

~From the Archives of Teachings by Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche~

Relating Skillfully to
Our Lamas, Our Dharma Centers, and Our Own Habits
Spontaneous Teaching on January 3rd, 2013 in Half Moon Bay, California.

Part 4
Masters Like Jeweled Vases Filled with Bodhicitta Nectar

If Yangthang Rinpoche is coming or not, and whether it might be soon or much later, we don't know. But even if he isn't coming, we should still prepare everything. *Some* lama is coming, of that we can be sure. They are coming all the time, again and again, countless lamas!

Look at the tertons, the ones who reveal spiritual treasures—there hasn't been just one. There are the five great tertons corresponding to the five buddha families: Dorje Lingpa in the east, Ratna Lingpa in the south, Pema Lingpa in the west, Karma Lingpa in the north, Sangye Lingpa in the center. Then each one has had so many further emanations all over Tibet.

From Vajrasattva and Garab Dorje to you, the three transmission lineages contain how many lamas, how many emanations and manifestations? Look in the Namchö, for example, and so many other traditions that describe the multitudes of sublime masters, one by one, through the lineage. All of those great beings have come again and again, not just one time, in order to bring benefit to sentient beings.

You can study and contemplate the qualities of the holders of the lineages to see if they are just okey-dokey lamas or not. You can check and see for yourself the qualities of the ones you have been able to meet in this very lifetime: Penor Rinpoche, Yangthang Rinpoche, Dudjom Rinpoche, Khyentse Rinpoche, and others.

All these great masters, outerly, innerly, and secretly, are filled up with compassion for beings. That is why they come. That is why they undertake any action, great or small. They

aren't like you—if we look inside you, it's yucky with self-concern inside and pretty with compassion on the outside. If we look inside them, they are just filled up entirely with bodhicitta, outside and inside the same in being pure. They are like jeweled vases filled with delicious nectar, precious on the outside and the inside, both. Not fake, not lying.

Don't waste any connection you have with them.

Don't waste the opportunity to appreciate these lineages and connect with them.

Be joyful in your chance.

Don't think, "I am busy! I have this and that to do! Such important things are making me so busy!" Actually, you are only busy out of self-interest. But this busyness never brings the success you are hoping for. Your busyness doesn't free your body, speech, and mind from suffering. It only takes you deeper and deeper into samsara.

You have the opportunity in this life, this one chance, to free your three doors from such suffering forever. You have this one chance to attain constant, ultimate joy. You can accumulate merit and purify obscurations, and bring perfect, everlasting benefit to others. You can even experience the results in this very life, having good health and long life and so on.

For generation after generation, the lamas have all agreed on these points. Please consider them carefully when you are deciding how to use your time.

~ teaching continues in Part 5...