

On the Chance to Practice Chimed Sok Tig

Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche

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I don't know what to say about people doing Chimed Sok Tig practice at Tashi Choling. I can say you guys are lucky! The reason we are lucky is that we are human beings, which means we can do practice and we can understand the dharma. We each have a human precious body, with eighteen kinds of leisure and fortune. We not only have a precious human body, we are following the Buddha. Not only are we following the Buddha, we are following all buddhas' enlightened body, speech, mind, qualities, and activity.

How do we follow them? We pursue the enlightened qualities of all buddhas by emulating Guru Rinpoche, Buddha Shakyamuni, and all the buddhas and lineage masters.

What lineage masters? The masters of the three lineages or six lineages or whatever, all the pure lineages—these are inconceivable, realized masters.

What did they do? They heard, contemplated, and meditated on the dharma, practicing sincerely, not artificially, until they achieved mastery of it and were liberated. That is precisely what we need to do as well.

What do you ultimately achieve through sincere practice? You achieve your own ultimate benefit as the attainment of dharmakaya, and the ultimate benefit of all others as the attainment of rupakaya.

Wow!

Everybody loves to say, "Wow!" Actually this is the real one, the real "Wow!"

That is why I say you are lucky. Recognize how fortunate you are—you have the opportunity to practice. Recognize how extraordinary the lineage masters are. You have encountered and made connections with such amazing lineages, such realized masters! Understanding their qualities, you will have greater trust and faith in them. It is masters such as these—Guru Rinpoche and Shakyamuni, Vairochana and Vimalamitra, and these days Dudjom Rinpoche and the Dalai Lama, still we have amazing masters—who hold the lineages that you are practicing. It is masters such as these that you are following and who are

holding you with their compassion as their followers. These days, there are pure lineage holders all over the world, not only in Tibet or India. There are pure lineage holders with authentic realization in many traditions and schools, not just *only* the Gelug tradition, or *only* Nyingma, or *only* Sakya, or *only* Kagyu, or *only* Jonang. Don't think that way. Such masters are not just stuck in one place or one idea like you. They are emanations of bodhisattvas, and so they can appear in any place and in any way, whatever is beneficial to beings. They are not low or ordinary, ignorant beings. Their wisdom lineage is not just something that someone slick made up. It isn't some hippie lineage, either.

This is the lineage of hearing the dharma, of contemplating the dharma, and of meditating on the dharma. This is the real one, the real precious one, the real source of blessings, the real one you can trust. If you rely on this one, you can achieve realization and liberation. We are so busy thinking about so much garbage. Rather than following our garbage mind, we should think about this for a few minutes—the preciousness of the lineages we are connected to. We should appreciate this wisdom lineage and the realized beings who hold it. Recall what extraordinary masters you have met or heard stories of; recall their qualities—their compassion and kindness to all beings, their wisdom and realization, their many activities. How have they shown their real qualities through their bodies, their speech, their minds, their activities? We should appreciate our own supreme good fortune in having a connection to such lineages, such masters, and such practices. Because we have a connection to these, we have the chance for liberation in our hands. Don't throw it away like toilet paper, okay?

How do we rely on the lineage? How do we use our chance rather than wasting it? We need to have faith in the lineage masters and in the blessing and compassion embodied by the lineage itself, and we need to follow its teachings and the masters' examples. That means hearing, contemplating, and meditating on the dharma, because without those, how can we know any dharma? How can we practice? How can we understand anything without those three? How can we bring about the ultimate result?

You are not an animal, blindly and dumbly not able to recognize your situation, not able to practice, not able to understand the dharma. You are not stuck in their place. Look at your fortunate situation. If we aren't lucky, then who is? If

this isn't the greatest good fortune, then what is? How could you get something greater than this—this lineage, this practice, this opportunity?

Aren't we lucky?

Yes! The most lucky! So wake up, you goddamns! This is not your opportunity to complain or to play. This is your opportunity to practice, to focus, to cultivate faith and compassion. Sincerely, okay? Don't waste your time. Look at how fortunate you are, how lucky you are. Then you won't want to waste it.

Compared to the fortune you have, silver and gold are nothing. Fancy clothes and food, wealth and shallow pleasures of every kind are meaningless. All are less than nothing compared to this opportunity to attain liberation and perfect buddhahood, to actualize the two kayas for your own and all others' benefit. What you already have is truly inconceivable, wonderful beyond any worldly thing. Think about that when it is time to practice. Think, "This is my chance. I don't want to waste it." Then don't throw it away by practicing in a wishy-washy way. Don't play games with your good fortune. Everybody try, okay?

Tashi delek!

-Gyatrul