

~From the Archives of Teachings by Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche~

TEACHINGS ON THE PRELIMINARY PRACTICES (NGÖNDRO)

*Rinpoche sent the following teaching for those gathered to do the preliminary practices (ngöndro)
at Dorje Ling in Portland, Oregon, on May 12, 2013.*

Part 16

The Qualities of His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Look again at the Dalai Lama and you can see how he has taken the adversity of his life and his people, and it really hasn't slowed him down at all. It really hasn't made him forget his job, which is serving sentient beings. Because the Dalai Lama is completely and only focused on serving sentient beings, he serves them with his body and with his speech and with his mind. His body, speech, and mind are completely saturated with his intent, his great overriding altruistic purpose; and because of the merit he generates through that, people are attracted to him through his body, through his speech, and through his mind. He gives teachings, and even if they don't understand the teachings, still they almost pee their pants. He walks into the room and he just says, "Good morning," still all the ladies fall over dead.

He has that kind of merit. Everyone likes him. Everyone has faith in him. It is because he has purified his own mind, and thus the five poisons have gone away. The five poisons have no place in his mind. There is nowhere they can stick. For us, they can stick everywhere. When we have faith in the Dalai Lama, we are connecting to this pure Buddha manifestation.

So many people say they just think of the Dalai Lama and their mind is filled with faith. Or they don't even think of it as faith, they say, "I think of the Dalai Lama and my mind is filled with love." "I think of the Dalai Lama and I cannot be angry, I cannot be jealous, I cannot be overwhelmed with desire." That is the blessing of him, the power of his qualities. The enlightened body, speech, and mind blessing we have been talking about—that is what

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people are experiencing and describing. They might not know a word of dharma, they might not consider it faith, they might not consider his qualities to be the qualities of Buddha, they might not even have any sense of what enlightenment is or what samsara is—they just know they love him. Everybody just loves him and wants to come see him. Because of that, his blessings can enter their mind. Then people have these experiences, like all their five poisons are quiet when they think of him—that is just them having faith and his blessing being able to enter them in that moment and bring them peace or happiness or whatever. That is the manifestation of his blessing in their mind, in that moment, even if they have no idea what is going on. When people think of him, he doesn't have to go to each one and hug them and kiss them. He stands in a room with many thousands and thousands of people, and they each feel this great sense of love from him, and that naturally benefits them. Naturally they have faith. Naturally they feel his blessings. That's very simple.

Then you ask, "Well, how is it that he has those extraordinary qualities?" It is simply because he has purified his body, speech, and mind. That is all it is. There isn't any other special recipe that brings those qualities. People don't even know how to pray, but they want to pray to him. They don't really know what real faith is, but they have faith in him. They don't really know what he is representing or what he is the manifestation of, and yet naturally they are drawn to him. So, think about those qualities.

He is a living buddha, we can see for ourselves. So many people can say the kinds of things that he says. Sure, people can say anything. But coming from so many people it is just like an empty mouth, words from an empty mouth. Coming from him, people say, "Oh, I have to think about that." Maybe their minds change a little bit, maybe they have a little bit of faith, or a little bit of patience. That is of amazing benefit to them. That is his quality.

~ teaching concludes in Part 17...