

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK



LIFE STORY OF
TSONGKAPA





- 1 During Tsongkapa's retreat in Olkha, there were many wondrous events including visions and realizations.
- 2 During extensive offerings for fifteen days, he saw the buddhas of the five directions.
- 3 He went to the Potala and taught many monks from the surrounding monasteries. (In Tsongkapa's biography, "Potala" refers to an old temple on the way to Lhasa, but this image shows the Potala Palace, built centuries later.)
- 4 He taught extensively and stayed at various places.
- 5 He gave many teachings to his two main spiritual sons/disciples at Sera Monastery during the winter.
- 6 At Dwagpo Lha Ding he had a dream of Nagardjuna and his five students; among them was Buddhapalita, who held an Indian volume of Madhyamika and blessed Tsongkapa with it.
- 7 Together with his two disciples and the translator Kyabchog Pelzang, he went to the rainy retreat at Tsethang and composed a work on the history of the Buddhist teachings.
- 8 He went to Shenge Zhol for the summer retreat, and, exhorted by the great translator, he wrote the Gradual Stages of the Path (Lam Rim Chen mo).
- 9 At Sera Monastery he composed and wrote a lot. The Ming emperor of China sent emissaries to invite Tsongkapa to be his personal tutor, but Tsongkapa refused.
- 10 In Lhasa at Jokhang Cathedral, he began famous prayer celebrations (Monlam Chenmo) and adorned the face of the main buddha image, which became the object that all must see.