



Definition of Renunciation

Background

Je Tsongkhapa defines in the Three Principal Paths, ལམ་གཙོ་རྣམ་གསུམ།
lam tso nam sum (a short verse that describes all the steps to Buddhahood) what
the definition of renunciation is.

Root Text:

ལྷིན་མཚན་གུན་ཏུ་ཐར་པ་དོན་གཉེར་ལྷོ།
nyin tsen kun tu thar pa dön nyer lo
ལྷུང་ན་དེ་ཚེ་ངེས་འབྱུང་སྐྱེས་པ་ལགས།
jung na de tse ngen jung kye pa lek

*And when you begin to think both night and day
Of achieving freedom, you've found renunciation.*

Explanation:

As this is verse, the start and end has a sha (།).

ལྷིན་ *nyin* is *day* and མཚན་ *tsen* is *night*. གུན་ཏུ་ *kun tu* is *always* - this is also used when translating Sanskrit words starting with *a-*, and the Sanskrit *a-* refers to a quality that is complete, total). A shorter form of this is གུན་.

ཐར་པ་ *thar pa* is *freedom*, here it means the personal liberation from Samsara, this is not full enlightenment, rather the state where no mental afflictions are no longer present in the mind stream of a sentient being.

དོན་གཉེར་ *dön nyer* is a verb meaning *to aspire*, to strive for. ལྷོ་ *lo* is one of the many Tibetan words that means *mind* (སེམས་ *sem* being another one).

ལྷུང་ *jung* means *to happen*, and ན་ *na* is a very common word that means *when*.
དེ་ཚེ་ *de tse* means *at that time*.

ངེས་འབྱུང་ *ngenjung* is the first of the three principal paths, or *renunciation*.

སྐྱེས་པ་ *kyepa* is also a very common word in Tibetan texts. It means *arise, be created, be born*, or something that will manifest from some specific actions mentioned earlier.

ལགས་ *lek* is polite for *'it is'*. A very common expression in Tibetan, their version of alright, very well, or OK, is: ལགས་སོ་ *lekso*.
