



THE WHEEL OF LAWS

*An insight into the origin of Buddhist Kingship,
Constitution and
Judicial Independence in Bhutan*

Name of the Book: ***Wheel of Law***

Author: Justice Lungten Dubgyur

Presenter: Lungten Dubgyur, High Court

LUNGTEN DUBGYUR

Synopsis of the Book

Justice Lungten Dubgyur wrote '*The wheel of Laws: An Insight into the Origin of Buddhist Kingship, Constitution and Judicial Independence in Bhutan*' in 2015. The book is an in-depth research on Buddhist concept of state of human nature, state formation and the appointment of the first worldly king. The book also expounds on the development of the Constitution of Bhutan among other notable topics in the book. The Book was published to mark the 60th birth anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth King.

Profile of the Author



Justice Lungten Dubgyur served as the Judicial Officer at the Royal Court of Justice, High Court, Registrar at the Royal Court of Justice, Thimphu District Court. He then served as the Judge of Phuntsholing Sub-Divisional Court, Chukha District Court, Samtse District Court and Paro District Court. He also served as the Project Director at the High Court. He was a member of the Constitution Drafting Committee and the Special Legal Task Force (SLTF) at the His Majesty's Secretariat in 2008. He completed Senior Executive Leadership Program (SELP-9) at the Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies (RIGSS), Phuntsholing. He is also a member of the Royal Advisory Panel, His Majesty's Secretariat.

Justice Lungten Dubgyur is currently one of the seven Judges of the Royal Court of Justice, High Court.

Discourse

The book has been written by the presenter himself. This has helped to decipher the true genesis, and the background of the book. The book describes the legal order of the *Maha Samata*. The author presented on the evolution of Buddhist laws; and how degeneration of human beings has resulted in human vices and the need for law. He also talked about the constitutional cases and events that tested the endurance of our system and values enshrined in the Constitution. It also tested the wisdom, competency and the maturity of the

Bhutanese judiciary in adjudicating justice of Constitutional nature. During the discussion, participants expressed their appreciation for authoring the book through persuasive academic pursuit. He highlighted the profound Buddhist concept of state of human nature, state formation, and the appointment of the first Buddhist King through the social contract theory akin to the enthronement of our first hereditary monarch through the signing of the historic *Gyenja* in 1907. He discussed the complex role of Bhutanese judges in dispensing justice amid cases involving complex technical and legal nature. He also discussed some of the important historical events in the country including the drafting of the Constitution and the historic constitutional decisions made by the judiciary.

This book also records and assesses the progress and performance of the judiciary vis-à-vis the progress of democracy and constitutionalism in Bhutan. The discussion delves in the past and focuses on the present status of the courts and judges and unwavering hopes to the future for further improvement and professional excellence. It was learnt that the book is being translated into other languages and constitutes an essential component in many international library catalogues on Bhutanese laws. As Benjamin Franklin said *“if you would not be forgotten as soon as you are dead and rotten; do something worth writing about; or write something worth reading.”* Justice Lungten Dubgyur has definitely written something worth reading. Since the Judges’ Book Club was initiated with a noble vision, the Institute hopes that the more judges and judicial officials will avail the opportunity to benefit themselves of the academic platform afforded by the monthly activity despite their busy schedules in the courts.

