

Dharma Curriculum Vitæ

I first encountered the Dharma at 17, thanks to a Buddhist friend. That moment remains one of the most profound and meaningful of my life.

Soon after, I immersed myself in Ngöndro practice and began undertaking retreats, ranging from a few days to a month.

After completing my Fine Arts studies, I moved to Bordeaux, where I became involved in the newly established Dhagpo Bordeaux center. I primarily assisted with communication, using my background as a graphic designer.

Despite what appeared to be a successful academic path, professional career, and personal life, I found only sadness and emptiness in worldly pursuits. Deep within, I yearned to deepen my spiritual practice. This aspiration was fulfilled thanks to the great kindness of the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa and the two retreat masters at the Kagyu lineage retreat center in Le Bost, Lama Rinchen and Lama Chönyi, who accepted me into a traditional retreat.

At 28, I entered my first three-year retreat under the guidance of the Karmapa and my two deeply accomplished and inspiring retreat masters.

After the retreat, I moved to Dordogne, intending to continue solitary practice. However, meeting Pema Wangyal Rinpoche, with whom I felt an immediate and natural connection, changed my plans. For about a year I was assisting in the construction of stupas and the temple at La Péchardie, working primarily on the painting of tsatsas and statues. Finally, Rinpoche accepted me into his traditional retreat at Chanteloube.

With the permission and encouragement of Jigme Rinpoche, a Kagyu Lama from Dhagpo in Dordogne, who had been guiding me at the time, I started my next traditional retreat in Chanteloube. This retreat, initially planned for three years, eventually extended to six.

During this time, encouraged by Rinpoche, I began translating Dharma texts from English and French into Polish—an endeavor that feels deeply fulfilling and well-suited to me.

When the retreat ended unexpectedly due to Rinpoche's health, he sent me to Rinchen Ling, an individual retreat center near Périgueux. Here, I continue my accumulations and translation work, including my ongoing translation of *A Torch Lighting the Way to Freedom* by Dudjom Rinpoche—a text Rinpoche wished to be translated into as many languages as possible.