A SONG ON THE MERITS OF KYANGPEN NAMKHE DZONG

BY JETSUN MILAREPA
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Then, the patrons from Drotang received an audience with the Jetsun' and inquired, “What are the merits of this sacred place?” In response, he sang this meditative song:

Precious lord guru, to you I supplicate!

Do you know the merits of this sacred place?

If you do not know this hallowed place’s merits,

this is the hermitage of Kyangpen Namkhe Dzong.

At the palace of Namkhe Dzong,

above amass dark, warm southern clouds
while below clean blue waters flow.
Behind red rocks lie beneath the vast expanse of sky; in front the meadows are awash with flowers.

On one side, wild beasts recite their roars, while on the other, vultures, king of birds, soar.

A fine, gentle rain falls from the sky. Continuously bees buzz their melodious songs.

Wild kyangs, mares and foals, dance and frolic, and monkeys, big and small, act as acrobats.

Mother larks and chicks warble a profusion of songs with divine mountain birds singing back in kind.

The cool mountain stream musically murmurs. Such language of the seasons is an aid to meditation!
I sang this joyful song and offered advice describing
the merits of this sacred place, which are utterly inconceivable.

All you assembled here, patrons, ladies and gentlemen,
please follow in my footsteps and behave as I have—

abandon all misdeeds and accomplish virtue!

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1 An honourific Tibetan term meaning “venerable lord,” reserved exclusively for great masters. Milarepa is among the most ubiquitous holders of the term in Tibetan literature.

2 The kyang (Equus kianq) is a species of wild donkey native to the Tibetan plateau and is one source of inspiration for the mythical unicorn.