

Regarding Connecting With the Dudjom Yangsi

Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche

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The Dudjom Yangsi, or recognized reincarnation of His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche, known as Dudjom Sangye Pema Shepa Rinpoche, is currently in the United States and will be giving empowerments, transmissions, and teachings at various dharma centers over the next few weeks. Several students have contacted Rinpoche about attending these events.

People are asking me if they should go here or there and receive this or that from the Dudjom Yangsi. I don't know! I don't know your situation. You have to check your own situation. What kind of question is this? You don't need my permission to go, and I'm not going to tell you to stay home either. If it were me, I wouldn't ask anybody. I would look at my situation with my own eyes. If I had the chance, I would go and connect with him. If circumstances didn't allow it or there was some kind of difficulty, then I would stay home; but still I would have faith and say prayers. Actually, either way, faith is the most important.

I am not going to tell anybody, "Don't go see him!" It would definitely not be acceptable to say that. But I'm not going to tell you, "No matter what, you MUST go!" either. Just check your own opportunity and situation. If you have the opportunity to connect with him, then go! Why not? That is really your good fortune, to connect with that kind of lama. If you have faith, go! And don't boast or make a big deal!

Some people are asking if they need to go for everything or for a long time. Again, check yourself. You do know your own face, your own job, your own family. I am not saying to just drop everything and go running after him like a wild pig. I am not saying to ignore the lama, either. If you have the chance to go for an extended time, that's wonderful! Again, that's your merit—appreciate that! But even if you only have the chance to go for one day, or receive one empowerment, or one teaching, or see him for one hour, or even just offer one kata, or get just a glimpse—still there is a connection. Whatever you get, rejoice in that!

The most important is to have faith. If you have the chance to go and make a connection with the Dudjom Yangsi, go with faith. Don't just go to see if he is handsome. Don't think that he is going to kiss you or hug you or give you money or give you something more special than everybody else. Don't go with that motivation. Go with real, sincere faith.

If you are a new student or an old student, it doesn't matter. Still, you have to decide if you want to go or not. If you can go, wonderful...if you have faith. If you don't have any faith but are just going for worldly reasons, then you might screw yourself up. I don't think that is the real tradition, whether the Dudjom tradition or any other authentic lineage.

If you can go, don't think you are going to some ordinary gathering where everybody screws themselves up. In ordinary gatherings, everyone pretends to be happy and then they do stupid things and embarrass themselves. This is not that. It is not some ordinary thing, not some

ordinary situation based on the five poisons. It is a dharma gathering, a dharma situation. You go there for the dharma, not for any other reason. You go to see the lama because you have faith in the lineage and its blessings. Not because you think he's going to be handsome.

Our whole lives we have always done things out of an ordinary motivation, our stupid ego reasons. We have always acted based on self-interest, wanting something special for ourselves. That is why we get excited. We love to get excited until we almost pee in our pants, or maybe we actually do. That is just our ego. Who is the one getting excited? Our ego gets excited. We think we are going to get something really special, better than everybody else. That whole thing is ego. Enough's enough of always being under the power of our self-grasping like that! I think when you go to meet the Dudjom Yangsi, you can put that aside for a short time. For an hour or two at least, or one day, or whatever—I think you can hold off on that and really go for the dharma, for the sake of all sentient beings, and for your own real benefit, not wishy-washy benefit. Really have faith purely. Then you are not wasting your chance. Try to do that, okay? If you get the chance, try not to waste it with a negative, stupid motivation, okay?

Americans love to get excited all the time. Guys, slow down! Nobody cares if you are handsome. Ladies, be cooler. It doesn't matter if you are pretty or ugly; or actually you are ugly, but you painted your face and you are wearing lots of jewelry. What matters is if you have faith. If you have faith, then you can listen to what the Yangsi says. If you don't have any faith, you won't get it, because you will have just gone into samsara stuff like what he looks like and if he is too young or too old or too high or too low or you like him or you don't like him—all that blah-blah-blah garbage of our ordinary brain. Then you will have wasted your entire opportunity. Don't do that, okay? That is worse than taking a big poop in front of everybody.

Go with faith, humbly. That way you can receive the blessing. We have always gone everywhere with our mouths open, expecting someone to feed us or give us something special. If someone does give us something, we grab it—"MINE!"—like hungry ghosts. We don't even want to share one mouthful of our food or one penny of our money—forget about being happy if somebody else gets something of their own. We just get jealous and try to cheat them out of it to get it for ourselves. We will never receive any blessing that way, even if a billion buddhas were in front of us.

If you don't get to go, or you don't get to go for something extensive but just for something short, don't be angry or jealous of others who do. It has nothing to do with them. I do know you Americans sometimes have this stupid kind of brain. Tibetans, too, and others—not just one group. Recognize that for each person, it is our own merit and our own obstacles. Nothing to do with others. If others can go, best is if you can rejoice for them. At least don't be jealous. Recognize it is your own lack of merit or karmic connection, or the strength of your obstacles, and you can do Vajrasattva to purify that and make prayers to be able to meet the lama in person in the future. You can still have faith and pray to him, whether you see him in person or not. Sometimes making a connection with one particular lama is very difficult, but that doesn't mean that you can't still supplicate them and have faith in their qualities. It doesn't mean that your whole dharma connection is screwed up. Don't make that kind of big deal. Real lamas like

His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche, their blessings are everywhere. If we really have faith in them, then we receive that blessing each second.

If you don't get to go this time, don't think you have lost something or you are missing something. All the other lamas you have met and the transmissions and teachings you have received—do you think there was something missing? Don't make everything else low that way. What you already have, be satisfied with it. Don't be disappointed. Don't disrespect other teachings and other teachers as if they were toilet paper and now you're throwing them away because you got a new one. That is really upside down. All the dharma is one essence. All the lamas are one nature. Have faith in that! Real faith is very firm and stable. It doesn't need to get excited and pee in its pants because there is something new. It doesn't get disappointed, either. If it is real faith, then it is very steady and pure. Like the flame of a lamp where there is no wind. Then you can see more and more your wisdom, and all the darkness is naturally less and less. We should try to have that.

Anyway, if you can go, go! With faith! Go to him for blessings—not a boyfriend's blessing or a girlfriend's blessing, but a real lama's blessing, okay?

Just check your own situation and don't get excited and berserk. If you go, go with faith and be happy. If you stay home, stay home still with faith and be happy, too. If the centers need help, help! If you can make offerings of one flower or one butterlamp or one cup of tea, even, then do it! Don't wait for everybody else. Don't have your mouth open, waiting for someone to fill it. Instead, close your mouth and stand up, however you can support each other. Open your own eyes, stand up on your own feet. That way, you are really showing your faith, and at the same time you are accumulating merit and purifying your obscurations. Everybody try that way.

Tashi Delek!

-Gyatral