

Sangye Gön

A Story from Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche
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When I was a boy, I met my root guru, Tulku Natsog. He wanted me to learn to read and begin my dharma education, so he asked his uncle, Sangye Gön, to be my teacher. Tulku Natsog said, "Don't beat this boy. He might have trouble learning, but always be patient with him."

I lived with Sangye Gön. He would get up very, very early, maybe 3:00 a.m., to do his practice, including many prostrations. I could hear the rumble of his recitations as I slept. Then he would wake me up and we would have breakfast, followed by my reading lessons.

He was an amazing practitioner. He continuously kept the two-day *nyungne* fasting discipline. So on one day, he would eat and speak, and the next day he would fast and remain silent for most of the day. Chenrezig was his main practice, and in his lifetime he recited millions of the MANI mantra. At the end of his life, he suddenly grew new teeth, and his grey hair was replaced by new black hair growing in. *That* kind of practitioner!

He was always so loving, never yelling at me or beating me. If I made a mistake when reading, he would grunt, and then I knew I had gotten something wrong. But he was always very kind to me. He did one thing, though, that I hated. When he went to bed at night and when he rose in the morning, he would do 3 prostrations to me as I lay there in my bed. I really hated that; it made me so uncomfortable! I asked Tulku Natsog about it, but he said, "It doesn't matter. Let him do it. Pray to Guru Rinpoche and Vajrasattva."

A few years later, I became like a rocky crag. I got so used to people prostrating to me that even if Guru Rinpoche came and prostrated, I wouldn't mind! People prostrating to you and respecting you, that's the worst thing. Then you pop up. It's awful.

When I came to Canada and the U.S., for the first few years nobody prostrated to me. Finally! It was a relief. Nowadays you guys are prostrating to me again. Rather than prostrate to me, you guys should practice. Cultivate more faith in the buddha dharma and the lineage. Practice having honesty and compassion for sentient beings.

Tashi Deleg,

-Gyatrul