



Sangha Sharing

A Losar Memory – Tibetans and Westerners Join Together in One Voice

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Tibetan villagers young and old began arriving at the gate of Menri Monastery in first light of Losar after hiking the steep slope from their homes in the valley below. Carrying khatas and dressed in their finest traditional outfits of the brightest reds, azures, turquoises, and yellows, they gathered within the courtyard in front of the gompa as giant plumes arose from a smoke offering in their midst.

I joined other villagers and monks circumambulating the gompa, grateful to be sharing in an ages-old connection to the Bon tradition on this special day. Within no time the scattering of walkers became a major procession. A handful of us students of Tenzin Wangyal Rinpoche had converged here in India for this first Ligmincha Losar retreat. We felt welcomed by monks and villagers alike, and their excitement about our presence there was palpable.

As I walked along silently reciting the *Tu-Ti-Su* mantra, I recalled how Rinpoche had first introduced this mantra to me five years



Losar Festival in Tibet



Prayer during Losar Festival