



MAHAYANA BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION

A member of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition

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Our Appreciation

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all of the very kind benefactors who have been contributing to this project over the years and supporting Lama Zopa Rinpoche's vision. Your contributions are as invaluable as the infinite skies of merit you are accumulating.

Any amount of offering is welcome. Extensive dedications will be made by the Sangha of Sera Je Monastery for those who contribute to the Fund. As long as the Monastery exists, you will receive the merit of making offerings to the Sangha.



The extensive dedications made by the monks of Sera Je Monastery for those who contribute to the fund, means that as long as the monastery exists you will receive the merit of making offerings to the monks.

All the benefactors' names are sent to be dedicated during the big pujas, such as the 4 Buddha special days and Lama Tsong Khapa Day.

The Heart Project of Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche Making Food Offering to 2500 Sanghas plus Breakfast Offering to 800 Novice Monks at Sera Je School

**The easiest and greatest way to accumulate merits
Offering food to Sangha of one of the greatest monastic
universities - Sera Jhe Monastery**

At present, the food fund provides three meals daily for all 2,500 monks living at Sera Je Monastery. As more monks arrive, the need for nutritious meals increases daily. The total cost to provide meals to all the monks is about US\$280,000 per year. Originally when the fund was set up, an endowment fund of over a million dollars was raised. However, the population of the monastery has doubled since that time and the endowment fund is now decreasing at a very rapid rate. Our aim is to supplement the endowment fund so that it becomes self-sufficient.



History of the Fund

The Sera Je Food Fund began in 1991. It is customary to make offerings to all the sangha and Lama Zopa Rinpoche wanted the offering to be of the greatest practical benefit to the monastery itself. After discussion with the abbot and resident high lamas, it was determined that the most beneficial offering would be a food fund, whereby all 1300 monks at Sera Je Monastery could be offered quality meals for free. Out of his incredible compassion, Lama Zopa Rinpoche without precedence, takes on the responsibility of providing meals to every monk at Sera Je for the rest of their lives. Over these 23 years the number of monks has increased year after year and reached 2500-strong, more than double since we started.



Why a Food Fund?

In the great monastic tradition like Sera, it is customary for monastic to support oneself. Except the housing facility which is provided, individual monks had to be responsible for purchasing and preparing their own meals. As many of the monks were refugees from Tibet or from refugee families and poor families from the Himalayan regions, they had very little money for quality food and, consequently, were often under- and mal-nourished and easily became weak and sick. Before the food fund, most monks at Sera Je never had a nice nutritious meal. Now, for the first time, they are well-nourished, contented and full and this makes a dramatic difference in the energy they are able to devote to their studies. Additionally, group preparation of meals and use of a communal kitchen allows more time for the monks to apply themselves to their studies and practice.

In 1997, six years after starting the food fund, Lama Zopa Rinpoche visited Sera Monastery. At that time, many of the older geshe, some with tears in their eyes, thanked Rinpoche and spoke of how the fund was benefiting the monastery. Monks could now attend all the morning debate sessions instead of taking time out to prepare meals and the fund also removed from teachers the great burden of providing for students who had no resources.

Rinpoche's Words

“Taking responsibility for supporting these practitioners is extremely worthwhile because they are preserving and spreading the entire teaching of the Buddha.”

—Lama Zopa Rinpoche

“Offering food to the monks of Sera Jhe is a way of collecting unbelievable merit because all the monks are the pores of the Guru. They are all disciples of the same Guru – His Holiness the Dalai Lama. By offering to pores of the Guru one collects more merit than offering to Buddha, Dharma, Sangha, as well as numberless statues, stupas.

If you offer with the recognition that they are the Guru's pores then that is an unbelievable way to collect merit. When you offer to many Sanghas who have the same Guru then you are making offerings to that many pores of the Guru. So this is the easiest way to collect skies of merit by offering. By offering even just one candy, flowers or even one grain of rice to a statue of Buddha or even a visualized Buddha you collect skies of merit but here it is much more powerful than offering to the 3 jewels (Buddha, Dharma, Sangha) as well as all the statues, stupas and scriptures existing in all directions, so no question if offering to really the same Guru's disciple. These benefits should be understood so that when you make offerings to the Guru's pores you think correctly. This is the best business.”

—Lama Zopa Rinpoche



Latest News

The Sera Je Food Fund is one of FPMT's most important projects. Sera Je is the monastery where most of our teachers and their teachers come from. The nourishing meals help the monks stay well enough to study and practice over full days and long years, ensuring that the Dharma will be maintained for future generations all over the world.

This is the twenty-fourth year that we have been offering food to the monks at Sera Je Monastery. To date **the Sera Je Food Fund has provided**

over 48,654,500 meals. That's 3,029,500 meals per year, 8,300 meals every day.

Please rejoice in this incredible effort!

Many thanks to all the kind benefactors who enable us to make these offerings! We would like to thank for their continued generous support.

Donation

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

To offer food to 2500 Sangha of Sera Jhe Monastery:

	Duration	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 year	HK\$2,184,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 months	HK\$1,092,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 month	HK\$182,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 week	HK\$45,500
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 day	HK\$6,500

(N.B. For one of the meals, breakfast, lunch or dinner HK\$2,100 each.)

To offer food for individual monks:

	Duration	Amount	No. of Monks	Total Amount
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 year	HK\$840	x	=
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 months	HK\$420	x	=
<input type="checkbox"/>	3 months	HK\$210	x	=
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 month	HK\$70	x	=
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 week	HK\$17.5	x	=
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 day	HK\$2.5	x	=

Payment Method

	Duration	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash	HK\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque (payable to "Mahayana Buddhist Association Limited")	HK\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct Debit (Hang Seng Bank: 232-2-076551)	HK\$