

## *On Dechen Ling*

Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche

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Tashi Choling and Dechen Ling, they are not different, okay? Same dharma. Same activities. Same intention to benefit beings! If you want to make them different, that is your problem! If people go to Tashi Choling or Dechen Ling, either way it is wonderful. If people teach at either place—or practice, or work, or help, or support—wonderful! Nobody should be complaining about anything like that. The two centers have been blessed by many of the same lamas, including Yangthang Rinpoche and others. They are two places but one focus.

Hilary has been working so wonderfully all these years; she is really trying so hard, trying purely and honestly. For what? To benefit you guys! What are you, stupid? Enough's enough, thinking that it is for any other purpose, or thinking to be jealous if there is some success there, as if she were getting something for herself. That center is just to benefit everybody, it isn't for her. She doesn't need that kind of headache! It is just her offering to everybody, trying to make a nice place and keep it nicely for everyone so that people can come to study and practice the dharma. I really say “thank you” to her.

And I hope everyone is supporting her! If you don't want to support or help at Dechen Ling, who loses? Does Hilary lose? No. The ones who lose are the ones who don't help -- the gossipers themselves! They lose their opportunity. People love to ignore even what is on their doorstep and make excuses. Although we don't have horns or tails, when we go that way, we are worse than animals. So please don't do that. We aren't so rich that we have a lot of opportunities to waste. If you need the dharma, go to Dechen Ling if someone is teaching or if there is practice. Go and study and practice, don't gossip and slander. In the winter, you don't have to go all the way to Tashi Choling on dangerous roads, thanks to Hilary's kindness—you can practice right in Ashland. Do you use that opportunity? Do you appreciate that, or say thank you, or support it? You don't want to support her? I do! I am supporting her. What she is doing is very good, very good work! I feel she is really supporting me, supporting Tashi Choling, trying to help sentient beings connect to the dharma. That way we can all try to be one family following one Buddha. That is right on!

Therefore, people need to help! Dechen Ling is there in town, right on your doorstep, so you have no excuse for ignoring it. Swallow your ego trip and just benefit yourself. We are human beings, so we need to really act like humans. The defining characteristic of human beings, according to the Buddha's teachings, is the ability to talk and understand the meaning of words. It looks like everyone is very good at talking—

the blah, blah, blah never ends! —but not good at understanding the meaning of the words. Or else we understand the meaning but we ignore it, like ignoring our parents. We ignore the buddha, the dharma, and the lineage masters. How come we think we're smart? We are the stupidest!

If you want to be really smart, then try to help! Don't say that you want to help but you don't know what to do. Hilary can tell everyone, "Hey, this is what we need to do, this is what we need to buy." It is just a baby center, but of course it is still so much work. She knows what to do, what is useful there. Ask her! Don't be shy or afraid! She is not scary! You don't need to be afraid of making merit and purifying your obscurations. People can stand up and help and support her. Actually, when you do, you are not supporting her, you are supporting the center. You are supporting the dharma, okay? Not just one chopstick lady particularly. I have been wanting to say this to everybody, but I keep forgetting;; so now I am taking my chance. Everybody try, okay? We are one family, not one jealousy. Therefore, please try to support Dechen Ling — support the dharma, support yourself, benefit your own mind, for this life and future lives. Thank you!

Tashi delek!

*-Gyatral*

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