

Losar Tashi Delek

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February 8, 2016

Everyone says it's Losar, the New Year, and they are making a big deal, so I guess I will say Tashi Delek to everyone. I hear that at Tashi Choling, they are doing Vajrasattva practice and somebody mentioned that they don't have a lama there presiding during the practice. Are you crazy? That Vajrasattva practice is the practice of offering to Vajrasattva as the lama. How can you say that there is no lama there? The name of the practice itself is *Dorsem Lama Chodpa—Making Offerings to the Lama as Vajrasattva*. How can you say you need another lama beyond that? Vajrasattva is all lamas. So close your mouth to that kind of talk and have faith that all lamas are there. What else do you need? Do you think you need another lama or a better lama than Vajrasattva?

Actually, how can you say that any of the centers don't have a lama there? Look at all the empowerments, transmissions, and instructions that so many wonderful masters have come and given—they have blessed those places again and again. The lamas' blessings are there, continuously. Have faith in that, in their blessing, whether you have someone sitting on the throne or not.

Rather than think that you are something special, try to recognize your own nature. That is the real lama there. The lama, Vajrasattva, the nature of your own awareness—these are the same. The lama is dharmakaya, is sambhogakaya, and is nirmanakaya. You think you will get a lama beyond that? Do you think you need one beyond that? Good luck.

Do I need to say thank you to anybody? I think they should say thank you to all the lamas who have come, so kindly and patiently, with such compassion, for so many years teaching and giving blessings. How does everybody need to say thank you? By taking care of the centers, and by studying and practicing purely and diligently, just as those lamas taught.

Actually, Ani Baba does deserve a real thank you. Maybe a few people like that. The geku, Nick, who has worked so hard for so many years. And, of course, Odzer the cat! In one way, I do send my thank you to everybody, because everybody helps and everybody practices and everybody supports the centers. That is why we still have centers after so many years – it's that so many people have helped continuously. So thank you to everybody, one way. And one way just shut up and put up and take care of the centers and watch yourselves and keep harmony, okay? That is the Losar Tashi Delek! That's it—I don't have anything else to say! Did you need something else?

-Gyatrul