

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 9

#### Knowing How to Work Together

If the dharma centers don't decline but maintain themselves and are strong, that is your good fortune. But as soon as we start pointing the finger at others—"He did this," "She did that," and all the while implying that we ourselves are so pure and clean—then we are sending ourselves down into the sewage and garbage, and our suffering will intensify like the sewage and garbage, too. This is a waste of whatever good has been established or created up to this point.

Instead, help each other. Then, as far as this house goes, if you are able to buy it and keep it, that is wonderful. If not, then help each other to use another place. Don't be dumb. Even if the members of the dharma center all come from different directions and have no money, still it will work if everyone thinks of themselves as being together and works with consideration for all. People do work together like this, particularly people in poor areas. They know how to work together.

Also, those who have some money shouldn't be stingy. Here, there are people with money. We can't say that nobody here has any money. Money doesn't purify your obscurations or accumulate merit for you. When you die, where are you going to take it? Where will you be going? Can you take it with you to the hells, the realms of the hungry spirits, or the animal realms? And if you go to a pure land, you don't need it! But I don't think we're going to the pure land, because we refuse to purify our negativity or accumulate merit. And if we don't purify our negativity and accumulate merit, what good can our money possibly do us?

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~Translated and edited by Shashi Reitz~*

If you don't like it when I say these things, then sorry. I don't know the language, I don't know the meaning, every day I change, so don't follow me. I have no power, wisdom, or qualities. I have done no study or contemplation of dharma. Please don't be like me and never study or think about or practice dharma. Instead, seize your opportunities and engage in dharma as much as you can. Sorry. You all have many qualities and great knowledge, and I have none, but still I harass and offend you with my harsh speech. But please think about these points as much as you can. Even if you aren't impressed by what I say, still maybe you can at least have compassion for a tired old man. As you have qualities and I have none, just a funky old guy ready to die, it is fitting to take me as the object of your compassion in meditation. But I am not saying, "Please generate compassion for me!" either. I am not asking, not begging. It is up to you.

*~ teaching continues in Part 10...*