

~From the Archives of Teachings by Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche~

Heart Advice on Tsog and Other Matters

*A teaching read to those gathered at Orgyen Dorje Den on January 14, 2012,
to practice Vajrasattva in connection with Dungse Thinley Norbu Rinpoche's parinirvana*

Part 2

Guru Rinpoche and Langdarma: The Power of Intention

Long ago in Guru Rinpoche's time, the dharma came to the land of Tibet and spread and flourished there so wonderfully. Then King Langdarma came, and by the power of his own previous negative aspirations, he destroyed the dharma throughout the country, just as he had intended. Why did he make that kind of aspiration? Why would he give himself over to such great negativity? It is because previously, many, many lifetimes before he was Langdarma, he was an ox who served the three brothers who built the great stupa Jarung Khashor, and who were later reborn as King Trison Detsen, Guru Rinpoche, and Shantarakshita. As the ox, Langdarma hauled the stones and was used for every kind of job necessary for the construction. When that tremendous, virtuous, and powerful undertaking was finished, the three brothers were making prayers, aspirations, and dedications, and they forgot to include the ox by name in their prayers. The ox was so angry—he was really pissed!—that he said, "I have worked and worked for them, building this stupa, and now they are not even going to pray for me. So I pray that whatever dharma they establish in the future, I might destroy it." However, Guru Rinpoche saw that aspiration in the ox's eye and he said, "At that time, may I destroy you."

So in Tibet, that is exactly what came to pass. King Trisong Detsen invited Guru Rinpoche and Khenpo Shantarakshita to Tibet, and the dharma was established and flourished there. Then, King Langdarma came and pretty much destroyed all that they had worked to create. But at that time, there was one yogi who was able to kill Langdarma. The

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yogi was an emanation of Guru Rinpoche, who manifested as the fulfillment of his aspiration to be able to destroy the negativity that Langdarma would bring into this world. Of course, he was a tremendous master, and later he was also reincarnated as a tertön. He was very sneaky, very tricky, very skillful. For example, not only was he able to kill Langdarma but also to get away! First he painted his white horse black. Then while he was escaping he washed off all the black paint so those who were pursuing him said, “That can’t be the man who killed Langdarma—he is riding a horse of a different color.” So he was able to get away.

Anyway, you can read in the biographies of these masters about how all of this is really true. Such is the force of our aspirations. Such is the influence of negative intention, and of positive intention, too. These kinds of stories demonstrate how negative and positive aspirations can play out so powerfully, affecting not only the individuals who make them but also whole countries. They can even shape how the dharma spreads or declines in the world. You can read again and again how mere intention can effect change on a vast scale.

You can see that Langdarma's power came from his original intention and, through it, he became a great demon. However, Guru Rinpoche’s intention, in turn, was able to bring down even as formidable a demon as Langdarma. You can read about how powerful Langdarma was and how much impact his negativity had. It is similar to Chairman Mao—you can read about the unspeakably awful changes he brought about in this world and in the lands of Tibet and China particularly. Mao and Langdarma were very powerful beings, but unfortunately they were motivated by negative intention, so all that they brought into this world was therefore negative. You can be sure that whatever results they might have reaped from exercising their ill-intentioned power were also negative, and any future ones will be as well. In this way we can look at the stories of great masters and see for ourselves the power of intention.

~ teaching continues in Part 3...

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