

On Lineage

At the Conclusion of the 2018 Vajrakilaya Retreat at Tashi Choling

Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche

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Look, what they are doing, all the Kilaya things! This is wonderful! Some Tibetans say Westerners are stupid, they don't know anything about dharma, they don't know how to do it nicely. Looks like they are stupid themselves! It looks like the Westerners learned everything!

You guys are working, practicing, learning every year at the Kilaya retreat. The lamas are step-by-teaching-step and everyone is step-by-listening-step. That is all very good. Step by step, everybody! Nobody is blocking you at any step. The only obstacle is if you aren't paying attention! That is why we get behind and don't understand.

Thank you, Lingtrul Rinpoche, for your kindness every year. Really we can rely on that, and from my heart I thank you.

I heard Sangye and others have been teaching. Thank you! Good! Finally everybody is waking up! Teach each other, positively, what you know.

Don't gossip. Don't slander. Don't pollute this precious thing you got. It doesn't matter if you are a Westerner or not—dharma is dharma!

Some lamas think, "We don't have to do the ceremonies properly. We don't have to give the authentic transmission—the stupid Westerners, they won't know." No, no. Do you want to destroy the dharma? Westerners are not stupid. And anyway they do have the buddhanature! Why do you want to cheat them? Disgusting way, those lamas really cheating themselves, actually!

Why did you guys get transmissions from the real Holinesses, the real emanations of Vimalamitra, Vairochana, and Guru Rinpoche? Because they gave authentic transmission. You could trust everything they did, 100%. Vairochana and Vimalamitra, they aren't going to cheat you! Therefore the lineage of their emanations—Yangthang Tulku, Penor Rinpoche, Dudjom Rinpoche, and others—is perfectly pure. Their lineage is not broken and their samaya is not broken. That is why it is so important in the future that you have written down whatever you received from them, because that is what you can trust. You can say you really got that, not just okey-dokey or wishy-washy, but solidly. Those emanations were not from a thousand years or five thousand years ago, either; not from many generations in the past. Right in front of our own eye! They really gave you everything: blessings, teachings, initiations, transmissions. The whole lineage, step by step, according to the tradition.

Likewise, who established these centers, and blessed them? Not funky lamas. Real, holy ones. You have merit. Therefore we got! Got what? Centers and practices, teachings and initiations, everything purely.

Because this lineage is pure, in the future, don't break samaya. Really try. You do know what not to break: samaya. You do know it is for your own benefit that you don't break it. You got the teachings and everything, so now you need to keep it nicely. To keep samaya is to respect our lineage gurus, to not waste their blessing, and it absolutely is the best benefit to ourselves, too. This is very important for you, it is not like having a shop and selling garbage all the time, wasting everything. You can read about it. Ask real scholars and lamas, such as Khenpo Namdrol, who is really your teacher and he absolutely knows this. You have real trustable lamas you can learn from, you can ask questions about these things. You don't have to listen to me—you can learn from the lamas or you can read in the books and prove it to yourself. You don't need to trust me!

Some people say, "Oh, Gyatrul—he doesn't have anywhere to go!" One way that's true, because I didn't learn anything so I didn't develop any knowledge or qualities. In that way I am stuck and can't go anywhere. No reason to listen to my mouth!

But in another way I did have the chance to receive teachings and blessings from such amazing lamas, and I sort of saw, "Oh! This is the amazing important one!" That is why I requested authentic masters, emanations of Vimalamitra and Vairochana, high lamas rather than naughty lamas, to give you guys the initiations and transmissions. They gave you everything, step by step.

You have books, you can read about the qualities of such masters. You can read their life stories and go, "Wow! Chenrezig—did that really happen?" Why not? These guys are not liars! No reason to lie, not like you! I think they were not boasters. For them, all the amazing things were no big deal. Nothing to boast about! My own guru was really like that. At that time, I was just a child, so I didn't think anything about it. Now I think about his qualities and his activity and—wow! He was really a heavy one, really omniscient. Amazing things he did, as if they were nothing. I think, "Wow—that kind of lineage!" Dudjom Rinpoche, absolutely the same. That is not somebody else's lineage—your own lineage! What did you receive? Their treasures! Not some other one, some funky one! Not something that someone made up so they could sleep with all the ladies.

You can read books and you can also ask lamas, if what you received was the real thing or not. If it is of benefit or not. You guys love to ask questions—good! You can ask questions about your lineage and get answers and then you will understand what you received, why you received it, how it is important or not, and that it is not just hippie style.

New students, who didn't have the chance to meet Penor Rinpoche or Yangthang Rinpoche or Dudjom Rinpoche—should we just say "Tough luck!" to them? No, no. Those lamas have passed away but their lineages are still here. There are still teachers who hold those lineages

purely. Which ones are pure? Which ones have real lineage? Check and see! Everyone loves to ask questions—again I can say, good! Westerners can search here and there, sniffing every place. They love to! They do know how to search, like hyenas! That way they can sniff out where the lineage is being held properly, and learn that. But don't just follow which lama is handsome or pretty. That is not the lineage for liberation.

If someone is not pure, you can just move back. You don't have to gossip about them. Maybe you don't know.

In general, don't jump here and there—it is not always easy to tell what is right and wrong things. Because we didn't study and practice, we don't know what is good or bad. Therefore don't jump early, thinking you know something is one way or the other. Don't gossip, saying this or that person is bad. You don't know. Anyway, not your business! Don't jump early, pretending you know which is which when it is actually too early to say. That way you screw up yourself and screw up others, pretending to be smart. Things are very complicated and sometimes it is not clear. Definitely not clear to our confused brain. Rather than pretending to be smart, just leave alone what is not your business and have faith and be humble. Just really appreciate what you have received, what was taught, what you are practicing. Appreciate your lineage. That is more important than a big mouth.

Thank you, everybody, for your Kilaya. Even though Kilaya is really ugly, really you are keeping that practice every year, now for so many years—that is really holding something solid. That is our own lineage, directly from Dudjom Rinpoche. That is your own benefit and for me the “Thank you” reason.

Tashi Delek!

-Gyatral