

~From the Archives of Teachings by Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche~

## Foundations of Practice and Dharma Community

*In March of 2009, Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche sent the following message to the dharma community at Dorje Ling in Portland, Oregon.*

### Part 9

#### Conclusion: Everyone can Offer Their Kindness a Little Bit

So here at this center, everyone is slowly, slowly learning the practices, slowly learning the dharma. That is very good. Coming and practicing together will really make a sangha. And part of being a sangha is seeing that this is everyone's center, the sangha's center, and taking care of it like that. Right now, if nobody does anything, this monkey, the yellow one,<sup>1</sup> will take care of everything, cleaning and tidying and making offerings and keeping everything nice and weeding the flowers all by himself, because he is so stingy! He is keeping all the merit for himself!

Always waiting for somebody else to take care of everything is no good. We need to grow up, and we need to stand on our own feet. Everyone in the group can contribute. Not just Clark, but other people can work on getting cushions made, and making practice tables so the texts are up off the floor.

Because of Clark's kindness, we have a place. But now everyone can offer their kindness, a little bit, to help the center. We all come to this place, so look around like it is your place and ask yourself what needs to be done. If you see something that needs to be done, do it! Get someone to help you. People know how to do different things. You don't have to make a big deal, just check and see what needs to be done and then do that. Help each other.

As for me, I am going to the cemetery soon. If you are doing things for the center now and you think you are working for Rinpoche, then what is going to happen when I'm dead?

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<sup>1</sup> Some of Rinpoche's nicknames for Clark Hansen, Dorje Ling's founder.

Do you think at that time you won't need to help the center, you won't need a center at all because Rinpoche is dead? I don't think so.

Actually, “Rinpoche” doesn't need a center now. I don't need a center—I am here in Half Moon Bay with my heated swimming pool! You are the ones who need a center. You need a place to practice, a place to learn, a place where you can purify obscurations and accumulate merit, a place to farm your fields nicely.

And then you need to do it! Just having a building called a center isn't enough—then you have to use it for practicing, studying, learning, and all the ways of doing the dharma. This is our opportunity, to practice patience and clear away our obscurations. So, we all need to grow up a little bit.

So, thank you to everyone who has been coming and learning, slowly, slowly. Piece by piece, if we each study and if we work together harmoniously, it will happen. Right now, everyone is really trying hard, so thank you. If you want to have a place and have a sangha, then really everyone just needs to keep coming, keep practicing, keep doing tsogs together, help each other. A little bit, little bit, every week, as you can. Then maybe I can come this summer, if my body lets me. Maybe I will come and hang out, and stay maybe one month. We will see. I hope so.

But for now, thank you, and Tashi Delek to everyone.

