

~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 4

Relying on Our Lineage Masters and Supporting Each Other

Because of their kindness, the buddhas and bodhisattvas have emanated in so many beneficial forms—as statues, stupas, and books, for example. You have some of these things here.

But more than that, you have the lineage lamas.

There is that Gelugpa, the Dalai Lama, an embodiment of Chenrezig and Guru Rinpoche—he is in your lineage. Penor Rinpoche, Dudjom Rinpoche, Buddha Shakyamuni—you have amazing lineage masters!

And Vajrasattva or whatever.

What are you going to do with them?

Are you going to put them in a corner, put them in that Cozy Corner, and then not follow them?

Are you going to go the opposite way instead?

Isn't it that we're crazy, doing such things?

Come back into your own nature. You do have wisdom. You do have everything.

Don't hesitate—starting right now, your choices and actions should be determined by the teachings on karma, which all of you have heard, most of you many times. Those precious explanations from our lineage masters clarify what is positive and what is negative, which reveals the right way forward. Put them into practice without delay. Don't procrastinate any longer!

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~Translated and edited by Shashi Reitz~*

I'm not saying you have to do everything tonight. I am saying: Try, everyone.

I didn't say just drop everything tonight!

Anyway, Ani Baba¹ won't drop everything—she is holding it, like her drum stick.

Try, everybody. If you push it back, put it off, it will be too late.

I came here to ask Richard [Schwindt] what he is, because I am an ugly short person but not like him! And Matthew [Small] is Funky Army—ask him why. And Mr. Kay [Kay Henry], she got that wonderful opposite-of-herself name from her teacher, Khenpo Namdrol.

Anyway, everybody has a daughter or a son or a friend or whatever who needs help, some kind of support, at least a little something you can do for them. Try to help them that way.

Try to help your parents as well.

Don't go off some other way, ignoring everybody. That's upside-down. It looks like mostly everybody goes the upside-down way.

We don't need to go that way. Instead, support each other. In some countries, they really do this, taking care of each other. You Americans need to think in this way, too. You are still human beings.

This one, though [David Gordon], he is a human noodle. Human udon, but actually still not a capable noodle, either. And Wei [Yang] thinks she is Chinese, something special. And the Japanese guy [Michael Osugi], he thinks, "I am sushi." And Tuprig Dorje, he thinks, "I am Tibetan." So what? "I don't smell." Just pooping, no smell, is that it? And Ngawang Drolma, she thinks, "I am Nyingmapa. And pretty. And smart." But she walks upside down. Uh-oh. That's embarrassing!

~ teaching concludes in Part 5...

¹ Ani Baba, Richard Schwindt, Matthew Small, Kay Henry, David Gordon, Wei Yang, Tuprig Dorje, and Ngawang Drolma are all students that Rinpoche names who were present in the temple at the time.