

Ritual, festival, and authority under the Fifth Dalai Lama

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Sangye Gyatso's literary activities during the mid-1690s were almost entirely concerned with the Fifth Dalai Lama's life, death, and legacy. Between 1693 and 1701 the Regent devoted more than seven thousand printed pages to extolling the greatness of his master, the Ganden Government, and the Gandenpa School. Two of Sangye Gyatso's writings from this period serve well as entry points to the larger project of assessing his role in the development of Tibetan and Buddhist culture after the founding of the Ganden Government in 1642. In *Tales for the New Year* Sangye Gyatso argues that the New Year is an appropriate time to commemorate the Dalai Lama. In the *Lhasa Circumambulation Survey*, he prescribes fixed routes for circumambulating the Fifth Dalai Lama's stupa, the Potala, and even Lhasa itself. The primary effect of these and related writings was to establish the legitimate authority of the Ganden Government's rule over Tibet. The principle means employed by Sangye Gyatso to accomplish this were the memorialization of the Fifth Dalai Lama and the re-formation of classical Buddhist traditions of practice and myth in a new Tibetan context. In these two works we thus see Sangye Gyatso explicitly combining established traditions claiming venerable authority with new rites and ceremonies, all in the service of his new government. The present paper details how the Regent went about this task.