

A VERY RARE EVENT IN ANN ARBOR

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I have worked with the Ven. Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche for almost thirty years, ever since he came to me in a dream and the dream actually came true. He proceeded to manifest in my life as an actual living person. What a surprise! I posted this story some time ago, and the link is here.

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151123199552658&set=a.110624912657.118041.587252657&type=3>

I cannot convey in words the brilliance, compassion, and sheer kindness that Rinpoche personifies. If I had not experienced it for myself, I would never have believed these qualities existed in the world in one person.

For many years Rinpoche travelled to all of his centers, including our own center, the Heart Center KTC, here in Big Rapids, Michigan.

And we have travelled to hear him teach at the monastery where he is an abbot, Karma Triyana Dharmachakra in the mountains above Woodstock, New York. I have written before that we have made the trip to the monastery enough times to circle the equator of the Earth one and one-half times, and then some.

Time passes, and we are all growing older. Rinpoche is now 89 years of age, yet still traveling to Nepal, to Taiwan, and every once in a while to a place near where we live, in this case to Ann Arbor, Michigan.

A chance to meet Rinpoche, to sit in his presence for even a few minutes is an unforgettable experience. Spending a weekend with him is beyond my imagination, but that is just what is about to happen in Ann Arbor. Rinpoche has decided to visit that center and offer one of the rarest of dharma teachings, plus refuge, and the White Tara empowerment, all in three days. Just meeting and listening to Rinpoche teach would be enough, but there is more.

I have been to more than 500 teachings by Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche, have edited and transcribed scores of others, and even watched a few more being streamed live. Of course, they all were wonderful to experience and take in.

But in my opinion and in my experience the very few times that Rinpoche has given what are called the "Pointing Out Instructions," these are beyond elaboration on my part. They are just profound beyond words. They can be life changing. They were for me.

The “Pointing Out of the True Nature of the Mind” is a rare opportunity to take in the essence of the Vajrayana dharma in a session or two. In Ann Arbor, Michigan, on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 12th, 13th, and 14th at the Ann Arbor KTC at 614 Miner Street, Rinpoche will give a very, very special teaching which I will now tell you something about.

Back in the late 1950s, a few years before the Communist Chinese invaded Tibet, a strange thing took place. There was a khenpo (an abbot) who was teaching at one of the two Surmang monasteries in the province of Kham in Tibet. His name was Khenpo Gangshar. As I understand it, Khenpo Gangshar was taken ill and soon died. However, a few days later he returned to his body and suddenly was alive again, but there was a difference. He was no longer the same person.

Instead, he was brilliantly filled with inspiration and began to teach throughout Kham. It seems he somehow suddenly knew that Tibet would soon be invaded and that learning dharma in the gradual traditional manner would no longer be possible in the coming time. Instead, he said he was infused by certain great teachers while in the bardo (after death) with the pith essence of all of the most profound dharma teachings, and was told to teach this material to all who would listen, which he did.

What he taught is all that anyone might need to become enlightened, but in a nutshell. He taught this not only to monks and at monasteries, but in towns and to anyone he would meet along the road. He was totally inspired. Then, after about three years of teaching, Khenpo Gangshar suddenly changed back to his old personality and never gave the teachings again.

The great Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche and my own teacher Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche (in person) heard and were inspired deeply by these teachings. These teachings have never been taught publically until quite recently.

Khenpo Rinpoche will present the mind instructions of Khenpo Gangshar, called “Naturally Liberating Whatever You Meet” in Ann Arbor on the above mentioned dates.

What can I say? Here is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to meet Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche AND to receive a profound (concise) teaching that has been said to be all that you need to know, and from a great lama. I am sure all of you who live anywhere near Ann Arbor are busy with your lives. But think about it for a moment. What is really important in the long run?

Chances are that an opportunity like this will never arise again in our lifetime, at least not in Michigan, and not with Rinpoche. Margaret and I will be there, even though I have taken this teaching before, and have transcribed the entire teaching word-for-word for all three times that Rinpoche has offered it. That should tell you something. There are no requirements to attend. I am amazed that it is open to the public. It is this teaching that has changed my life and given me a practice that is both doable and works! Take a chance!

Margaret and I will be there for support.

