# SHÉPA

The Tibetan Oral Tradition in Choné

Compiled and translated by Bendi Tso,
Marnyi Gyatso, Naljor Tsering and Mark Turin
from narrations and documents by members of
the Choné Tibetan Community





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#### Acknowledgements

In compiling and translating a book of such complexity, our deepest gratitude goes to members of the Choné Tibetan community who have nurtured and transmitted Shépa. This project is rooted in collaborations with our own community—collaborations of different depths that took various forms. Our work has benefited in particular from the guidance that Shépa singers have offered at every stage, from the beginning of the work of documentation, through to translating cultural elements with which we were not familiar, all the way through to gaining insight into the transformation of this oral tradition in the contemporary context of cultural heritage-making. Shépa is centered on an oral and written corpus whose existence is a product of the collective experience of the Choné people that extends far beyond just one generation. For these reasons, the corpus and its associated knowledge must be treated in a manner that acknowledges both individual intellectual input and collective cultural commitments. In recognising the names of singers, transliterators, transcribers, and collectors of Shépa, we treat members of the Choné Tibetan community as co-creators and invite them to hold joint authorship.

We are grateful for the many different opinions and interpretations that have inspired us to find a way to demonstrate that the form of Shépa and its performance in contemporary Choné is never singular, bounded, or homogenous. By eliminating language barriers and presenting Shépa in three languages along with footnotes that show different versions of

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this oral tradition, our goal is that readers in Choné and beyond may engage in a lasting conversation on Shépa and its transmission.

There are many people we wish to acknowledge. First and foremost, we thank Grandfather Meng Tusktor who shared his expansive knowledge about Shépa with us generously and tirelessly. It was a great honour and privilege to sit in his front yard, spend days in his company, and learn from his experience and knowledge. His jokes filled the yard with laughter. His stories and songs often moistened our eyes. His narration of Shépa forms the heart of this book, and his passing took away one of the brightest lights in Choné's cultural treasury, leaving a gaping hole in our hearts. This book is dedicated to the memory of Grandfather Meng Tusktor.

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यबरास्, खुबा कुला थ्रवी श्रीचयातवार पूर्ट चुयाओं स्टिट कुट सूक्षे चवुः चविर चिट स्थित केंग्रा र वृक्षियाओं वे में चक्किट स्था टेट त्वं जा में चित्र त्वार श्रीच्या किंग्रा चित्र त्वार केंग्रा चित्र स्था चित्र क्षिया चित्र क्षिया क्षिया क्षिया क्षिया क्षिया क्षिया क्ष्र व्यूट्रिययाचेणाचाचु कुथालुट्रियट्यू स्थान्त्र स्यान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्य स्थान्त्र स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान्त्र स्थान

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त्तृत्व, थेश्यः खुन. कुं क्रिंशः क्ट्-रेट्-हुच. सट. सूट्-टल्ज. टी. सूच्-ल्य-त्यं कुंचे. कुंच

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我们感谢针对释巴提出多种多样的见解的人。他们激励笔者寻找方法,并且论证释巴的形式与表演在当今卓尼绝对不是单一的、固化的或同质的。以三语呈现释巴来消除语言障碍,并用脚注展示当前所流传的不同释巴版本,我们期望卓尼和其他地方的读者都能就释巴及其传承进行持久的对话。

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格日才让和范学勇在过去三十年间薮辑了释巴的各种文本。如果不是他们的慷慨分享,这本书就不会有现在这样的形态。他们的文本补充了我们的录音,并反映出几代歌者和学者在释巴保存及传承中的辛勤付出。由于这些文本没有一一记录转写者与抄写者的名字和日期,我们很遗憾未能确定出更多的姓名。然而,我们深深受惠于这些前辈的工作。

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