

WISDOM TIDBITS

Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche
Fall 2022

The following are short teachings and comments that Rinpoche made to his attendants over the past few months.

Rinpoche was watching the teachings given by Lama Les Collins and Mat Small and he said:

Thank you, Mat and Les, for teaching the dharma! And to everyone attending, for wanting to learn the dharma. It's wonderful! Everyone should teach, everyone should share what you each know. If you don't want to teach, if you are hiding, then I say to you, don't ignore your root gurus, such as H.H. Dudjom Rinpoche, H.H. Penor Rinpoche, Yangthang Tulku Rinpoche, and others. Whatever you know, share it! Even if you just know something simple like the correct way to make offerings or care for the buildings of the dharma center. You don't need to get paid. Do you need money? If you practice and if you teach, THAT is your money in the bank. Do you need to be liberated? Practicing and teaching will get you there. We DO have the opportunity and the ability. Do you need to conquer the five poisons? With practice and teaching, that will happen, too.

Just after reciting the food offering prayer which begins "TONPA LAMA I...", Rinpoche commented:

"TONPA LAMA'I" means "unsurpassed teacher", which means the buddha is inconceivable and there's nothing beyond that. Wow! Buddha is the highest thing. Whether it's a thousand-mile tall buddha or a tiny finger-sized buddha, it is still buddha, still the same thing. We are not referring only to Shakyamuni Buddha, but to all the buddhas such as Chenrezig, Guru Rinpoche, Manjushri, and others. Unsurpassed, inconceivable numbers of buddhas. It is not something limited or constricted. The second line refers to the activity of all these buddhas, which is teaching the dharma. Whatever dharma we are practicing, that is the "unsurpassed," the very best dharma. The "unsurpassed sangha" is not just a collection of monks and nuns, but it is those who really have faith in the buddhas and try to practice their teachings.

Whenever anybody says "I'll try," Rinpoche responds:

Don't try. Just do it.

While building a palace with wooden blocks, as he often does after dinner, suddenly a few blocks fell to the floor. His attendant asked, "What happened?" Rinpoche replied:

Politics.

While watching a video collage of many buddhas, Rinpoche said:

Wow! I am having a meeting.

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While looking at a statue of Guru Rinpoche, Rinpoche commented:

Look, Guru Rinpoche is watching us. Who made that? Nobody made it, it naturally came out. We have a whole bunch of Guru Rinpoche and Vajrasattva emanations like His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche, H.H. Penor Rinpoche, Yangthang Tulku Rinpoche, and many others. We have millions of lamas but we don't care. We only care about saying, "he is handsome, she is pretty." That's our samsara stuff. Slow down your talking and teasing and blah blah stuff.

The statue maker, he knew the qualities of Guru Rinpoche and he could make amazing things, but he only cared about the money. Similarly, you know the qualities of Guru Rinpoche and Vajrasattva, but you don't practice.

One day, Rinpoche said:

Many Americans can be kind of angry about stupid things. Don't be like that!

Rinpoche often advises:

Just slow down and recognize your nature.



Not Enough Space To Be Separate From Tara

While watching a video collage of Tara images, Rinpoche said:

Look at Tara's image. With faith, just that is enough. Everything's there, all phenomena of samsara and enlightenment. That's the blessing of Tara's enlightened body.

Then he gestured around the room and out the windows at the world and said:

We think these phenomena are separate, like they were cut off from Tara. We see them as ordinary, as different; we put them in the corner. How can they be ordinary? Where are you gonna get different? There is not enough space for them to be separate!



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