

***On Khenpo Tsewang Dongyal Rinpoche:
A Wonderful Teacher, Person, Scholar, and Joker!***

Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche

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On hearing that Khenpo Tsewang Dongyal Rinpoche was coming to Tashi Chöling to act as the vajra master during the 2019 Vajrakilaya retreat, Rinpoche gave the following praise of his qualities:

Khenpo Tsewang and his older brother, Khenpo Palden Sherab [who passed away in 2010], they are real scholars. They started the university in Varanasi, India, and taught for so many years. They are pure, authentic scholars, not just with their mouths. Khenpo Palden Sherab, the older brother, he was an amazing master and real dharma scholar, and the younger brother was always there supporting him in everything. Khenpo Tsewang studied many years with his brother, as well as with other great khenpos such as Khenpo Pema Sherab, who is the highest khenpo in the Payul, I think. That way he really tamed his mind—he had no choice! And therefore he knows the dharma, bottom to top!

Also Khenpo Tsewang travelled with His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche and was his attendant and whatever was needed for many years. He knows the Dudjom tradition exactly! You can ask him anything about that. He can be the vajra master, no problem. He knows each piece of Dudjom ritual and the meaning—generation stage, completion stage, whatever you need.

Khenpo Tsewang is a wonderful person, and a wonderful teacher. He doesn't have any kind of nasty mouth or say anything rough. He is always very smooth and humble, with a style almost like a mouse! Also with all the students he is so wonderful, wonderful! He makes lots of jokes—he has always been like that, for many years.

Khenpo used to joke with Shenphen Dawa Rinpoche [Dudjom Rinpoche's son] about who could eat more momos—"I can eat seventy!" "No, I can eat eighty!" "I can eat ninety-nine!" Of course nobody can eat that many, they were just boasting and pretending! Anyway he is definitely of the joker tradition, and then the students enjoy his teaching and enjoy their practice [Rinpoche gave the thumbs up.]

But one way maybe they think because Khenpo makes jokes that means they can be sort of disrespectful and maybe it's okay even to jump on his head. Be careful not to do that!

Okay, you have Khenpo Tsewang as your lama, you have your umzed and chopons and everything. You have the temple, your place to practice, a wonderful one. What else do you need? Don't waste it! It's your Kilaya time. Come and practice!

Tashi Delek!

-Gyatrul