

~From the Archives of Teachings by Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche~

## HEART ADVICE ON TSOQ 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 10

#### Orgyen Dorje Den:

#### A Charnel Ground Transformed into a Beautiful Place of Dharma

O.D.D. is a wonderful charnel ground. This *is* a real charnel ground. How many beings and bodies passed through here before this was a temple? This was a place where so many corpses were laid, where so many corpses came and went, for how many years? Each one of those corpses had previously been the dwelling place of a consciousness. Each of those consciousnesses, each of those beings, was completely bound up in their karma, attached to their karma, just as we are. That karma, well it could have been good or bad—but knowing the general drift of things, probably mostly not that good. So, there was a lot of negativity that came through this place. There was a lot of negative karmic connection that people made with those corpses when they were alive, and then those corpses came to this place. So, this place actually has connection to many, many, many beings because their corpses were put here, and those beings were still attached to those corpses and still creating karma with regard to them.

Then this place was bought by O.D.D. and so many lamas have come. They have come and they have taught the dharma and brought that blessing, and they have also practiced and bestowed empowerments and other rituals and brought *that* blessing. All of the benefit that the lamas have brought to this place benefits all of the sentient beings whose corpses were kept here over the years. We should be really happy that O.D.D. used to be a charnel ground because we don't even have to do anything extra—merely by using this building where all of

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those corpses hung out at one time or another, we can benefit all of the beings who have connections to them.

So, when you come and offer prostrations or flowers or butterlamps or food in this charnel ground and create merit in that way, in order to accumulate merit and purify obscurations, then you are actually directly benefiting all of those beings whose corpses used to lie here staring at the ceiling. So now this place is a place of dharma, and it is filled with wonderful statues, and many, many books, and a mandala, and all of this kind of thing.

The purpose of all of those supports is to help beings transform beings' ordinary body, speech, and mind. Ordinary body, speech, and mind are a real charnel ground, you know! Like a really yucky place that you don't want to go, fairly disgusting—all manner of things go on there that nobody wants to talk about, that is how disgusting our ordinary body, speech, and mind are. But just as we have transformed this charnel ground building into a place of dharma filled with supports of enlightened body, speech, and mind, likewise, the whole purpose of this place is to transform our ordinary three doors into enlightened body, speech, and mind themselves. The process of developing the building mirrors the process of our own liberation.

If we are able to actually clearly see and thus transform our ordinary perceptions, we will see that really our body, speech, and mind are enlightened body, speech, and mind—just as we have blossomed this corpse building into, now, a beautiful place of dharma. If we apply ourselves in that endeavor, trying to recognize their nature, there is no greater benefit we could bring to others, and there is no greater benefit we could bring to ourselves. It will clear away any obstacle that could possibly arise to us. We have not tamed our own minds; how do we think we are going to be able to tame anyone else? What kind of arrogance is this that we think we could be of benefit to others when we have not managed to benefit ourselves yet?

*~ teaching continues in Part 11...*