

~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 12

#### Wake Up! Stand Up! Don't Waste the Lamas' Blessing!

We are worse than demons because, although we have this precious human birth, and we have encountered the dharma, and we have received even the most profound incisive pith instructions from these great qualified lamas, we just ignore the whole thing, fold it up like an old newspaper, and put it in the trash. We don't respect our buddhanature. We certainly don't respect anyone else's buddhanature. My goodness, I think we all need to wake up! Rather than let our three doors be overcome yet again by the five poisons, I think that we should try to turn and look at our buddhanature.

You think that you are so cool because you are Americans. So, you are Americans, so what? So, you are smart or pretty or handsome, that is no big deal. You don't see your own buddhanature; you don't see your own wish-fulfilling jewel. That is worse than having shit on your face. That is something you should not be proud of. I don't care what you look like, how many degrees you have, how high you are, what kind of car you drive. We don't value what we have; therefore, we are all crazy. Therefore, none of us can be proud. How did we get so crazy? Tell me, how did it get so far? How did we get to be so far gone?

It is because we turned our back on our buddhanature, and then again and again and again we made a habit of looking the other way, the samsara way rather than the buddha way. And now, that is just our habit. That is the habit that we have to undo. But know that we can undo it, we can purify our own mind, we can tame our own mind. That is why the Buddha taught the path. The Buddha would not have taught if it was not going to do any

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~Translated and edited by Shashi Reitz~*

good. The Buddha taught because it is possible for us to become like him. But we have to start in a baby way, which is all we are capable of. So, in a baby way, I ask you please to stand up. If you don't stand up, then nobody can make you stand up. It is like a child learning how to walk. Finally, they have to stand up on their own.

All these lamas have come and you have made connections with them. Especially you who have been in these dharma circles for some years, you have received empowerment from Penor Rinpoche, Yangthang Rinpoche, and other great lamas who have come here, Düdjom Rinpoche, Khyentse Rinpoche. Why do you think they came? Why do you think they still come again and again? Why did Penor Rinpoche give the Rinchen Terzod way back in the day? Why did Yangthang Rinpoche give the Rinchen Terzod just last year? It is so that we can wake up. They don't waste their time. They don't waste our time. They only do things that are meaningful. So, we should fulfill that intention of theirs. We should make this blessing meaningful. We should make use of this gift that they have given us by waking up as they have tried to show us again and again and again. Yangthang Rinpoche tried something like 800 times during the Rinchen Terzod to get us to wake up! We should at least try one or two times in return from our own side; otherwise, my goodness, how embarrassing! He is an old man and can barely climb up on the throne, and he kept trying to get us to wake up. You are all young and strong and can stand on your own two feet easily whenever you want. You should stand up, otherwise that is really embarrassing. And I still don't care what kind of car you drive.

Next fall, if we are very fortunate, Karma Kuchen Rinpoche in his compassion will come and give the Kama empowerments, if we all have the merit and there are no obstacles and so forth. You might ask why was it that Yangthang Rinpoche particularly gave the Terzod? Why is it Karma Kuchen Rinpoche particularly who has been asked to give the Kama wangs? Why these lamas? You should find out; that is a good question and you should check it out. You should read about their lineage and read about their qualities because these are

extraordinary lamas; and if you know about their lineage and qualities, then when they come, you will have greater faith and devotion, which means you will be able to connect to the blessing of that transmission in a much more profound way. Then you will not be wasting their time. So please read the biographies of the great beings of our own time, too, not just of Padmasambhava and Yeshe Tsogyal. Read them all, read everything as much as you can. That will also help you stay out of trouble a little bit, and that would be good.

*~ teaching continues in Part 13...*