

Invitation to the Dakini Journey

Becoming an Immense and Benevolent Ambassador to the World

I feel there is no better time in our lives to be here. It all depends on our own mind. Of course, physically we are not close so to speak, in person. But it's all about the mind. When I ask or when we are asked to visualize something, we do our best to make that happen. Our mind is inconceivable or has unimpeded capacity to make that happen.

This appearance, we solidify, sometimes called phenomena or external existence. Everything, everything is the appearance of your mind, no? Is there anything outside of your mind, out there, separate from you? If so, search for it. Look for it. Everything is your mind, appearance, perception of your mind. Machik said, "all gods and demons are basically your own mind." Therefore, we can do something about them. Whatever we are experiencing right now, phenomena, we can respond and take responsibility to respond to that. So, I hope, I think, I believe you are here for that - to become an ambassador, ambassador of immense and benevolent presence in the world.

Today, we're going to jump into the river of unbroken current of blessing. Initially, it's so good to contemplate, remember, recall how fortunate we are to be here, this opportunity, fortune which our own life presents - how much we've got. It's not about how much we lack. No, we've got everything. Then we have this extra "thing" which is this candle or the fire or the flame at your heart center which brought you here, each of you. All these candle flames have started to ignite already. So, let's keep it burning and see if we can illuminate the darkness of the world.

Just take a moment to pause. It's always nice to connect with what's here. If you like you can rest in the joy or gratitude of being in this present moment, at this time, this particular time of history or lifetime. The moment has come.

Your body is a temple which holds this indwelling holy sacredness, this present awareness. I just invite you to feel into that, in this holy temple of your body, stream of river runs in the center which holds the jewel.

In that holy temple of your body-mind complex, gently bring your attention to your back body. What's there? Perhaps lengthen your body, straighten your body. Then breathe into your back body. Do you feel the support coming from behind

you – somebody, your teachers or those people who you've met, sentient beings, living beings? They're the supporters who brought you here to this moment.

So, today I want you to imagine and or just have a sense of it, you're not alone. All this back-up support is behind you. Especially like between the shoulder blade, the root of the heart, behind that, somebody is putting their palm there, like this - encouraging, inspiring, energizing and supporting you. That also helps brighten the candlelight at your heart center – inspiration, grace, blessing, consciousness, awareness, a unique expression of who you are as an ambassador of that immense presence.

I feel so grateful and appreciation for each of you to be here and to dive into this stream of blessing which has been very thin but pure like snow melted water. When my teacher came to the West his sole purpose was to drop that pure water into this barbarian land of the West. I hope I can or we can, all of us can delight our Masters' heart.

For that, let's establish a strong motivation, motivation of renunciation. Yesterday we talked a little bit about what that is, entails, what it means for each of us. It's not about giving up chocolate, nothing like that. It's about this orientation, our life orientation, this freedom, freedom from suffering, freedom from the unfixable way of approaching things. That's called renunciation.

This is the best time, best time to do that. The world or the universe is supporting us to be able to do that. Before we were kind of, okay, standing on the cliff, but still we had expectations for this unfixable, so called samsara. Now we come to the point where we joyfully, happily go for freedom and awakening - complete full manifestation of what's possible. And bodhicitta, this complete total openness of our heart. We exchange [self for others]. No longer are we concerned about only our small island of self. Our heart moves towards all beings, not only human beings, non-humans, seen and unseen, enemy and friend, stranger, no separation.

This bodhicitta mind is innate and indwelling. That's who you are. You are love. You are compassion. You are this immense openness, openness of your heart, mind. Just we have this blockage that is smudged by all these habitual patterns and social conditions and so forth. We are here to see if we can drop some of them and let the bodhicitta shine through you, this temple, holy, sacred temple.

Then this view, ultimate view, how things exist - this fundamental root cause or source of suffering, we really dive into the core of the problem. There are many

ways to say it. One way to say it is this complete misunderstanding. We are completely deluded. So, we look to see if that's true. We have been living based on assumptions and projection or inherited the idea from whomever before us came.

But now we met the Dharma, we met teachers and we met the Lineage, river of blessings which entail all the Masters of awakening. We are following the footsteps of awakened sages. All those sages or yogis, yoginis, buddhas and bodhisattvas saying, see if you can put that to the test, if that's true or not. So, we're going to go into this ultimate view as well, emptiness.

So, those three things, those I want you to put in your provision bag for today's pilgrimage. Renunciation, which is the determination to be free, a complete, compassionate thing you can do for yourself, the best thing you can do, this attitude towards yourself. Then, complete openness of your heart, bodhicitta. And the wisdom of emptiness, complete interconnectedness. We are completely interconnected, no? Therefore, there is no such thing as a substantial, solidified entity. That's called emptiness, emptiness of inherent existence. And because it's empty, we connect. So, those few, just put in your provision bag. Then we are set to go with this candle at your heart center.