

# *HAPPY TIME, HAPPY PRETENDING*

## *CHRISTMAS 2019*

Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche

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Christmas is not my business! I am not your Santa Claus! If you want Christmas, you can pretend for yourself. I'm not going to.

Look at Christmas trees! We cut a tree and put many things on it, and we pretend it's special. We lie to ourselves! One way, why not? It looks like it makes everybody happy. It's not negative. But, still, just pretending.

Everybody does it all together. Look at what you are wearing, where you are standing. Is it a lie, or not? We get so excited and buzz up, like something's really there. Bottom line? Nothing! Just pretend. It's samsara—that means pretend. It must be! Christmas time, we pretend Christmas. Everybody happy and naughty. That way it's good. We get nothing, but still we enjoy it. Happy time, happy pretending.

Look at the children, they are so busy and naughty and have so many trips. They have one lie and then another one, and then lose the first one and then cry, but then instantly happy again. Lie on top of a lie on top of a lie, a whole mountain, never finished. One lie is happy, then a crying one, then Mommy or Daddy comes and gives another lie, maybe something delicious, and they stop crying again, temporarily. So busy, and never tired. That is everybody. We are never tired of our pretending. We just want Mommy or Daddy to give us a good one!

We say “Happy Christmas!” but it would be a real kindness to say “Happy...But Don't Screw Up Yourself!” Or “Happy Honesty Way!” Or “Happy Time But Don't Jump In Your Garbage Sewer!” [He laughs.] I don't think anybody is going to say that! They would ask me, “Are you crazy?” Just this funky old man's mouth will say it. I don't have a sweet Christmas mouth. Sorry!

Oho! I do have delicious cookies, though. That's my business, yes! Other things are not my business—now I'm busy!

Tashi Delek!

*- Gyatrul*

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