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Shechen Rabjam Gyurme Chokyi Senge

Thekchog Chokling
Satsam Chorten
Paro, Bhutan

March 2, 2021

Dear Lady Diana,

Old friends, and new students on the path of the spiritual lineage of the Vidyadhara Trungpa Rinpoche,

As someone who, thanks to the unfathomable kindness of my supreme refuge, Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche, my grandfather and root master, has met many other great masters, including the XVI Karmapa, the XIV Dalai Lama, and Kyapje Trulshik Rinpoche, I was fortunate to meet Trungpa Rinpoche several times in my youth and I have remained close to his disciples over the years. I have been fully aware, during all these years, of how close Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche and Trungpa Rinpoche were. They formed profound spiritual links in Tibet, when Khyentse Rinpoche bestowed a month-long series of empowerments from important collections of teachings in Surmang

After both Khyentse Rinpoche and Trungpa Rinpoche fled the invasion of Tibet, they met in the early days of their exile in Bhutan and later in the USA at the invitation of the Vidyadhara. After the Vidyadhara's passing, Khyentse Rinpoche and Trulshik Rinpoche performed the cremation ceremony at Karne Chöling in Vermont where they gave extensive teachings to the Vidyadhara students.

When some troubled times set in within the community of students, I know how concerned Khyentse Rinpoche was about the preservation of the Vidyadhara's lineage. In my efforts to fulfill Khyentse Rinpoche's wishes and aspirations, I have myself forged deep bonds with these disciples over time,

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during several visits to North America and in the east as well when some students came to visit.

I am therefore deeply concerned by and hopeful for the Vidyadhara's lineage. As Lady Diana and senior students have often pointed out, the Vidyadhara's teaching has manifested in different forms to address the needs and disposition of students from all over the world. One of the key points of his lineage is the union of the Kagyu and Nyingma traditions and practice, as he was an important lineage holder in both traditions and took great care to incorporate both in his teachings.

Despite this apparent diversity the ultimate goal — to gain freedom from delusion and suffering — remains the same. To fulfill this goal, it is essential that all aspects of the Vidyadhara's varied approaches and teaching remain authentic and faithful to their source. The teacher and the teachings do not come out of nowhere. They are deeply rooted in a long and unbroken spiritual lineage as a safeguard of their authenticity.

I therefore humbly advise and request all the disciples and followers of Trungpa Rinpoche's teachings and lineage to unite their efforts to preserve the essence of authenticity throughout all the various manifestations of his dharma activity.

With my warmest wishes and deepest prayers,


Shechen Rabjam 