SIXTEEN SELF-ASSERTIONS

DRUKPA ZHABDRUNG, NGAWANG NAMGYEL
& LOPON NADOK

TIB SHELF
TRANSLATE | PRESENT | PRESERVE
SIXTEEN SELF-ASSERTIONS

By Drukpa Shabdrung, Ngawang Namgyal

Addendum by Lopon Nadok

Forefathers’ foretold emanation is I—
I am the magnificent refuge of all beings.
The sovereign speech of exposition is I—
I am the respected source of eloquent discourse.

The hero who conquers demon hordes is I—
I am the destroyer of the Drukpa’s imposters.
The powerful master of debate is I—
I am the repudiator of those with wrong views.

The lord of the unlimited view is I—
I am the one before whom all challengers tremble.
Sarasvati’s accomplished wordsmith is I—
I am the learned scholar in all fields of knowledge.
The Glorious Druk’s doctrine holder is I—
I am almighty, no sorcerer can defeat me.
The dual system’s Wheel-wielding Monarch is I—
I am the enemy of diverse apparitions.

If this seal is visibly stamped onto the official documents of the government and important government orders, everyone will hold them in high regard because this tradition is of essential importance. Shabdrung Rinpoche (1594–1651) composed this seal, “Sixteen Self-Assertions,” as a symbol of the Complete Victor in all Regards. Since then, this seal was permitted to exercise power over all citizens and political territory of the Bhutanese government. Accordingly, even today, the name of the Bhutanese government, “The Glorious Drukpa: The Victor in All Regards,” is also established as an administrative symbol since it is the condensed meaning of Shabdrung Rinpoche’s “Sixteen Self-Assertions.” Take, for example, the governmental symbol of India, the five-headed lion. The reason it is held in high regard is that it is the representation of the achievements of the Dharma King, Ashoka. This seal is comparable to that symbol.
This is referring to the dual system of politics and religion.

A Wheel-wielding Monarch (cakravartin) is the de facto ruler of the entire universe, bring all under their control single-handedly. They tend to govern the world system in accordance with the spiritual and or universal law, the dharma. For more information, please refer to The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism.

zhabs drung 01 ngag dbang rnam rgyal, BDRC P509

phyogs las rnam par rgyal ba

dpal ldan 'brug pa phyogs las rnam rgyal