

## ***Benefit for Thousands of Years: Keeping our Beautiful Lineage***

Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche

February 3rd, 2019

*This year at O.D.D., the sangha is gathering for a few days of Vajrakilaya practice before Losar (Tibetan New Year), for purification and to remove obstacles. Rinpoche saw photos of the practice and sent the following message:*

Everybody, good morning! I saw your photos, you guys practicing together, your tsok—'tsok' means a group, together. That is wonderful, thank you. Practice like this not just today, and not just this year, but every year for many years—for thousands of years, hopefully! That is what our centers are for.

When you gather to do any practice, you need to listen to your leaders—like the umzed and the geku, and the lama if there is one, such as Lingtrul Rinpoche, he is very good. We also have Lama Sonam we can learn from and ask him questions, too, and many older students who know lots and can share with everybody. We can't say we don't have teachers and leaders! The leaders, don't split from the tradition and try to do things your MY WAY, either. Just everybody follow the way of our tradition, our gurus who have been so kind to come and teach us and show us the practices. We don't follow our centers' leaders' MY WAY; everybody including the leaders follows our gurus' way. That way we have a lineage. Learn what your lineage is and follow that—otherwise you will be swallowed up by your mistakes.

So listen to your leaders and follow your rules, too. I think these centers, His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche's centers, will exist for as long as America exists; and as long as the centers exist, they will have rules. That is for everybody's benefit. If you ignore the rules, you are ignoring yourself. Ignoring how to benefit yourself. You aren't harming somebody else by doing that, you are harming yourself. They are rules how to learn, how to practice, how to engage in the dharma, how to use its essence, how to meditate, and how to do everything harmoniously and without having to fall into your own way. By following the rules, everybody is supporting each other—young or old, man or woman, rich or poor, doesn't matter. Our way should be this way, which is the way of our teachers such as His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche and His Holiness Penor Rinpoche. This isn't my way, okay? If someone says, "Oh, that's just Gyatrul's way!"—that's not true. This is not my way and these are not my rules—I don't have any kind of rule or way. They are from the lineage gurus. They are Buddha's way. Buddha's rules. Don't be mixed up about that!

Everybody please try in this way. Keeping our harmony and discipline, then the dharma centers will be of benefit to us for many thousands of years. If you want to benefit yourself for a thousand years, if you want to benefit your children and your children's children, you can! Why? Because you have a beautiful lineage. You have to keep it. That means not going your MY WAY. If we just go our way, we make mistakes. If we go the way of our lineage, that is wisdom. That makes everything positive, and we won't have sleazy stuff. Just learn what that

lineage way is and go straight that way, and then it will be clean and pure and with no mistake. You can check the lineage for yourself to see if it is a good or bad one—you all went to school, and you know how to examine things.

Now in your country, you have this religion, Buddhism, which explains about how to do things this way and that way, for example listening this way and practicing this way. It is not a blind tradition. It is the tradition of the wisdom eye and wisdom activity, everything step by step. Therefore, you don't need to have any hesitation. You can respect your teachers—those who are real ones. That respect benefits you, it isn't for their benefit. And then what they teach, learn that nicely. Then don't forget it. If you forget the teaching, you will forget why you practice. You will forget why you keep discipline, the reasons. If you forget these two things, that is a real problem for you, because then you ignore your practice and your conduct, both. If you ignore those, it means you are ignoring or forgetting what is of most benefit to you. That's kind of embarrassing, kind of stupid, isn't it?

Therefore, we need to learn without mistake. Then we can practice without mistake. We can teach others what we learned, our children or our dharma brothers and sisters, and that way we refresh ourselves as well.

Today I got this chance for lots of blah blah blah because, first I got delicious lunch, and then I saw your picture, everybody practicing, and I got a little bit berserk so I told you lots of lies. Myself, I am here in Half Moon Bay, not practicing or anything, just eating and drinking my beer, useless. I am doing very good but always complaining because that is my bad habit! But actually Mimi, Ila, and Shashi are taking care of me, everything wonderful, and I am spoiled rotten!

I am really sort of proud and happy to see your kindness in practicing together, that is the kindness of the sangha. Therefore, listen to each other and help each other, one dharma family. Help each other learn, help each other understand, help each other remember the teachings. You can all remind each other. That's wonderful. Thank you! Good night! Oh—maybe not night time, but for me I'm going back to my heavenly bed. It looks like my job is sleeping again, even though it is the middle of the day. If you ask me, "Aren't you embarrassed?" the answer is "No!" Sort of shocking, isn't it? Anyway, I am shamelessly sleeping, my job, and you can do your job, practicing together. Tashi delek, everybody!

*-Gyatral*