

Unedited Transcript
 Message on Death of Åge Delbanco
 Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche
 Kopan Monastery
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 Transcribed by: Thubten Munsel

People can rejoice, students, who know, who don't know Babaji [Åge Delbanco]. He lived many, many years Kopan before the, the first monastery was built he lived, the Kopan, a small room, and he always, what I remember, see all the time, all the time I saw is making chapati outside, not, I think maybe didn't have kitchen, so he always outside the room, in the _, and chapati, always making chapati, I see from, from the, yeah, roadside, Babaji outside of the room, chapati.

And sometimes, sometimes one girl, I don't know her name, from Holland, comes to see, see him, not many people that she was from Holland, I think comes sometimes, [to see him?]. She was living, she also lived in Nepal a long time, Boudha.

And Babaji was the one who made the, I think maybe, I don't know exactly when he started, Babaji came to Kopan, maybe started in the very, very early times Kopan, maybe, maybe not, not early as Losang Yeshe [spelling], Michael Losang Yeshe's lived at Sera, beginning [at/of] Kopan, Kopan monk, he started learning Tibetan alphabet at Lawudo, I taught him and then there's the most expert carpenter who carved so well, and in Solu Khumbu very famous, maybe his name _.

And so his daughter was there, I didn't meet her, but _, say, Michael was _ [Rinpoche laughs], because he was, he was so very little and he was very, could not relax, and was moving around and, you know, what do you call this? Restless? Yeah, so while I was teaching alphabet, so I had to beat him from backside, just one or two, but that's all [Rinpoche laughs] and maybe, so his mother came to Kopan, when he was very little.

Those are very, very, very early times at Kopan there was, yeah, there was, well, of course, Zina, that was Zina's time, princess Zina Rachevsky, from Russia, so the first one, _ time. Then there was maybe one or two other people. Anyway, then gradually more people came, and like that.

So anyway, well, I don't know when he started, _ so early times, yeah, I think when I did course, very early courses, I think, yeah maybe he was there [second/several] course, I don't know when he started, actually, I remember the actual time.

So yeah, so then he built the Kopan, well he, he built the mold, then, yeah, followed the Kopan monastery according to that. So I don't know how many years, a long time, took many years _ first monastery at Kopan during Lama's time.

Then Geshe Lama Konchog's time, of course, yeah Lama, when he built new one, Lama, of course, I think showed the aspect pass away, I think, quite some time ago.

Then, and new monastery was built, that was Geshe Lama Konchog's time.

So I, my idea is to build Lama Tsongkhapa statue, four-story, and then Geshe Lama Konchog, and a man, and Gelek Gyatso, [sp] was the main builder, what do you call, main construction.

So after, I was staying upstairs, Chenrezig Gompa, you know. So then after he finished, then when I went see, then Gelek Gyatso, Geshe Lama Konchog was not there, Gelek Gyatso was showing me, from upstairs, oh, this is Lama Tsongkhapa, Nepalese, Nepalese four-story.

But it was, it was more than, actually it was, more than half story, something like that, and more or less, maybe little less than half. So then he said, this according to Nepalese four-story [Rinpoche laughs]. But, I mean, he built a four-story, but it was gigantic, wow, wow, wow.

[The] Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, the Maitreya Buddha was four-story, wow, wow, wow, wow. The last time I was there, the second story then offered, then offered maybe, yeah with the Chogü, Namjar, the begging bowl, and I think, I [forget] now this _ puja, or something I did upstairs, he has a [little?] retreat room, Maitreya Buddha, one thousand offering to Maitreya Buddha.

So you need that, all those things, yes, there are quite a few things what the monks need, so you offer there. Yeah, we did that thousand offering Maitreya statue, I think. _ [and it's said even] in the nose of the Maitreya Buddha, small child can go through [it], it says [Rinpoche laughs].

Anyway, so Babaji, now coming back to Babaji, so in America when Lama was teaching in the university, Jon Landaw helped [him] in the house Lama bought, that Karuna's parents borrowed money and, well, I think it's one million, so anyway, yeah Babaji was there, and then, in their house, and they were cooking, and taking care of Lama. And Lama was going to university to teach, so part of the time I was there, I think, some part of the time I was there, I think.

So that time Babaji was carrying Lama's texts on his shoulder, see that, yeah, I think, I don't know taught, I don't know, one month, or so sometime, yeah, Babaji served Lama in that way.

So he, he was around, and not, not much involved in meditation practice, and doing mantras, or meditation, really, really bring himself into practice, doing sadhanas, not, not in that way, but he was around for a long time, so, so many years in the Vajrapani, he lived, I don't know.

He, at the Vajrapani he has house on the mountain, his house is the highest. I went one time, he was making Yamantaka tangka, he was making large tangka of Yamantaka, yeah, somehow. [Rinpoche laughs]

So down below his house there's Tom's house, carpenter Tom, so, yeah, yeah the students, you know, Vajrapani, for a long time, and Tom and Tom's wife's, the house down below there, down below Babaji.

So, yeah, so, so there was a table in Babaji's room, small table, there were seven bowls, but not, but not offer water, don't remember, or something. He was also, he helped Kagyu center somewhere there in San Francisco, or somewhere there, he helped Kagyu center, one Kagyu center for some time, and, yeah like that.

So anyway, he enjoys playing drums at the beach, you know, yeah, like that. So one time Lama was, was there, you know, the incarnation, Lama Ösel was there, and they played drum together at the beach, I heard like that [Rinpoche laughs].

Anyway, so, please everybody pray Babaji, just passed away, yeah, so please everybody pray, especially the old student[s] who knows. Thank you very, very much, and to not be reborn in lower realms.

Due to past, present, future merits collected by oneself, by sentient beings, and by numberless buddhas, Babaji never to be reborn in lower realms, so now he would be in the clear light, so after gross mind stopped, gross [life?] stopped, so then the subtle wind there. So usually it stays three days, is *definite*, for natural death it's *definite*, yeah, it's said in the texts, and, yes, there's proof [and] that.

So, yeah, so of course, then some countries and France, they made law, as soon as the breath stopped, must [take/taken] out, that's terrible, that's terrible, really, not knowing what definition of death is. And there's, mind has gross mind, subtle mind, extremely subtle mind, so now the mind is in clear light, state of clear light.

But, of course, then those who meditate it's by recognizing clear light, so meditation, Kyabje Ling Rinpoche, 18 days he stayed in meditation. And, oh then there was Ganden Tripa, one or two, Ganden Tripa before, then there was Ganden Tripa who lived, I think maybe twenty days, or something, a long time, and then, so is also recent time happened, [there was] a different number, just, then mostly seven days, or shorter than that, or, like that.

My root guru, Kyabje Trijang Rinpoche, His Holiness Dalai Lama's guru, he's tell, he told, he announced [already before/or: people?], don't keep more than an hour, he said [that]. And don't tell, don't need to tell people, [announce?], because usually so many people come to see him all the time, all the time, all the time, you know, then like that. So then Rinpoche, himself, predict everything before he passed away, so that was the purpose, reasons, so like that.

So, so it's, of course, you know, yeah, so, yeah sometimes, [or that] announce to the police, and then you're able to keep usually three days, like that, you see. There's no smell. But after the clear light, after the mind being in the clear light, not, this is not talking meditation, you see, this is unrecognized. So ordinary beings, even the dogs [is there?], so you see animals, and then [think/things] desire realm beings.

So anyway, oh, so when, when that stopped, then, you see, it starts to smell, then smell comes. Until that, the smell doesn't come. So that, those subjects are not known in the Western fields, the hospital doctors, those things, and so that's very, yeah, profound, very important subject.

The proof was we had one dog, Om Mani Padme Hum, I called, Om Mani Padme Hum, so Roger said we need a dog. So then I said we keep a dog, don't let the dog to be reborn in the lower realm, and the hell.

So we built a stupa backside of the house, and it's a little bit like _ but it was small one. So it went around many, so many times, I took around, and then other people, mostly Anet from Switzerland, the nun, the cook, then took, mostly she took care, went around so many times.

And then, then when she, when I was in Nepal the dog died. So dog died, but didn't look died, it's like sleeping, very peaceful face. So really, that effort, going around the stupa, really, because you can't explain Dharma to dogs, you know, yeah. So that's good result when he passed away, that was like sleeping, very peaceful face.

So Holly kept the dog for three days, and see what happens. Then the bodhichitta, then the bodhichitta came out the it's a female dog, so I think the white stuff comes from the nose, [sort of is/ears], and then blood comes through the organ, female organ. So then, yeah, then starts some smell, so that's, it's proof what the texts says is nature of death.

And so, yeah, therefore, yeah, then countries with laws, and then maybe, yeah, I think the time of death maybe, yeah, I think difficult to tell the police, and like that.

So, anyway, so somebody who is in meditation, that time, then able to, give chance, gives time, gives opportunity to, to meditate in that, you see, so those who can meditate, who can recognize.

So, okay. So then, so, sorry, due to all the three, three time merits collected by oneself, three time merits collected by numberless sentient beings, numberless buddhas, may the Babaji be reborn in the pure land where he can be enlightened, can be enlightened. Or, then he receive perfect human rebirth, meet Mahayana teaching, meet perfectly qualified Mahayana teacher, revealing the unmistakable path to enlightenment. And by pleasing most holy mind of Virtuous Friend, and then he achieve enlightenment as quick as possible, okay.

So please pray, at least like that. Thank you very much. Thank you *very* much. But Babaji pass away is a teaching for us, teaching for us, reminding impermanence, death for yourself, and need to make preparation for death, emphasis to practice Dharma, without being lazy, and without being, mind being distracted under the attachment, distracted, and attachment, anger.

So yeah, to practice Dharma, to practice bodhichitta is the heart, and then, okay, thank you very *much*.

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