

Message to Orgyen Dorje Den Sangha

Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche

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Everyone needs to be harmonious with one another. That is the most important thing when participating at the dharma center. It is the most important way to support the dharma center, too. If there is no harmony, there might as well not be a dharma center. If there is no harmony, you cannot benefit the dharma. You cannot benefit sentient beings. Then there is no hope for anything. Then everything is useless. When you create disharmony, you are wasting all the efforts of all the people who made the center and sustained and supported it over the years, not to mention the blessings of all the great lamas who have come there. Please, everyone, keep harmony with one another. We have a strong habit of needing to have things our own way. That is what makes disharmony, which doesn't benefit us, the dharma, or anyone. I have been hanging out for awhile now here at Tashi Choling. I have seen with my own eyes how everything is smooth here now. The harmony in the sangha is very good. That supports the dharma, the center, sentient beings, the practitioners here, and everything! Please, O.D.D., follow Tashi Choling, the mother center, in its good example.

There is no reason to be bossy or sneaky. I am not saying that you guys are. I am saying, please don't be, now or in the future. That means always check your mind and your mouth. Please try to be harmonious. What does that mean? It means not being bossy and not being sneaky, okay? Everybody needs to try when it comes to harmony. Old students, new students, people on the Board, people not on the Board--in short, anybody trying to help the center--needs to try to make harmony and keep harmony. If you don't try, I have no reason to come there. I have no reason to stay in this life at all! Here they are asking me to stay in this life until I am 100 years old. I have told them that if they keep harmony well, I will try. I don't have the freedom or power to choose to live or not, but if everyone keeps harmony then I can try, too. O.D.D. is also my center, so the same thing applies. My life depends on you guys.

You do have a bad habit--you don't want to listen. That makes disharmony. That makes politics instantly. If you break your samaya by going the way of politics instead of the way of dharma, there is no reason for me to come and stay there.

Not only that, I don't think anybody wants to make suffering for themselves, do they? If we break our samaya, that is what we are doing. I don't think that we need to be that stupid--breaking our samaya through gossip and slander, going the way of disharmony like that.

I am not saying that I have heard you guys are doing anything bad, okay? What I am saying is, before you do start getting bad, please think, now and in the future. Practice

purely, which means being pure in your attitude towards each other. It doesn't just mean to chant nicely. Always stop and think, check yourself to see if you are really trying to be helpful to each other or if you just stubbornly want everything your own way. Don't stop and think because this funky old man asked you to--no reason for that! Think for yourself, for the center, for the dharma, for all sentient beings. To each person I say, you need to watch yourself. Only you know if the way you are going is the sneaky political MY WAY or is the honest, helpful dharma way.

When I say you need to stand up and do whatever needs doing, that doesn't mean that everybody needs to be the boss. It means each person needs to support the center, not that each person should start giving orders. If you want to be the boss, actually that means that you need to follow and support, humbly, quietly, without advertising it or boasting about how humble you are. Do you really want to support the center, support the dharma, and benefit sentient beings, with all three of your doors and not just your mouth? Then you need to be flexible and accommodating, rather than wanting everyone else to help and support you in your idea. We are all one family, all trying to support the dharma because that way we can be sure we are bringing benefit to sentient beings in a meaningful way. We are none of us at the level where we should be proud, or want to be the boss. None of us have those kinds of qualities and none of us are omniscient!

But all of us can try to be more harmonious and more humble, which is how we can develop those qualities in ourselves. Each person should check his or her own mind continuously to see when the faults of stubbornness and self-importance creep in. When you see your faults, then you can work to eradicate them. That is how you develop qualities. That is how you clean up your mindstream and become worthy of praise and respect. You don't get praise and respect by yelling the loudest; if you did, babies would be above all others. We don't need more babies crying or boasting. We need people working together smoothly, watching and helping intelligently, like grown up human beings. That is not beyond our level. Therefore, if you really want to help, watch yourself carefully. Be patient with each other. Have humility and discipline, which means being in control of your three doors, rather than everything being under the power of your five poisons. Then everything will be very good: in the center, with the sangha, with the dharma, everything. That way, it works! We don't have to put off being of benefit--this way we can benefit all beings in this very life. So please try, each person, okay?

Tashi Delek!

-Gyatral

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