A Prayer for the Swift Return of Lama Zopa Rinpoche

By His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso

 peers Teacher and assembly of the children of the victorious ones, śrāvakas, and pratyekabuddhas;
Victorious Lozang, father and sons, along with the lineage masters;
All the objects of refuge of infinite lands—
Please bestow the virtue and goodness of accomplishing this prayer here and now.
Holding and spreading the Muni’s (thub) precious and complete teachings (ten)
Through explanation and practice,
You wore the armor of patience (zopa) that is never discouraged—
Incomparable venerable guru, to you I make request.

While striving single-pointedly for the sake of the Victorious One’s teachings,
The sole gateway through which all benefit and happiness emerge,
And for mother living beings,
You suddenly departed to peace—what a great loss!
Nevertheless, through the undeceiving truth
Of the blessings of the ocean of the Three Jewels
And the great waves of bodhicitta of the children of
the victorious ones,
May the smile of a reincarnation swiftly beam in glory
for fortunate disciples!
I composed this swift return prayer at the request of the centres of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition in general, Kopan Ogmin Jangchub Choling, Khachoe Gakhyil Ling Nunnery, and all the students of the late Rinpoche, headed by Roger Kunsang, who said that since the elucidator of the Buddha’s teachings, the incomparable Zopa Rinpoche, had suddenly departed to peace, a swift return prayer was needed. I also composed it because of our special connection, exemplified, for instance, by the fact that when Rinpoche was with us, he would consult me on his projects, big or small.

While it is devastating that Zopa Rinpoche has departed in this way, the most important thing is that when he was with us, he made the precious mind of enlightenment the foundation of his practice, and so, if his followers who have been left behind properly emulate the Guru’s life, it is exactly that which will definitely fulfill Rinpoche’s wishes. Therefore, keep this in mind, and from now on also make requests to the Three Jewels and earnest dedication prayers.

Composed by the Dalai Lama, a Dharma teacher and śākya bhikṣu, on the 25th day of the second month of the Year of the Water Rabbit in the 17th Rabjung cycle, April 15, 2023.

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