

Pay Attention to Looking After Geshes and Visitors

Pay attention to looking after the geshes, thinking about their needs. Really taking care. Really respect the resident teacher - even though he may not be a high lama, because he stays at the centre he is even kinder [than a visiting lama].

Also the geshe is a gelong, so if you respect him, you collect merit. Also this is keeping your refuge vow [to respect Sangha].

Pay attention to how to look after people visiting the centre. This is for the success of the centre, which means to spread the Dharma for more people, to help more people to reach enlightenment. To achieve that means you need to check how people respond to you - this depends on whether you take care of them, look after them.

We have spent a lot of time on this topic at past meetings, so go through the minutes of past CPMT meetings to learn from them how to take care of people: respect those who come to the center, be polite, physically respect them, all those things. Take the advice from those meetings seriously, for example the things we discussed at the CPMT in Holland.

We really need to pay attention when people come to the centre. Like a bodhisattva talk very nicely to people to draw them into the Dharma so you can liberate them from suffering, bring them to enlightenment. Taking care of people, all of this, doesn't have to be a political thing, you should think of this as your bodhisattva's conduct to draw people to liberation, enlightenment.

Remember this every day - otherwise when you get very busy and stressed, you will forget. If you remember this, the stress goes away.

Colophon: Advice given by Lama Zopa Rinpoche for the meeting of the FPMT center directors in Spain in Barcelona on Sept 2nd 2005. Noted and edited by Claire Isitt.