Today I have been asked to explain the Drikung Kagyu logo HUNG symbol and its origins. It originally came from the birthplace of Lord Jigten Sumgon, Kyura Drag (སྐྱུར་ར་བྲག), where it appeared self-arisen in the rock face. Using that [self-arisen image] as the example, the Drikung Kagyu made a small seal stamp of this HUNG symbol, and the HUNG symbol we now have, which has come to be known as the Drikung Kagyu logo, is based on the image depicted on that seal.

Generally speaking, it is not just a Drikung Kagyu symbol; this HUNG symbol has profound meaning. Contained within it are the pratimoksha, bodhisattva, and secret mantra. Pratimoksha is the ground, secret mantra is the path, and the fruition is the state of buddhahood.

In relation to practice, the entirety of the ground, path and fruition is contained [in this logo]. The fruition is the three kayas—the dharma, sambhogakaya, and nirmanakaya—in which the HUNG represents the dharma, the sun is the sambhogakaya and the moon is the nirmanakaya. Then in the context of the ground as pratimoksha, the Three Jewels are also contained here—the HUNG symbolizes the Buddha, the sun symbolizes the Dharma, and the moon symbolizes the Sangha. In the context of the path as secret mantra, the Three Roots are here, in that the HUNG is the Lama, the sun is the Yidam, and the moon is the Dakini. And in the context of the fruition as the Three Kayas, the HUNG is the dharma, the sun is the sambhogakaya, and the moon is the nirmanakaya.

Thus, the logo represents the Three Kayas, the Three Roots and the Three Jewels, and from the perspective of practice it contains the entirety of the ground, path, and fruition. It is an auspicious symbol of interdependence, representing the progressive stages of the path.

Above it, on the periphery, I put the Liberation Upon Sight mantra, which is the actual speech of the Buddha from the Waterfall Sutra. If one wears the Seeing Liberation mantra, or places it somewhere, its power can be transmitted outward. According to the Buddha’s speech, the benefits of this mantra are such that if one sees it even just once, it purifies the misdeeds of three hundred million kalpas. If the misdeeds of three hundred million kalpas are purified, the fruition is the attainment of buddhahood.
In summary, by dependence upon the ground as pratimoksha, the path as bodhicitta, and the fruition as secret mantra, buddhahood is attained. These are the qualities and benefits of this mantra, the power and meaning as it is taught. Without this [dependence]—if you say “Oh, just by seeing this HUNG symbol, buddhahood is attained”—the path cannot be traversed by mere words.

What are the qualities and benefits of this mantra of the Buddha? By making a connection with the path of awakening through this mantra, all beings can attain buddhahood. If the temporary obscurations of all sentient beings are purified, they will attain buddhahood, which is very much connected with the qualities and benefits of this mantra of Liberation Upon Sight.

So if you use [this sticker], the power of its benefits and qualities will spread outward, and the meaning of that power is that by dependence upon the progressive stages of the path of pratimoksha, bodhicitta, and tantra, ultimately the state of buddhahood will be attained.