

Memo: Venerable Lord Zhongba, Drikung Lamchen Gyalpo Rinpoche dissolved into Dharmakaya

In the beginning of January this year, Rinpoche pilgrimaged holy places in southern India and Nepal. After that, while staying in Taiwan, Rinpoche had acute illness and was sent to the hospital for examination and treatment. Feeling slightly better, Rinpoche returned to the United States. During that time, his closed disciples, relatives and friends earnestly requested Rinpoche to receive medical examination and treatment. However, Rinpoche held a reserved attitude towards western medicine and said, "I am by now eighty years old; while I am making my own decision, there is no need to worry about me. After all, I am the disciple of the Drikung Kyobpa Lord of the Three Worlds Jigten Sumgön and for that reason, there is no hindrance."

Later, Rinpoche reduced eating faulty coarse food and frequently supplicated to the Kagyu historical masters. Most of the time, Rinpoche were in meditative concentration state, though and then he would suddenly sang Doha songs of awakening and realization. One day while eating breakfast, Rinpoche due to blockage of qi and blood felt uncomfortable; with both eyes gazing into the space, he spoke:

Abide the mind naturally in state of Great Bliss –
This is really very rare and marvelous.
When the four aggregates fail,
Qi moves confusedly and uncontrollably, creating phantom-like phenomena.
When rides with a stallion of strong devotion and blessings,
Mind runs towards the natural uncreated state.
This is really very rare and marvelous.

Although Venerable guru had followed various New Secret Mantra Translation and Old Secret Mantra Translation gurus, he regarded the great bodhisattva Khunu Tenzin Gyaltzen (Dharma Banner Upholder) as his root guru. Rinpoche often while recollecting his root teacher, could not help shedding uncontrollable sorrowful tears, and then he immediately entered into meditation. When he came out of meditation, he straightaway sang Doha of awakening and realization:

Victorious guru, the one named Khunu,
The moment I bring him into my recollection,
The breath would naturally cease and
The mind would liberate into the primordial Dharmakaya nature.

Venerable guru had never accumulated any gold, silver or wealth. All the precious Buddha statues in the shrine were given to his disciples. He said, "I would not leave any wealth behind." Rinpoche had many such requests. Below are the two most important ones:

1. Do not use gold or silver to construct offering stupa

Only the relics of the master who is equipped with characters and signs are suited to build offering stupa. It is because its benefit is vast. If those without merits and characters are involved in building the offering stupa, it brings only obstacle to the wealth of faith, thus without any benefit. So disciples should only use clay and stone to shape my statues.

2. I have no reincarnation. All disciples who have ever received oral transmission and teachings from me are my dharmakaya emanations. All disciples should connect with each other with the same mind, live in harmony, speech and mind should be consistent (be honest and straightforward), put Dharma into practice and strive until real conviction in the Dharma is gained. Most Venerable Lord Jigten Sungöm had said, "I do not have any special Pureland, nor have I any special Dharmakaya emanation. My Dharmakaya emanation is the supreme bodhicitta." Venerable guru repeatedly urged disciples that they should practice diligently until conviction in the Dharma is gained and that they should live in harmony.

After making clear all these, the next day after waking up, Rinpoche did not speak, but remain in the state of equipoise. From the lunar calendar the 26th of the Eighth Month onward, his breath gradually slowed down. At last, in the clarity state of primordial awareness, his nirmanakaya body was gathered into the "Ah"-sound and then dissolved into the primordial Dharmakaya nature.

By Gampopa Center
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