

Sera Gönpasar Hermitage (Se ra dgon pa gsar ri khrod)



The ruins at the site of Sera Gönpasar Hermitage (Se ra dgon pa gsar ri khrod)

Location and Layout

The words *dgon pa gsar* mean “new monastery.” The site obviously received its name when a monastery or hermitage (*ri khrod*) was first built there, and then the name simply stuck. The hermitage belonged to the *bla mas* of the Dgon pa gsar incarnation lineage. It was founded as a Dge lugs hermitage by the first Gönpasar incarnation Ngawang Döndrup (Dgon pa gsar sku phreng dang po ngag dbang don grub).¹ It seems that there were thirteen fully ordained monks that formed the ritual core of the institution before 1959.²

Today the entire site is in ruins, and while the shapes of certain buildings can be discerned from the foundations and fragments of walls that remain, we have no idea of what these various structures actually were. The site contains at least one large *stūpa*, and many carved boulders and/or self-arisen images (*rang byon*). Apart

¹ The entry for Dgon pa gsar in Bshes gnyen tshul khriims, *Lha sa'i dgon tho rin chen spungs rgyan* [*A Catalogue of the Monasteries of Lhasa: A Heap of Jewels*] (Bod ljongs mi dmangs dpe skrun khang, 2001), 95-98, appears to be a description not of Se ra Dgon pa gsar but of 'Bras spungs Dgon pa gsar, a hermitage with the same name but affiliated with 'Bras spungs.

² *Lha sa'i dgon tho*, 95.

from this, there is little more that we can say about this hermitage at the present time.



The ruins of a large stūpa at the site.



A large boulder with carvings or self-arisen images on its surface.