

~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 6
Concluding Advice

But what do I know—I am just an old geezer. I am lazy all day every day, lying down. I worship my bed, it looks like. Don't be like me!

Try, as much as you can, to make merit.

If others or yourself have merit, then rejoice. Be happy, like a dog wagging its tail.

Don't be jealous, or stingy, or just talking blah blah blah. Don't indulge in gossip and slander, or get greedy—"They don't deserve the nicest one! I do!" Avoid all such disgusting ways that we destroy our own merit. Try not to ruin yourself like that. Instead, support each other.

Bodhisattvas don't need to be sparkling. And anyway, they don't care whether they are or aren't. They just need bodhicitta and bodhicitta conduct, that is their job and that is their happiness. Through compassion, they bring themselves the greatest benefit—there is nothing beyond that. They attain buddhahood.

Maybe you don't believe that, though. Maybe instead you argue, "Well, what if I don't attain buddhahood through bodhicitta? Then what do I get?"

Well, maybe you don't believe it, but I think if you work for sentient beings, you *do* attain buddhahood. I think that *is* what you get, because that's what the great masters all say. All the buddhas' emanations agree.

It's not me saying that—I don't know such things. Don't follow me. If you follow me, you will be too late!

Instead, first learn the dharma, then chew it thoroughly through examination, and then apply it in meditation. If you don't study, what do you have to contemplate and examine? If you don't contemplate, how can you meditate? If you don't meditate, what result can you get?

Therefore, please be diligent in these, as much as you can. If we want to benefit ourselves and be free of obstacles, that is how. The real way to benefit yourself is that. If you want to benefit others in any way, small or vast, that is how.

Check for yourself if you have any good fortune or not. We do have good fortune but we don't care. We have the Three Jewels, as well as how many buddhas who have already been liberated? Countless. That's the kind of amazing fortune we have!

Don't just practice with your mouth.

Don't just have faith with your mouth.

Don't be arrogant and stubborn.

Read the life stories of the great masters, appreciate the inconceivable blessings of the Kangyur [the Buddha's words], the Tengyur [the commentaries], and the termas [revealed treasure teachings] of all kinds. These are all the buddhas' teachings. The tertons who revealed those treasures are all the emanations of Guru Rinpoche.

Look at what we have! I don't think we can say we are poor. We have the opportunity to practice and make connections with them. We have the writings of these great masters, their teachings. We have access to their enlightened intent. We can learn it and understand it. We need to appreciate that.

We can have real faith if we know the Buddha's qualities. If we apply ourselves to study, contemplation, and meditation, we can know those qualities. If not, we won't know.

These days we have the chance—but next time? Good luck with that! We have the chance now, but we are always pushing it back, pushing it back. We have the chance but we put it off.

Don't push it back like I do. Being stupid like me means at the time to die, you are empty. Actually, empty would be okay but I have collected so many non-virtues. Now it's too late to study, so I have no chance at understanding. I just watch TV, hang out, just entertainment.

Don't copy me! Okay?

