

~From the Archives of Teachings by Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche~

On Working for the Dharma, Making Use of this Precious Human Life, and Repaying Our Parents

Teaching given at Guru Rinpoche tsok practice at Tashi Chöling, October 2011.

Part 3

Don't Waste This Human Life, Don't Waste the Lama's Kindness

First we have to learn how to benefit others.

How can we learn that?

Follow someone. Someone who knows how to do it.

Who is the guy we should follow?

Guru Rinpoche, Buddha Shakyamuni—we have so many enlightened beings we can follow. Thousands of buddhas. They taught the Foundational Vehicle, the Greater Vehicle, and the Vajra Vehicle, the entire path, step by step. Because of their teachings, we can follow them—step by step—and give up our negative things. Buddha doesn't feel the need to lie, for example. We can follow him in that. We can follow him in liberating our negative things, and deepening our positive things.

Among the six realms, we have reached the human realm for the moment. But how long will we stay here? How long can we keep our human realm experience? Do you know how long? For us, reaching 100 years old is a big deal. Who has ever reached 200? Nobody almost. Maybe a buddha.

So, if in that short time we don't go toward the dharma and learn and practice it, then what do we think is going to happen?

If we want to make good use of our opportunity as human beings, we have to follow a pure teacher. Then, to keep from wasting the teacher's compassion, we need to learn and practice pure dharma. That way we don't waste their wisdom. We don't waste their kindness.

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~Translated and edited by Shashi Reitz~

Simultaneously, for ourselves, we aren't wasting our freedom. We don't waste our opportunity to benefit ourselves and others, all sentient beings.

Ani Baba [a nun at Tashi Chöling], she thinks she is handsome. What is she thinking? She's not even a man, how is she gonna be handsome? And Tendar [a young man at the time] thinks he's pretty. Oh God!

Anyway, everybody is rich with opportunity right now.

Do you want to benefit yourself? You need this human body.

Do you want to benefit others? You need this human body.

Why? Because with it, you can follow these amazing teachers.

We do have amazing lineage lamas—Buddha Shakyamuni and these other guys.

Their power comes from their great compassion, their great kindness.

Without great kindness, what kind of powerful would they be? Without compassion, how could they benefit us? Like Qaddafi—do we think that his kind of power and money lets him benefit us the way that the kindness of the buddhas does?

Therefore, wake up! If you want to benefit your relatives, your friends, your “all sentient beings,” this is the time. If you don't do it now, and try your best, then you will lose this opportunity. If you waste this chance, it won't matter how smart you are, or how great a scholar—useless!

~ teaching continues in Part 4...