

~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 13

The Wisdom Light of Our Teachers

Please read the biographies of all the great masters, past and present. And when you read about them, whether they are a long time dead or they are still young and coming to America, your first question is going to be, “Are they handsome? Are they pretty? Was that a really smart lama? Was that a really pretty lama?” This is *your* lineage, I am sorry to say. This is the great mistaken lineage of not recognizing the lama’s real qualities. We shouldn’t be asking are they smart, are they pretty, are they rich? We should be asking, what are their qualities? Do they care for sentient beings? Do they have compassion? Are they acting out of compassion, or are they coming because they think somebody is going to make them a big juicy offering at the end of the empowerments they give? That should be the kind of question that we ask about our teachers.

If we look at these teachers such as Yangthang Rinpoche and Karma Kuchen Rinpoche, we will see that they do have authentic qualities of their lineage and also of their own realization, that they do work for the benefit of all beings constantly. We need such teachers, we need pure teachers who hold pure lineage. We don’t need hippie teachers. Hippie teachers don’t really benefit.

Now I say that everyone here is so lucky. And why is it that you are so lucky? Because you have teachers that you can count on absolutely. You have teachers that you can have perfect faith in. The Dalai Lama, the Karmapa, Dūdjom Rinpoche, and so forth—you don’t need to have any kind of doubt or hesitation about their qualities, lineage, or abilities. We

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have teachers whose every move, in fact even their birth in this realm itself, was only to benefit us. And so far we have had the merit to connect with various of these teachers. That is extraordinary, too. They possess extraordinary qualities and we possess extraordinary merit be able to connect with them.

When we think of such teachers, we can see they have a kind of wisdom light, a kind of clarity. They are not like us. They know when they need to go and when they need to stay. They know who can benefit whom. They know how to benefit beings perfectly all the time.

Therefore, when they say something, it will only bring benefit. For example, when His Holiness the Dalai Lama said to me, “Go to America,” the correct answer would have been, “Yes, I will, gladly.” But instead with my stupid mouth and my complete failure to recognize his wisdom I said, “No, I don’t want to go.” That just shows my own ignorance of his qualities. He does know what is best for beings.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, His Holiness Dūdjom Rinpoche, and the Karmapa, they all sent me here. Therefore, even if you might have doubt about one of those lamas, all three of them told me that I had to come here. How stupid am I that it took three of them to convince me? Any one should have more than done the trick. But, regardless, they did get me here and I don’t know if I’ve been of any benefit or not. It is true that I don’t have any qualities. I know that I have been struggling here for forty years, but sometimes it seems like the dharma centers are just full of jealousy, back-biting, and hatred. Then it doesn’t look like it is coming along very well. But I know that this is because of my own lack of qualities, my own broken language. I am not able to properly communicate even what little dharma I understand. But these days actually the dharma centers are getting much better and people are starting to work together much more. They are actually starting to help each other. My goodness, that is a new idea! I think that is wonderful—why didn’t we think of that before?

So, I am actually very glad at how the dharma centers are beginning to stand up, each one, one by one, each person, piece by piece. But if there is any benefit coming from these

dharma centers or these statues or these prayer wheels that are being made and so on, really that benefit is coming not from me but from the blessings of the lineage, and from the blessings of enlightened body, speech, and mind that these are representations of.

~ teaching continues in Part 14...