

**Advice to Geshe  
Conference by  
Ganden Tri Rinpoche**

**Hosted by Kopan Monastery,  
Kathmandu, Nepal**

**January 9, 2024**

*Transcribed and translated from an audio recording by Geshe Tenzin Legtsok*

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**Ganden Tri Rinpoche:** I hope you all have been having a good meeting and thorough discussion so far. You should discuss what you have done at each dharma center, the current events, and what plans you have for the future. You've probably been having rich conversations. Whatever you all discuss I request each geshe to mutually speak frankly about their work and experiences, whatever difficulties you've had, what has worked, what most people are interested in and so forth. To frankly discuss with each other, asking questions and giving clear answers is very excellent.

Generally, in addition to the ordinary programs of each center, which of course you need to offer, in accordance with His Holiness the Dalai Lama's advice it would be good to explain the great treatises such as The Five Treatises of Maitreya, the Six Collections of Reasoning [by Nagarjuna] and so forth. If these great treatises are explained a little, it is both suitable for the geshe and in many ways will benefit those listening by helping them understand how the great treatises are organized and how to penetrate the essential meaning of the Dharma. Therefore, I request all the geshe to explain those classical treatises in conjunction with the lamrim. By taking the lamrim as a basis and explaining the great treatises together with giving practical advice, I think it would be very beneficial.

A second suggestion is that, if at dharma centers there are at least four or five fully ordained monks, it is important for them to gather for the *three fundamental rituals* [sojong, summer retreat, lifting of restrictions]. Whether or not the Buddha's teachings on Vinaya exist in a place depends upon whether or not the three fundamental rituals exist in that place. Even if there are hundreds of ordained monks and nuns in a place, as long as the three fundamental rituals are not performed there, the Vinaya teachings do not exist in that place. It is said that where these three fundamental rituals are performed, even though there may be only five or six monastics, the Buddha's teachings on Vinaya exist in that place. Because it makes a big difference in terms of karma and accomplishing what is needed or not, I request you to, if possible, perform these three fundamental rituals. It's not very difficult to do. You don't need to recite the long Pratimoksha Sūtra; if you just recite the short version, that's fine. If the three fundamental rituals can be practiced there, it is of great benefit because the region becomes a place where the Buddha's teachings exist and whatever is done will be successful. There's a great difference in the benefit. I don't have anything else to say really.

The most important thing is to explain Dharma well to the students so that they become stable in the Dharma. Sometimes it happens that centers decline because people only come sporadically without any consistency. In order that the students become stable, it's important to give good advice and encourage them to study and read. There are many books of teachings given by His Holiness that are easy to understand, and books by other non-sectarian scholars that are easily comprehensible. Centers themselves can print and distribute materials to students to hold on to order and study. Please consider doing this if possible.

That's really more or less all I have to say. Since I couldn't come to Kopan in person, they asked me to speak like this. Kopan Monastery is really doing a good job by having a good study program for the monks and nuns. They have studied the collected topics and also at the tantric college. The tantric monks especially are really doing an excellent job. Recently I was sent a video of them conducting a puja on Youtube and the way they recite different ceremonies is excellent. They invite teachers from Gyumed Monastery to teach, then study well, and practice in just exactly the way explained. One time they convened a Yamantaka generation and entry ritual that Lama Zopa Rinpoche attended. I was really very happy to see that they truly conduct rituals just like the Gyumed monks. Thinking that this will benefit the region I was very glad. Like that, whatever the nunnery does, they really do perfectly. Thank you, these activities show that the purposes for which Kopan was established have been accomplished and are truly a basis for purifying obscurations and keeping pure morality. I'm very pleased because this benefits the whole region. It's very good.

All of you geshe, please consider and keep this in mind, to consider teaching the great treatises a little more. This is the main thing I have to say. Thank you.

**Gen Pemba:** On behalf of the organizers of the conference and all of the geshe present we offer our heartfelt thanks to the refuge lord, the great Vajradhara, Ganden Tri Rinpoche for this advice.