

## DZOKDEN KALAPA | 2024 (update: 20th February 2024)

### Conditions for Participation in the HIGHER EMPOWERMENTS for WENSUM (*Three Isolations*) and 1st VAJRA YOGA

Should Rinpoché accept to bestow the Four Higher Empowerments upon you (and subsequently the Six Vajra Yogas), he is wholly committing himself to guiding and taking care of you as his Vajra student throughout your entire path to Buddhahood. For your journey to be successful, it is necessary for you to have confidence in yourself and in Rinpoché's capacity to guide you, and all doubts and reservations about following his instructions need to be completely removed. Without this level of confidence, honesty, and devotion, this path will not work.

You may ask whether this required degree of focus is contradictory with the Rimé view. Rimé is not about seeking a variety of spiritual traditions for your own personal Dharma path. Thus, there is no contradiction whatsoever to being personally dedicated to a single path and so forth ([Read more about Rimé here](#)). While a variation of practices is important for a beginner to attain an overview of the different traditions and lineages, in order to truly progress further on the Vajra path, a resolute choice needs to be made. Acknowledging that one path, lineage, and Root Lama are the most suitable for you, does not mean that you no longer see the benefit of other traditions and masters for others. You can still respect and honor diversity while maintaining your own focus.

Devotion, confidence, priority, focus, and loyalty are not in contradiction with the Rimé view. You can be resolutely established on one lineage, while at the same time having a non-biased perspective toward others. The main point here is that at this stage of the Vajra path, spiritual progress will not occur if you do not have a high degree of confidence naturally present in your heart. You need to be assured about your personal choice of path, lineage, and Root Lama, and **only you can be responsible for deciding whether or not to apply to participate.**

Below is an overview of the main conditions you will need to gather for your reference. If you feel that you are not yet fully prepared, do not be discouraged. As these conditions will remain relatively similar in the coming years, you can start preparing for them now for future participation. **These conditions are not demands but need to be naturally present within your heart.**

#### **1st Main Condition:**

You feel confident in **your own choice of Shar Khentrul Rinpoché** as your **main Root Lama**.

#### **2nd Main Condition:**

You feel confident in **your own choice for the Kalachakra as taught by the Jonang** Lineage and feel that you do not need any other path. Thus, **you want to focus on the Jonang Kalachakra Path as your main spiritual path for the remainder of this life.**

Important Note: Practicing the Kalachakra Ngondro will directly support you in developing these confidences. While Rinpoché does not need to be your only Lama, you will however need to follow his advice above all others. You can still practice other lineages as *supplementary* practices to your main path of Kalachakra if you so wish, but you should be fully aware that you are committing to Rinpoché as the **main reference for your spiritual path** for this life. By trusting him, his teachings, and his lineage, you will undoubtedly progress on this path. Such a feeling is not a stipulation, but should instead be naturally present for your own success.

Below is the 3rd Condition, which is specific to taking part in the **HIGHER EMPOWERMENTS and WENSUM** event or the **1st VAJRA YOGA** event. **If you have not yet fully completed the required hours you can still send your application, as long as you resolutely commit to completing them before the event.** Otherwise, you will need to wait for the next opportunity.

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### **3rd Condition specific for HIGHER EMPOWERMENTS and WENSUM (*Three Isolations*):**

If you are participating for the first time: **300** hours of Jonang Ngondro Practice and Study. **Exception: 150** hours is acceptable if you have done a minimum of **600** hours of volunteer work for Dzokden, Dzokden Kalapa, Rimé Institute, or Land of Shambhala. In either case, **Ngondros of other traditions are not included within these hours.** After establishing all these conditions, you can present yourself as a candidate by [sending your application here](#).

(Alternatively, if you have been practicing the Jonang Ngondro, but have not counted your hours or number of accumulations, you need to have extensively studied Rinpoché's books and be very familiar with subjects such as Shambhala and the Jonang-Kalachakra lineage masters. If this applies to you, you will need to contact us to organize an oral test to determine your familiarity with these subjects. This will be scheduled **only after** you [send your application](#).)

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### **3rd Condition specific for the 1st VAJRA YOGA**

You need first to receive the 4 Higher Empowerments of Kalachakra with Rinpoché, followed by the completion of **300** hours of *Wensum (Three Isolations)* meditation according to the Jonang. You can present yourself as a candidate by [sending your application here](#).

**Clarification:** if for example, in your daily practice, you start with half an hour of Jonang Ngondro Chanting before meditating on the *Wensum (Three Isolations)* for an hour, only the one hour can be referenced. The mandatory preliminaries are not included in this count.

**Exception: 150** hours of practice is acceptable if you have done a minimum of **600** hours of volunteer work for Dzokden, Dzokden Kalapa, Rimé Institute, or Land of Shambhala. In either case, **other meditation styles according to other pith instructions cannot be included within these hours.**

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***Note to those who have previously taken the Higher Empowerments or 1st Vajra Yoga:***

To again take part in this important event, in the interest of your spiritual progress, **Rinpoché requests that all his students reaffirm their commitments to the path, the lineage, and to him.** This can be done in the registration process when booking your participation for the event at the Dzokden Kalapa Website. (Veteran participants do **not** need to submit a separate application.)

If you have found your confidence in your own choice for the Jonang Lineage, the Kalachakra path, or Rinpoché has weakened in the time since you last took the Higher Empowerments or 1st Vajra Yoga, Rinpoché has stated that you should refrain from registering on this occasion. He feels there is a greater benefit to waiting for the next opportunity and in the meantime, **reigniting your confidence through further practice of the preliminaries of the Jonang Ngondro, listening to his teachings and reading his books as much as you can, and dedicating time to volunteering for his Sangha.** In this way, you will accumulate vast stores of merit for this path while naturally rebuilding your confidence. Thus, by changing your conditions, your future participation will be one of benefit and success.

For the sake of your own spiritual progress, Rinpoché reserves the right to ask additional questions, request interviews, and reject specific registrations (even if you attended the Higher Empowerments or 1st Vajra Yoga before).

(This document may be updated after publication.)