kind of segregation in his own community is outrageous," International Shugden Community spokesman Nicholas Pitts told The Huffington Post.

Suzanne Newcombe is a research officer who has studied the NKT at [Inform](http://www.inform.ac/), an organization based out of the London School of Economics that aims to provide balanced information on new and alternative religious movements. Newcombe said the protests were likely set up by individuals or by front organizations, rather than by the NKT directly.

"Individual members take it upon themselves to protest what they call 'gross injustices' being thrust on them because of the Dalai Lama's policy," Newcombe told HuffPost over the phone. "His advice against practicing Shugden became emphatic in 1996. Then there was a vote in the major Gelug monasteries not to allow the practice in 2007. But now independent Shugden monasteries have been set up around the world."

Newcombe suggested that while followers of the NKT may strive to reach enlightenment and "be good Buddhists," many who have left the movement report that NKT authorities did not allow them the space to develop their own faith.

Alexandra Ulrey, a public health researcher at Columbia University who has been interested in the Dalai Lama's teachings since she was in fourth grade, said she was surprised by the protests.

"Even though he's a religious figure, he's a scholar and a nerd," Ulrey said. "His emphasis on secular ethics, in particular, is what keeps him very relevant and appealing to a wide audience."

Robert Thurman, the president of Tibet House US who was onstage with the Dalai Lama at the Beacon, criticized the protesters in [a Huffington Post column](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-thurman/dalai-lama-protests-_b_6096576.html) Monday, accusing them of misinterpreting the true nature of Buddhism and misleading the public with claims of religious oppression.

Thurman wrote that it was "tragic" that Western converts to Buddhism were being "drastically misinformed" by the NKT.

"They are not being given education in the higher trainings in ethics, meditation, and critical wisdom [...] and are being prevented from learning about themselves and life from the most important world teacher in this era, His Holiness the Dalai Lama," Thurman wrote.

Khamshitsang, a Dalai Lama supporter, said he has examined the leader's teachings and found them to be good and practical.

"Tibetans in Tibet are dying to see the Dalai Lama, and these people are accusing the Dalai Lama of [being] false," Khamshitsang told HuffPost. "Dalai Lama is the apostle of peace, nonviolence [...] What they're talking [about] doesn't stand the ground.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-thurman/dalai-lama-protests-_b_6096576.html>

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**Concerning The Current Wave of "Protest Demonstrations" Against His Holiness the Dalai Lama**

Posted: 11/03/2014 5:17 pm EST Updated: 11/03/2014 5:59 pm EST



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Concerning The Current Wave of "Protest Demonstrations" Against His Holiness the Dalai Lama by the Just-formed New Kadampa Tradition (NKT) Shugden Protest Front Group, The International Shugden Community (ISC).

In the case of the current wave of ISC "protests" against the Dalai Lama, we have to ask ourselves--what is the real motive? What does the small group of highly motivated, well-organized, seemingly media-savvy "protesters" really want? They say they want "religious freedom," but they have always had religious freedom in India or the West, nobody has banned them worshiping as they wish. Within Tibet they have special support from the Chinese government that dominates Tibet (not giving such freedom to pro-Dalai-Lama Tibetan Buddhists), and outside of Tibet they have their own monasteries, Meditation Centers, and support networks. Their Western followers are free to worship as they choose, and are also free to attack the Dalai Lama, as they are doing. They say they want to end "segregation," but they themselves choose to separate themselves from member of their own Gelukpa sect who decline to propitiate the protector entity they call Shugden, as well as from other sects of Buddhism.

They say they want human rights for their "millions" of followers, but no one in India or elsewhere deprives their actually very small numbers of individuals of human rights, as Amnesty International and the High Court of Delhi have asserted in rejecting their false claims. They are just as well provided for as other refugees, in terms of medical clinics, hospitals, schools, and their own chosen monasteries and communities. They say they want the Dalai Lama to agree with them that the fierce "deity," "spirit," that they call Dorje Shugden and most Tibetans call Dolgyal, is really a Buddha. They know the Dalai Lama thinks it is a hostile spirit, since he considers that it has been malevolent in history toward his former incarnations, and also toward the Tibetan people under his protection.

However, it is a fact that the vast majority of the six million Tibetans love their precious Dalai Lama and depend on him from their hearts. Therefore, they do not like it when anyone, Tibetan or non-Tibetan, attacks him and treats him as an enemy. This NKT /ISC group is doing just that very thing. They are not really protesting: they are using the form and language of social protests over fabricated causes and baseless claims in a concerted campaign of defamation. In doing so they are striking at the heart of the Tibetan nation, in that the beloved Dalai Lama is the iconic representative of the Tibetan cause, the prime exemplar of the Tibetan nation, and its distinctive spiritual culture.

These protesters have published two pamphlets (A Great Deception, and False Dalai Lama) attacking not only this Dalai Lama, but all his predecessors from the Great Fifth Dalai Lama (1617-1682) onward, in which they make all manner of wild assertions to argue that all Dalai Lamas have been "evil," "dictators." etc. The bottom line is that they are attempting to confuse public opinion and ruin the Dalai Lama's reputation.

However, the Dalai Lama has already retired from his political authority and role as head of the Government in Exile. He has encouraged and ratified legislation that future Dalai Lamas, if there are any, will not again assume political responsibilities. He wants to future "local government" in Tibet to be fully democratic, as is the international Tibetan community in exile. He wants the abbots and sages of the Gelukpa order to decide for themselves how to regard such spirits as Shugden/Dolgyal. They recently voted in a great majority not to do so, though the minority that does want to carry on with Shugden was given its own monasteries, its own resources and support network. So the protesters' claim that they don't have these things is simply untrue, refuted even by some of their own websites.

They also do have the support of some of the Communist Chinese authorities in Tibet. The Chinese propaganda of the last thirty years, especially since the Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 and became popular everywhere in the world, including underground in China itself, has had exactly the same aim as that of the protesters: namely to tarnish his reputation and convince the world he's a bad person and should not be listened to as representing the real feelings of the Tibetan people. Therefore, the Shugden schism attempt is considered ideal by the PRC's United Front Work department which has had Tibet in virtual lockdown since the plateau-wide non-violent rebellion of 2008 before the Beijing Olympics. It suits its policy because it wants a Communism-compatible form of Tibetan Buddhism that has dispensed with the Dalai Lama.

Their chosen Panchen Lama (considered a false imposition by the Tibetan people at large) is often photographed in front of icons of Shugden, and frequently meets publically with the small handful of Shugden lamas. They send Shugden monks into India to agitate against the abbots of the monastic universities and man the smaller Shugden monasteries, and they have destroyed large popular statues of Padmasambhava, the "St. Patrick" of Tibet, a favorite of the Dalai Lamas, and a symbol of nonsectarianism. This is why ordinary Tibetans who turn out to support the Dalai Lama, often say that the Shugden protests are the work of the Chinese, though there is no documentary proof of a direct link between the NKT front groups ISC or WSS and the Communist United Front. It is just that the message is the same: "The Dalai Lama is a bad guy." Anyone can look up on line to see the propaganda from the Buddhist Association of China (BAC), to find there many of the same slogans as carried on placards by the "protesters."

In conclusion, it is tragic that the well meaning Western, new, would-be Buddhists of the NKT are starting off their Buddhist studies and practice so drastically misinformed as to what Buddhism is about, as if all it is, is a power struggle between good and evil sects, creeds, beliefs in local deities or spirits. They are not being given education in the higher trainings in ethics, meditation, and critical wisdom, and so being taught to find calm and insight in their own minds and hearts, and are being prevented from learning about themselves and life from the most important world teacher in this era, His Holiness the Dalai Lama. His Holiness frequently insists that he does not think it a good idea to convert people of other faiths or of the secular humanist faith, in order to recruit mere nominal "Buddhists," but these protesters are not allowed to read anything other than the works of Kelsang Gyatso. They only participate in ceremonies designed by him, unique to his personal version of Gelukpa Buddhism. They are taught to adopt an extremist attitude toward other non-Shugden worshiping Gelukpas, and other sects as well.

Fortunately, there is a group of ex-cult members, numbering so far over 1200 individuals, who are appalled at the behavior of the "protesters," and have come forward with a detailed statement refuting all of their claims, which states:

"We, the undersigned, as former members of the New Kadampa Tradition (NKT), and ex-practitioners of Dorje Shugden, are appalled and saddened that those who were once our NKT Sangha [community] demonstrate against and defame His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Inaccuracies and distortions of what we know to be the truth have been published as fact. The New Kadampa Tradition currently operates as the 'International Shugden Community' (ISC) and also as the 'Western Shugden Society' (WSS). Many allegations and insults are made against His Holiness which are completely unwarranted. At demonstrations and on numerous web sites and Facebook pages, the NKT/ISC viciously attacks the reputation of His Holiness. We have tried to address inaccuracies with the group, but without success. We believe it is time to speak out with one voice......"

(There follow ten points refuting the false claims of the protesters. They conclude:) " With the backdrop of continued Human Rights abuses against the Tibetan people, who number little more than 6 million in total, and the mass slaughter of an unknown number of Tibetans due to the Chinese occupation and colonisation often quoted as being more than one million, claims made by the ISC such as that '4 million Dorje Shugden practitioners are suffering' are obviously lies. No established Human Rights group or court has ever confirmed any of the NKT/WSS or ISC's claims of intentional Human Rights abuses by His Holiness the Dalai Lama or the Central Tibetan Administration. In 2010 the Indian High Court rejected a law suit by Shugden followers because of 'vague averments' and 'absence of any specific instances of any such attacks'.

"We offer our support to the Tibetan people in their struggle to preserve their lives and their culture and question the intentions of those who use this culture but appear not to support this struggle. Both in 1996-7 and in 2008 the demonstrations against His Holiness the Dalai Lama coincided with the public exposure on the internet of the alleged sexual misconduct of the Deputy Spiritual Directors of the NKT. In view of the consistently unkind behaviour of his own organisation, we feel that Kelsang Gyatso and his students can have no moral right for making such attempts to discredit and defame His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

"Those of us who once belonged to the New Kadampa Tradition are resolved to bring these inaccuracies, disinformation, and outright lies to light. Who better to reveal the truth than we who were once inside the organisation?"

Robert Thurman,  Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist studies, Columbia University President, Tibet House US For academic papers and more detailed corrections of the copious misinformation spread by the protesters, please consult the websites, www.shugdeninfo.com and www.dalailama.com. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-thurman/dalai-lama-protests-\_b\_6096576.html