

From His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Dorje

April 15, 2023

Though Lama Zopa Rinpoche was born in a small valley in Nepal, his influence spread throughout all of Tibetan Buddhism. Learned, venerable, and good by nature, his main practice was bodhichitta; he lived the example of the Kadampa masters of old. He was known as a master of the Gelukpa lineage, but he held a profound pure view of all lineages. His greatest legacy was spreading the dharma. He co-founded the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition and established over one hundred dharma centers throughout the world. He provided thousands of members of the sangha (especially in the large Gelukpa monasteries) with regular food and built schools, hospitals, and homes for the elderly. He was a protector for the defenseless, a refuge for the vulnerable, a fount of generosity, both dharma and material, and a light for the teachings and beings. His sudden passing is a loss for all of us.

I myself met this great master many times and was taken by his humble, open nature and demeanor. He gave such tireless service to Buddhism and sentient beings that I naturally feel that I must shower him with praise. Though this great master has left his physical body for a time, he dwells inseparably from the dharmakaya, so I would like to ask his students to continue as before with your practice of listening, contemplation, and meditation without slackening even the slightest. Please do whatever you can to fulfill the wishes of this great and glorious lama.

Ogyen Trinley Dorje April 15, 2023