



**KARMÉ DHARMA CHAKRA**  
Communauté monastique bouddhiste

*A few questions were raised concerning the new function of Lama Jigme Rinpoche as the general secretary of the 17<sup>th</sup> Gyalwa Karmapa Thaye Dorje; Lama Jigme Rinpoche wished to make the following clarifications public. It is the transcript of the explanations he gave in January 2012 to the volunteers in Dhagpo Kagyu Ling concerning his new task and his coming schedule.*

“This year I went to the Kagyu Mönlam, and Karmapa asked me to take the job of general secretary. I do not know exactly if this word fits with this function in relation with Gyalwa Karmapa. I do not know if he had planned this before but suddenly, one day, he asked me to take this position in front of the staff. I wanted to talk to all of you, to explain the situation because some people think that I will be staying here, some other think that I will have to stay in India, and some begin to worry. Please, do not worry so much! That is the reason why I thought that I should talk to you and explain what the function is about.

Depending on the time, my feeling is that it is not necessary that I move to India because half of the work is to be done here and the other half in India and I think that it is not necessary to change things. However, I think that we will have more work to do, it is quite normal.

It is difficult for me to predict exactly the schedule implied by the function but I have already organized my schedule for 2012. At the beginning of February, I will go to India and will stay there until the end of March.

I will be back in April for the teachings in Dhagpo. As I feel better, I received many requests for teachings, so I have to go to Spain [beginning of April]. Actually five/six years ago I used to visit different places regularly. Afterwards, I will come back in Dhagpo mid-April. In May I will return to Asia as Karmapa will be travelling in different countries, I will thus have to be with him. As it is the very beginning, it is necessary to develop things there.

Afterwards, I will be back in Europe in June until September 20<sup>th</sup>. In September, I will go to Bhutan, I do this trip regularly as I have work to do there and I will stay in Asia until December 20<sup>th</sup>. Maybe I should be there for about three months. I will come back here for the Christmas teachings.

I am not sure about my schedule for 2013, I can't say what will happen. Anyway, you can see that I am not leaving from here completely, my schedule shows some absences, but I will reduce my travels in the



**KARMÉ DHARMA CHAKRA**  
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European Centres. Indeed, before 2005, I toured all the countries' centres everywhere, but I think that this has to be reduced. However, I will continue to visit some important centres in Europe.

Now you know my schedule for 2012 and you can understand when I will be present here and there. If you remember the early times, it is almost the same type of travelling schedule, as I used to go to all the centres in Europe and I would be absent several weeks every few months. Afterwards, when I had health problems, I did not leave much and would spent more time in Dhagpo, but I did not have so much to do actually. Now is a new start and I try to reinsure you and explain that I will not be that much absent "psychologically".

Each time that I meet people they ask me: what is the function of general secretary ?

One part of the function is linked personally with Gyalwa Karmapa, another part is linked with centres and monasteries. The second aspect of the function is linked with the Karma Kagyu centres and the general Kagyu centres and another aspect is related to the Tibetan people, for schools for example. A last aspect is connected to the Himalayan region. So there are different circles concerning this function.

The aspect personally related to Gyalwa Karmapa was in the past linked with Rumtek, but nowadays Rumtek is more or less closed by the government. The Karma Kagyu is divided now and Rumtek is under military control but there is an exiled community of more than a hundred monks. There is also a *shedra* in Kalimpong, and a young children school called Takdha, and other things are planned that I will not present here. There is also KIBI in India where students aim at obtaining the recognition of University able to deliver degrees, this is in preparation. KIBI has a monastic and lay structures. Related with Gyalwa Karmapa there is Dhagpo Kagyu Ling and Kundreul Ling, the Karmapa Institute, Montchardon, Möhra, several centres under the Karmapa's authority. We do not mention all the small centres like the KTTs. So there is this first circle where the Karmapa can take decisions by himself.

There are also Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and we are unsure about the number of centres in these countries.

Another circle is made of all the lamas linked with Gyalwa Karmapa. Indeed, they have monasteries and centres which are linked to His Holiness but with individual and autonomous administrations.



**KARMÉ DHARMA CHAKRA**  
Communauté monastique bouddhiste

All that was presented so far was about the Karma Kagyu but we also have to relate to the other Kagyu schools: Drukpa, Drikung and Taklung. There used to be relations with them but due to the controversy, everything is somewhat disconnected on both sides. In the past, there used to be connections that now need to be restored.

Another circle includes the Geluk, Nyingma, Sakya and Bönpo traditions that are also linked with Gyalwa Karmapa, I am not saying that they are part of the Karma Kagyu lineage but there is a need for a relationship with His Holiness.

Then there is another circle with lots of people in Lhadak, Bhutan, Sikkim, in the Himalayan regions there are lots of connections.

All these things have to function properly, many have to be rebuilt. Many things exist already, there has been many connections in the past but the contacts have been lost and my job is to restore these connections. This is quite some work to do, so we have to build lots of teams, to exchange work, and it has to be done properly. It is a bit complicated, and it is a huge work.

In some cases it has to be completely taken care of, in other cases it is only relationships that have to be improved and in other cases it is just communication that is needed. This is what the job is about. That is just what I wanted to tell you and how I will spend time for this function of general secretary. This year, things are clear as to my schedule but we will see about my program for next year.

*Questions/Answers:*

*Q: Has Dhagpo a role to play in that, and how should we support this?*

*Lama Jigme Rinpoche:* What we have to do is support the XVI<sup>th</sup> Karmapa's wishes and we have to finish this task. Afterwards the question is how to develop?

More or less everything is properly finished except the meditation hall and a proper centre here. Then the next question is how to develop inside, I think that Gyalwa Karmapa will take the decision on how we should develop.

I think also that we have to make good contacts with the people who come here for the teachings and who connect to Dharma that is to say everyone who comes to follow teachings and to practice. We need a proper communication. Linked with the lamas and the organization altogether, we have to support the Ktts and centres related with Dhagpo, we do this already and so we have to continue.



**KARMÉ DHARMA CHAKRA**  
Communauté monastique bouddhiste

Then, in order to finish the building and take care of accommodations for the residents and for the reception, several things have to be done. These things will take some years I think. First we start with the building, we support all the centres, we try to communicate so that everybody could help for the construction with mainly financial support for the moment. There are several things we could do, but we have to think about what to do exactly and we need exchange between us in Dhagpo, Landrevillage and the KTTs. We need to find ways of helping each other, there are many solutions at hand.

This year, Gyalwa Karmapa will come, we thus need to improve our communication with the public so that more people can connect with him. We need to try to extend the activity of His Holiness. We must think about this and how to do it. Everywhere in the world they do it, we should also try to do it in a similar way to increase our support. We need to find a good method for communication and presentation. As you asked how to support, I think that this is the main way to support Gyalwa Karmapa's activity.

*Q: Who has the capacities to support Gyalwa Karmapa's activity in terms of communication?*

*Lama Jigme Rinpoche:* It is important to do it all together, otherwise a few people cannot do everything. If everyone comes together, a lot of strength is created.

*Q: But somebody has to give the impulse?*

*Lama Jigme Rinpoche:* No, we should go together, that is my feeling. A single person cannot push everybody, each person needs to find the motivation, vision and strength, and if everyone puts it together, it grows.

*Q: But that requires a common strength. What kind of tools can help to develop this?*

*Lama Jigme Rinpoche:* A better communication between people would be a tool, then all the people who live in the Dhagpo area, in Dordogne, would put efforts into the projects. If there is not a proper communication, then each person thinks that everything is ok and only few people come and most don't come and do not do anything because they think that everything is ok. Some people want to help but they do not know what to do if they are not informed.

I think it should be like one family, everybody trying to put their effort together, this is important.



**KARMÉ DHARMA CHAKRA**  
Communauté monastique bouddhiste

Then there are few specific topics that need to be supported by everybody. For the practice, I think most people are doing quite well, of course you can do better but for the past few years things have been improving. These aspects are another way to support but these things are quite good already. They are quite advanced, maybe you need more exercise but anyway it is good. However, for the functioning it is starting to improve but more efforts are required still. In the past, there were many separations between the residents and the people who live around DKL, so it was difficult to help each other. Nowadays you are used to meet from time to time, so the basics are already coming, a good basis is starting. You can thus improve this.

*Q: About the communication, are we talking about improving written tools that inform people outside DKL or is it about improving the communication between us and improving our understanding of each other?*

*Lama Jigme Rinpoche:* It is about improving the communication between you, developing better relationships. When you build this, it is also related with the individuals. If we do not have a good system then we do not know how to expand the system, but if you develop a good system, naturally it spreads to other centres.

In the Vajrayana teachings, as we are more or less all Vajrayana practitioners, one always emphasizes communication within the *sangha*, relationship within the *sangha* is very important. I am not talking about something artificial but something rather very natural, a profound relationship. For the relationship to be profound it is always necessary to have a proper exchange. These relationships should take place without ego clinging and should try to support each other, there should be no rumors, criticism and complaints, but one must try to really clarify sincerely all ideas and concepts. Through this, everything comes closer.

Of course you cannot just say that you want to be close, that you want to be nice without a real proper exchange or proper motivation and proper communication. If you do this, everything becomes more proper and well connected. Talking about Vajrayana practices means linked with all the people here but also with all the people who come here to listen to teachings and to practice.

That is what I have been saying before, everybody needs to go in the same direction, in the same way, but we need good communication for this. All the unnecessary things need to be purified or cleaned. But you cannot clean like this, you need a proper communication that naturally cleans.”