

From the Archives of Teachings by Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche~

SEEING OUR OWN SITUATION CLEARLY

*Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche gave this teaching as his parting advice
at the end of his visit to Osel Nyingpo dharma center in Ojai, California, January 2010.*

Part 7

We Are All the Same Sangha Family

As you begin to understand the empty nature of things, your poisons will decrease. Simultaneously, see how much you are able to increase and strengthen your loving kindness and compassion, your faith and pure view. For this dharma center, in order to bring great lamas here—not some funky old guy like me who doesn't know anything, but great masters like Yangthang Tulku Rinpoche—the most important thing is to be harmonious and work together. Don't be arrogant and think that you're the best or point out to others how wonderful you are. Don't gossip and say that so-and-so is so bad or other negative things that you have heard or observed. Don't be sensitive, either!

Everyone is the same, and everyone at the dharma center is trying to accomplish the same thing. Like brothers and sisters with the same parents, we all share the same lineage and look to the same teachers such as His Holiness Penor Rinpoche, His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche, and many other lamas, whose kindness is like a great wish-fulfilling tree of bodhichitta that spreads over us all.

Therefore, come together and help and support one another. If you have the chance to go to ODD (Orgyen Dorje Den, the center in the Bay Area), to Tashi Chöling (in Southern Oregon), or to Dorje Ling (the center in Portland), go there sometimes! You are all the same sangha, the same family. These are all your dharma centers. All of the teachers at these centers are there for you. They are there to answer your questions, so have no hesitation in asking them.

*This material is being made available as a free download by Vimala Treasures. © 2010, 2024 Vimala
~Translated and edited by Shashi Reitz~*

Don't be like what I heard happened recently at ODD, when they had a phone link for teachings happening at Tashi Chöling and nobody came to listen. I was really disappointed. I told everyone that they needed to listen to the dharma. I didn't tell them they had to pay any money or anything. I only said that everyone needs to listen and learn about what to adopt and what to abandon.

Also don't be like those people who think about different teachers, "She's young!" "He's old!" "She's ugly!" "He's handsome!" "She's pretty!" blah blah blah and, therefore, they do or don't want to take teachings from them. These things have nothing to do with dharma!

We don't appreciate the real qualities of the lamas. We get caught up in thinking, "He's good," and "She's bad," based not on their qualities but on whether we like them or think they are attractive or not. But this is merely falling under the power of our three poisons—please don't stoop this low! This is a fault of ours, and we should recognize our shallow judgments as faults and work to eliminate them. The real faults of the teachers, on the other hand, if they have them, they are their own business, not yours.

The fact is that you all need to listen to dharma teachings. You really should shut up and just do that! The one giving the dharma teachings is the Buddha, and you listening to the teachings are also the Buddha. It is the Buddha making offerings to the Buddha.

If you are arrogant and won't accept those offerings, that makes you stupid. This is your chance, your opportunity. It is stupid to waste it. Don't be arrogant anymore. You say you are busy, but I think actually you are stupid. You think you are intelligent, but I think it is actually arrogant. Just dumb.

~ teaching continues in Part 8...