

Thank You for All the Work on the New Vajrasattva Statue

Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche

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Early this year, a beautiful new Vajrasattva statue was donated to Orgyen Dorje Den as the centerpiece for the new shrine room. Over the past months, many students have contributed to repairing the statue (which was damaged in transit), filling it with the proper sacred substances, and now cleaning and preparing it to be gold-leafed, the final step before it can take up its new place on the altar. Rinpoche was shown some pictures of the latest round of cleaning and sends this message to everyone who has participated in the preparations.

Thank you, you guys. I did see the Vajrasattva statue. I saw it a long time ago, and at that time it was very dark and dirty. It looked like an old lady, maybe even a stinky one. But now it is sort of handsome! This is what you have done, step by step. You have cleaned it all up, so thank you so much.

With this kind of activity, what we are doing for ourselves is bringing benefit to our own body. Outerly, all of our sicknesses and other problems will be remedied by this kind of activity. In our next life our body will be more handsome, or more pretty, or more whatever-we-need. We will not have any sickness. These are the kinds of causes that we are making with this kind of activity, cleaning Vajrasattva's body.

Seeing these pictures, it looks like everyone has really cleaned Vajrasattva's body so well and fixed the damage and made everything beautiful and nice, and so innerly and outerly now, everything is looking so beautiful.

The way that everyone is working together now on the statue, the way that everyone has contributed, in the future please maintain that same way of working together. Not only for this project or this statue but in the future, any time there is another stupa or another statue, another Vajrasattva or whatever the case may be, whether it is at Tashi Choling or O.D.D., in Portland or any other dharma center: If you have the opportunity to work on these supports of enlightened body, then you are cleaning up the Buddha's body, and so you can know that at the same time you are fixing or cleaning up your own outer and inner obscurations, just as you are fixing and cleaning the statue. It is the same thing.

When we are cleaning the statue, it is just like cleaning up whatever problems or illnesses we have within ourselves. If we clean up ourselves well, outerly and innerly, then that means that we will have no sickness and our body will be healthy and strong. At least that is what they say. So what you have done here, cleaning up Vajrasattva's form, that is also cleaning your outer obscurations of the body, same thing. You have all worked so hard now. Thank you so much.

In the future always, please, maintain this same way of working. Outerly, when you work like this you are cleansing your body so that you will have no physical problems, no sickness, your

body won't be ugly or dirty, you will be free of all physical suffering. Innerly, you will be free of mental suffering; and secretly, even your five poisons and the obscurations themselves will be purified, and the five wisdoms will naturally be realized or accomplished. Or at least this is what the lamas say!

Thank you so much everyone, really, I say this from my heart. In doing this you are being of benefit to yourselves and to all of us. It is wonderful how everyone has been working together on the statue. That is the way. That is how everybody should work.

So thank you, thank you, thank you. That is the most happiness. This is really the one. This is our precious opportunity, so thank you everybody.

Tashi Delek!

-Gyatral