

Jokpo Hermitage ('Jog po ri khrod)



A statue of 'Jog po ngag dbang bstan 'dzin (b. 1748) in Zhungpa Regional House (Gzhung pa khang tshan), Mé College (Grwa tshang smad), Se ra, Tibet. This statue is said to contain the remains of the bla ma within it.

Location and Layout

This hermitage (*ri khrod*), located at the far western end of the Nyang bran Valley, is today mostly in ruins. It takes over two hours to walk to 'Jog po from Se ra. The hermitage is situated above pastures used for grazing. One or two huts have been rebuilt at the site to serve as the residences for the Se ra monks who tend the Se ra herds. It appears that before 1959 the hermitage was the property of the Jokpo Lama's estate ('Jog po bla brang). Today it is the property of Se ra.

The hermitage originally served as the meditation retreat of a monk of the Sera Mé College (Se ra smad) [Zhungpa Regional House \(Gzhung pa khang tshan\)](#), 'Jog

po ngag dbang bstan 'dzin.¹ This monk was renowned as a great meditator. Oral tradition has it that after he passed away his body remained in a state of perpetual meditative equipoise. It was kept in a rear chapel inside the Zhungpa Regional House temple. Monks say that his hair and nails continued to grow even after his death, and that these had to be trimmed by attendants. After 1959, the body was buried in order to protect it from destruction. This, however, caused it to start decaying. After the regional house (*khang tshan*) was rebuilt in the 1980s, 'Jog po rin po che's remains were exhumed and his bones were placed inside the clay statue that today resides on the main altar of the regional house temple.

The UCSB team was not able to make it to the Jokpo Hermitage site in 2004. At this point in time we know little about the hermitage other than what is written here. A portion of the [Jokpo Lama's residence](#) ('Jog po bla brang) still exists in Se ra, Tibet today.

¹ Also known as 'Jog ri ngag dbang bstan 'dzin.