

DECONSTRUCTING THE MANDALA

Yesterday I took apart more of our dharma center, this time what we call the “Rinpoche Room,” the room that over the last 30 years or so many great Rinpoches came and stayed. That whole time period was unique, a one-of-a-kind period of time, after the diaspora of the Tibetan rinpoches from Tibet and before they reestablished themselves at this or that monastery or facility outside of Tibet. Today such a gather of great teachers would practically impossible.

Yet, back then they were available for travel and freely travelled in both America and Europe, not to mention of course India, Bhutan, and so forth. You had to be a legitimate center (which we were: the Heart Center KTC) and you had to invite them, which we did.

Among the many rinpoches and teachers that visited our center were H.E. Tai Situ Rinpoche (twice), H.E. Shamar Rinpoche (for about a week), Ponlop Rinpoche (almost a month), Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso Rinpoche, Thrangu Rinpoche, Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche, Bardor Tulku Rinpoche, Lama Namse, and our course Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche (our teacher, many times.) Also, many lamas from our own monastery, including, Lama Karma Drodhul, Lama Lodro Lhamo, Lama Tsultrim Gyaltsen, Lama Kathy Wesley, Lama Tsultrim Yeshe, Lama Karma Wangmo, Lama Gelongma Karuna Tara, and others.

And of course some western teachers like John Myrdhin Reynolds, Ken McLeod, and many wonderful translators, most notably Yeshe Gyamtso,

So, it was with mixed emotions that yesterday I carefully deconstructed what we call the “Rinpoche Room,” packing some 46 boxes of dharma books, and taking down the bookcases, and so on. Friends of ours used to come and sleep in the Rinpoche room just for the dreams they had there, so you get the idea.

Am I nostalgic? I’m not really the nostalgic type. The present and the future concern me more than the past, even though I spent my working life archiving and preserving our popular culture: music, film, astrology, etc.

I did so much packing and cut myself on cardboard and paper cuts that I can hardly use my hands and fingers, so I am taking a day off.

[Here is a photograph of the Rinpoche Room before deconstruction.]

“As Bodhicitta is so precious,
May those without it now create it,
May those who have it not destroy it,
And may it ever grow and flourish”

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