

April 13, 2023

Dear Venerable Roger,

May I join thousands and thousands of people and other sentient beings currently praying for swift return of Venerable Lama Zopa Rinpoche and thank him for what he has done to heal so many wounded souls and hearts and bring them to enlightenment. It was my honor and fortune to be able to serve Rinpoche as his Russian translator. His words and laughs are still resounding in my mind. I am with you in this difficult time.

Please find below a letter of request from Prof. Medvedev, head of the Russian Tukdam and Meditation Project who was hoping to meet Rinpoche this May. I would deeply appreciate if you take a moment to read his request and send us an answer.

May we meet Rinpoche very soon and continue to study under his guidance.

Sincerely,

Julia Zhironkina (Save Tibet Russia)

Dear Venerable Roger,

With great sadness I learned of the passing of Lama Zopa Rinpoche. It is a great loss for the whole Buddhist community and many people of different faith and beliefs who happened to know Rinpoche. I would like to express sincere condolences from our group of Russian scientists whom Rinpoche met and provided invaluable assistance to.

I personally was very impressed by the depth of our conversation with Lama Zopa Rinpoche that happened last year when we were doing research at Kopan. Rinpoche supported our research and provided many very valuable insights and advice. He even consented to allow our group to study his own meditation and expressed his wish to connect us with hermits meditating up in the mountains of Bhutan. Unfortunately, these plans have not materialized.

I read in the information posted on the official pages that Lama Zopa Rinpoche is currently in the state of post-mortem meditation. You know from our conversation at Kopan as well as from the explanations given by Telo Tulku Rinpoche, that postmortem meditation is one of the major subjects of our research guided and blessed by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama.

After talking to Lama Zopa Rinpoche, I had an impression that if requested he would have no objection for us to study his own postmortem meditation, if it is done in a very respectful way without disturbing his body.

That is why I would like to request for your permission to observe the body: take daily photographs of the entire body surface, assess the turgor and numbness. If such permission is granted, I will immediately send instructions on how to do it, and this can be entrusted to any monk who can take pictures.

These data, if collected properly, will be an invaluable source of information on postmortem state of great Buddhist practitioners whom Lama Zopa Rinpoche definitely was as well as realization of the wishes of Rinpoche's root guru His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama who feels that this information will be extremely beneficial for the entire humanity in the long run.

As Julia told me, Rinpoche reiterated his wish to support our research in one of his recent teachings. That was a great honor as well as inspiration to know that he has kept us in his heart and has been thinking of how to help us. I may assume that the research of his postmortem meditation would be realization of his heartfelt wishes too.

I would be very grateful for your response,

Respectfully,

Prof. Svyatoslav Medvedev