

On Appreciating the Qualities of Our Lamas and the Dharma Centers (Part 3)

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Now what is there to do? O.D.D. and Tashi Choling, all the different dharma centers, you should think of them as your own: yours to take care of, and yours to serve. These are the dharma centers of our root gurus, established by them and blessed by them. Dudjom Rinpoche, Penor Rinpoche—such great lamas have come and worked so hard to establish them! In the future, who are the lamas who will come as their representatives, holding their lineages and spreading their teachings? I think, if we are lucky, Khenpo Namdrol Rinpoche will come again as Penor Rinpoche's representative; and for Dudjom Rinpoche, maybe Khenpo Tsewang Dongyal Rinpoche, the younger Khenpo brother. But in one way, it is up to you, yourself. The lineage is in your hands. You need to keep it and you need to maintain it, by hearing, contemplating, and meditating.

You don't need to gossip and slander. Give that up entirely! The Tibetans, they have this terrible tradition of gossiping—you don't need to take up that particular Tibetan tradition. You Americans, your gossip and slander are not quite so heavy. And the Chinese, you don't need to go the Tibetan way, either.

What *do* you need to do? Hear, contemplate, and meditate on the dharma. First hear it. Then don't forget it! If you don't forget it, you will be able to contemplate it. If you do forget it, you'll have nothing to contemplate. So, please, hear the dharma and don't forget it. Contemplate the dharma and don't forget it. Then you can practice and meditate well. What you do know, that's very good—keep that without losing it. What you don't know, that is what you need to learn.

We need to know from refuge on up, step by step, stage by stage, teaching by teaching. We have received all these teachings. The lamas have come and have given empowerment, transmission, and instruction. These were not just funky, okey-dokey lamas, either. They were lamas of inconceivable lineage, of inconceivable qualities. Please don't forget them. Please don't forget the lamas or their kindness or their qualities.

These ladies here, they won't forget their boyfriends—but those aren't actually any kind of big deal. The important thing not to forget is your own lineage teacher. That's much more important.

When we are learning the dharma, we need to keep harmony with each other and respect each other. When we are engaged in any kind of dharma activity, we always have to keep harmony and have respect for each other. If we are keeping harmony and respect with our conduct, and then learning and contemplating the dharma, then finally we can meditate and this will actually bring about the results that are described in the texts. As much as you can, please do just that!

Whether I live or die really makes no difference. Whether I'm alive or dead, if you find any truth, meaning, or essence in my words, please, hold those in your heart and take good care of the centers, of the lineages, and of each other!

Otherwise, none of this is my business. You here, you are all brothers and sisters. All these people here, these are all family; so please, help and respect each other as much as you can.

You young people, you might think you are quite pretty or handsome. Maybe. But maybe that's just because nobody sees you on the inside. Maybe you are quite ugly on the inside. You are all vajra brothers and sisters, outer, inner, and secret. You are all practitioners of Vajrayana; and, therefore, you have this amazing connection of being dharma companions in the Vajrayana. You are dharma companions who have received teachings and transmissions from such inconceivable teachers as Dudjom Rinpoche, Penor Rinpoche, and Yangtang Tulku. You should know by now that Dudjom Rinpoche was an emanation of Vairochana, and Penor Rinpoche and Yangtang Tulku are both emanations of Vimalamitra. If you don't know this by now, after my saying it so many times, you can go to hell!

Here, I'm going to repeat it again like a crazy person: Dudjom Rinpoche was an emanation of Vairochana, and Penor Rinpoche and Yangtang Tulku are emanations of Vimalamitra! Do I keep repeating this because I am a crazy person? Maybe. Or maybe it's because this is such an important point, a point that you should not forget. Do not forget these lamas, but respect and appreciate their qualities.

Tashi delek!

-Gyatrul

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