

On Spring 2017 Tormapalooza

Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche

On April 19th, in preparation for the upcoming retreats, students gathered at Tashi Choling to make tormas—an event that is becoming our biannual “Tormapalooza.” Some short videos of it were sent to Rinpoche, and the following are some comments he made as he watched.

Wonderful! So wonderful!

You have such a nice space now—the temple looks wonderful, and you have places to work, places to make tormas, places to cook. Really, now you have everything to support you. Now you can really study the dharma, think about the dharma, and practice the dharma—you have everything perfectly for that. Now what? Now it’s time to do it!

Now you have videos like this, in the future people can see how to keep the lineage, step by step.

They can see what *we* did, American people, male and female students both, everybody making tormas properly and harmoniously. These students working here, they aren’t trying to have big egos or lie or be lazy. They are all just trying, sincerely. They don’t think the dharma is somebody else’s religion far away. They think, “We are Buddhist!” Everybody is so wonderful!

You who are there working, your style and your interest are making really big merit. Wonderful merit! Thank you! Thank you!

Ohoho, this is the way! It is wonderful you are showing these things, step by step. The reason? His Holiness the Dalai Lama sent me [to the West]. Now you are getting there, getting what he sent me for. Now it’s really happening.

But where are others? We have more students, more people who can help. Where is everybody? These people here are supporting Ani Baba, making tormas for the protector practice. Actually, maybe you think you are helping that one lady, that nun, but actually she is really supporting all the centers with her practice every day. Don’t think that is some small thing. Everybody there making tormas, you are supporting that.

When making tormas, here our umzed is covering his mouth, not breathing on the tormas, the offerings. That way of doing it is very important in the future.

Here is nice, everybody is trying and working at O.D.D. Here in Half Moon Bay is wonderful—the house is wonderful, land is wonderful. These ladies are taking care of me—I am sort of a crazy guy, day and night, so they have to watch me and help me. Disgusting, but my body doesn’t work! And then mind is sort of screwed up!

But you guys doing that—I am so happy! That makes the Dalai Lama sending me here something meaningful. That's the Dalai Lama's kindness, Dudjom Rinpoche's, the Karmapa's—their kindness and blessing.

Everybody learn! Teach each other. Listen to the dharma. Then think about the meaning of what you heard rather than forgetting it. Then use that for meditation or practice. Those are the three—hearing, contemplation, and meditation. That you are doing those, that is wonderful. More than having a big butt or a big mouth or being a hyena like some lamas. We have lots of lamas—some are wonderful, some are strange like hyenas.

You need to stand up, here in your country, for your lineage, for the future. Dedicate your merit to your daddy and mommy, grandma and grandpa. You can send your merit, whatever result there is, with the verse that starts GEWA DI YI...

Okay, really thank you, thank you so much! [With this video] it looks like I am there with you guys—really I am so happy, thank you!

Tashi delek!

-Gyatral