



## DZOGCHEN PONLOP RINPOCHE

Dear Lady Diana,

I read with great interest your letters to the Shambhala sangha and the students of the Vidyadhara Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche. Thank you for bringing them to my attention.

I have long felt a close connection to Trungpa Rinpoche and his students. We share a common heritage and have received teachings and blessings from a number of the same teachers.

I first met Trungpa Rinpoche, yourself, and the Vajra Regent when I served as an attendant to His Holiness the 16th Gyalwang Karmapa during his 1980 tour of the Vajradhatu centers, a tour which occurred at the Vidyadhara's invitation. At that time, I was able to witness the strong and profound Kagyu connection that these centers and their members possessed.

During this visit, the Vidyadhara, Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, invited my father (the General Secretary of HH Karmapa) and me for dinner at the Kalapa Court in Boulder. That evening, Rinpoche surprised me with an extraordinary gift: a collection of his seminary transcripts along with a roll of Japanese brocade personally designed by him, on a tray. The Vidyadhara looked at me over the rim of his glasses and asked, "Can you read in English?" "Not very well," I replied. "Perhaps someday you can enjoy these," he said, motioning to the stack of transcripts.

Later I received key dzogchen instructions from His Holiness Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche, an important teacher to Trungpa Rinpoche, yourself, and Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche, and many in the Shambhala community. My guru Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche has also been a principal teacher to many in the Shambhala community.

Our bonds are close. Vidyadhara Trungpa Rinpoche was a pioneer in bringing the genuine, buddhadharma to the West. He showed us the way, and I continually feel in his debt — for the world he created, the dharma he taught, and how he taught it. You have certainly played a very important role in all the activities and accomplishments of Trungpa Rinpoche and I truly appreciate and have deep respect for you and your activities. I am happy to see that you are continuing these excellent activities: to protect, preserve, and propagate the lineage of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche at this critical time.

It is important that his teachings not only be preserved but be made available to as many as possible and practiced properly. As you have noted, it is also important that this be done with care and prudence, with guidance from those in whom Trungpa Rinpoche placed his trust. I especially hope that the Vidyadhara's teachings and *terma* can be propagated in a way that fosters harmony among all his students, old and new, and at all levels of connection to his mandalas.

If I can be of any assistance in this important work, I would be happy to help in whatever way I can.

With Appreciation and Blessings,

Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche  
Nalanda West, Seattle, WA  
March 3, 2021