

As soon as I heard the sad news that Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche had shown the aspect of suddenly absorbing his holy mind into the *dharmadātu*, my heart was filled with tremendous grief. This holy being first met my predecessor, the supreme Kyabje Yongdzin Lingtrul Dorje Chang, and received his teachings and instructions in the early 1960s while staying at Ghoom Monastery, Samten Choling, in Darjeeling, India. Every day, as they lived nearby one another, they would speak indoors and then would go for walks and play together outside. They spent many months together like this. At that time, he was around fourteen years old. From then on, in order to uphold, preserve, and spread the Buddha's teachings, the holy being would receive many private teachings and instructions of sūtra and tantra from Kyabje Dorje Chang, just like the contents of one vase completely filling another.

I too have met Rinpoche many times since I was young and we became like close friends. We discussed many different projects, big and small, and had many opportunities to speak. The supreme Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche made as his main practice the precious mind of bodhicitta, which cherishes others more than oneself. In our current time, Rinpoche was unmatched in terms of upholding, preserving, and spreading the general teachings of Buddha, and especially the Tibetan Buddhist tradition, in all corners of the world, both east and west.

Most importantly, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Victorious Supreme All-Knowing and All-Seeing Protector and Refuge, had, at different times, given Rinpoche advice with his nectar-like speech.

All of the students that Rinpoche guided and cared for all over the world, especially the chief disciples within the FPMT, Kopan Monastery, and Kopan Nunnery, should keep in mind his nectar-like speech. Since among all the ways by which to honor Rinpoche there is none superior to following his advice just as it has been given, I urge you to hold it in mind.

With strong prayers and requests to the Three Jewels and the ocean of victors that, after the completion of this sacred being's profound intentions, an unmistakable reincarnation will swiftly come as a protector of the teachings and sentient beings,

Yongdzin Ling Rinpoche

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Colophon: Translated by Ven. Tenzin Namjong. Translation reviewed by Ven. Tenzin Legtsok. May 5, 2023.