

~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 18

The Only Tulku to Look For

We were talking about tsog—I was talking just a little bit but I am not qualified to give a real, definitive, or inspiring teaching. There are many great masters such as Dūdjom Rinpoche or Chatral Rinpoche who have written about the benefits of performing tsog practice. In fact, if you name any great lama or any great tertön, I don't think there is a single one who has not taught at some point on the benefits of tsog. Therefore, we can see that this is a powerful method. We can have faith in the method because we know and trust the qualities of those who are saying it is powerful.

But the method is only good if our motivation is good. Actually, if our motivation is good, then all methods will be skillful because, by our good motivation, the method will certainly bring us an accumulation of merit. When engaged with a good motivation, all methods will allow us to benefit ourselves and to benefit others.

If you are a scholar, so what? If you are proud or arrogant, you destroy everything. But no matter how little you know, even if you are not a scholar or don't know a word of dharma, if you are motivated by faith and compassion then you are practicing authentically. Then you are higher than any scholar who has nothing but dry learning. In that case, they should bow to you, placing you upon the crown of their head!

So please try to practice authentically. Try to be good to each other. Try to treat each other well. Try to have respect and love for one another, recognizing your own buddhanature and the buddhanature of all others.

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~Translated and edited by Shashi Reitz~*

You need to respect other beings because they have buddhanature.

You need to respect yourself, and thus act with decency, because you have buddhanature.

Don't play games. Don't play games with your own head. Your head is precious. If you break your head, what are you going to do? Then you are finished—you are lost. So don't play games with something as precious as your own head. Likewise, don't play games with this precious human birth. It is even more precious than your head, so don't disregard it. Use it for all that it is worth, every day, as much as you can.

Take advantage of this opportunity, that is really all that I ask. That is really the only tulku to look for.

As much as you are able, be humble. As much as you are able, benefit other beings. Practicing the dharma is that simple and yet very profound. You can go into those simple questions: What is humble? How can I benefit beings? That will take you all the way through to dzogchen itself. You can take anything in the dharma and tunnel into it in this way.

~ teaching continues in Part 19...