

On Appreciating the Qualities of Our Lamas and O.D.D.

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You have made connections with and received transmissions from such incredible lamas—lamas such as His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche, Penor Rinpoche, and Yangthang Rinpoche. Recognize that! Recognize what amazing good karma you have, how amazingly fortunate you are to have been able to connect with such masters. Always hold them as your root gurus, and always recall their qualities. Don't forget them; always recall them. Please, in the future, don't have any doubt about them.

Have no doubt, for example, that if you met Dudjom Rinpoche, you were in fact meeting Guru Rinpoche, you were in fact meeting the great master Vairochana himself, you were in fact meeting all the buddhas' enlightened bodies as his body, listening to all the buddhas' enlightened speech as his speech, and receiving blessings from all the buddhas' enlightened mind through his wisdom presence. When we recall the qualities of the enlightened body, speech, and mind of the lamas, that is how we can make a connection to those enlightened body, speech, and mind emanations, and the blessings of these three can enter our own mindstreams. So, please, always remember them!

If you need or want the blessings of enlightened body, speech, mind, qualities, or activities—if you think those blessings might be a little bit useful to you—then recall those qualities. Even these days there are still such great masters among us, such as His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Penor Rinpoche, Dudjom Rinpoche, and others—those who have lived in our own time. These are not just beings in some far distant past, but beings of today. These are enlightened manifestations taking form in our world, in our time—now! Don't forget their qualities! Their qualities are the qualities of Guru Rinpoche. Their qualities are the qualities of Vairochana and Vimalamitra. Having met Yangthang Rinpoche, Penor Rinpoche, or Dudjom Rinpoche, you have met the emanations of Vimalamitra and Vairochana. You have met the emanations of Buddha Shakyamuni himself, all inconceivable masters. Don't have any doubt that you have encountered their wisdom presence directly.

These lamas, they manifest in this world and there is not one minute or one second in which they make a mistake or their manifestation has some fault. They are only full of qualities. They manifest only as qualities. Our problem is we don't know how to recognize their qualities. That is why we fail to have faith, or we fail to have faith very deeply. That is why we fail to connect with them, instead seeing them as ordinary beings. Don't make that mistake. Learn about their qualities and deepen your

appreciation of them, because this is how your trust and faith in them will deepen, and this is how their blessings will be able to enter your mindstream. All these lamas I am speaking of, it is as if they are lined up, each one an emanation of all buddhas, each one an emanation of Buddha Shakyamuni. Have no doubt about that! Have great confidence, and always recall their qualities. You know this more than I do. Please, don't forget it!

You have received empowerment, transmission, and instruction from such masters here, at Orgyen Dorje Den (O.D.D.).

What is O.D.D.?

O.D.D. is a place where the dharma is held.

Just as Samye monastery in Tibet, for example, was a place where Guru Rinpoche himself taught the dharma, for us, O.D.D. is a place where an emanation of Guru Rinpoche—or Vairochana, or Vimalamitra—came and taught the dharma.

They have Samye; you have O.D.D.—what more do you need?

Guru Rinpoche himself came as Dudjom Rinpoche; Vimalamitra himself came as Penor Rinpoche, and so on. These lamas have come—do you not recognize them? Did nobody explain who those lamas were? Did nobody explain their qualities? Was it all about how much money there was to be made? Even if you just sold the lamas when they came, selling their qualities, you should have at least learned what those qualities were while you were busy selling them, and have some kind of faith! Please, whatever you don't know of their qualities, learn that, and deepen that understanding more and more. There are books that explain those qualities, biographies and accounts of their lives and activities, so you can learn for yourself the stories in which these inconceivable lamas show their outer, inner, and secret qualities. Look for yourself!

How do we have faith? We have to come to understand their qualities, outer, inner, and secret. That is the only way to make faith increase. How do we increase our faith? By hearing, contemplating, and meditating on the dharma. Study the dharma, and what you don't know, ask! That way your understanding will deepen; that way your faith will deepen; that way your trust in the lama, the buddha, the dharma, and the sangha will become more and more unshakable, more and more firm.

You don't cultivate faith in some other way; you only cultivate faith by knowing and understanding the qualities of buddha, dharma, and sangha more and more clearly. If you need more faith in them, it means you need to understand their qualities better. You need to get to know them better. If you need to have more trust in them, you need

to learn what qualities they have. Then slowly you will be able to trust that their qualities are infallible. If there is no trust, why would you have faith in them? If there is no faith, why would you go for refuge in them? Why would you hold them as your objects of devotion, and so on?

As faith is the basis of all dharma practice, and the only reason to practice dharma at all, please, as much as you can, always work to deepen your faith and devotion.

Tashi delek!

-Gyatrul