

~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 19

Concluding Advice

For myself, my time is finished, but you still have some time. Don't shame yourselves. If you are American, don't embarrass yourself as an American. Don't bring shame on your American-ness. If you are pretty or handsome, don't bring shame on your prettiness or handsomeness. If those things are important to you, you don't want to be an embarrassment to them, right? You don't want anything to be ashamed of. We all love ourselves, so we don't want to be embarrassed, we don't want to be ashamed. So use that. Say to yourself, "Okay, I need to practice dharma so I won't embarrass myself, so I won't be an embarrassment to my beauty, or my intelligence, or my fancy new car, or whatever."

If we teach the dharma, we should know the value of what we are teaching and we should teach with great humility. If we listen to the dharma, we should know the value of what we are receiving and we should listen with great humility. In fact, whether you have the chance to teach or to listen to the dharma, either way, how extraordinary to have the opportunity to engage with something that precious! There is no high or low. In this way, it is not that the teacher is better than the student, or the student is better than the teacher. The teacher does know, yes; the teacher does have the qualities to pass on, yes; but when you come down to it, teacher and student are both so fortunate to be able to engage in the dharma.

That is how we should recognize the value of dharma practice, the value of dharma places and centers, the value of dharma activity.

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~Translated and edited by Shashi Reitz~*

If someone is teaching the dharma, the value of that is priceless! We don't need to worry about if they are pretty or handsome or rich or what kind of car they drive. We just need to worry about the dharma that they are teaching. We always look at the teacher and think, "Oh, you know, he doesn't have very good posture." Forget his posture! How is his dharma? That should be our business. It is so interesting — what is not our business, like the teacher's posture or looks or car or riches, we are fascinated by those things! We examine them minutely; we get out the microscope. But what really is our business? Our business is: what are their qualities, are they authentic, do they teach according to the lineage? We just ignore that completely as though it were of no consequence whatsoever.

Take your nose out of other people's business. Take your nose out of there and put it where it belongs. Put your nose back into your own business. And really, the only thing that is your business is your buddhanature. That brings us all that we desire. So, put your nose there and keep it there. How? By hearing, contemplating, and meditating on the dharma. That is the only way we will be able to recognize our own nose, to recognize our own nature. You already have it. Quit chasing it everywhere else, you buggers!

Act with humility and decency.

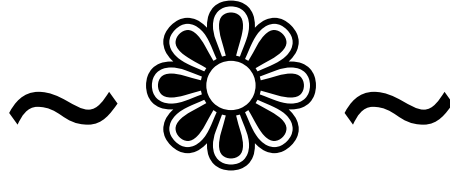
Act simply.

Act with faith and devotion.

Otherwise, not only will O.D.D. fail, not only will Tashi Chöling and all the other centers fail, but worse, your own spiritual path and practice will simply not work.

Think about what is most important in this life. What is really important, what is of most value in this life, are the gifts that these great lamas have brought to us. We should rejoice in and appreciate the blessings of these great beings and try not to waste their time and try not to waste our time.

So, I am going to quit wasting your time.



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