

RARE LIVE STREAMING DHARMA EVENT AT 10:30 AM EDT SATURDAY APRIL 23rd
April 23, 2011

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<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/kkr-piedmontkrc-2011>

What a treat to see and hear Ven. Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche last night teach teaching live through streaming technology. I have been a student of Rinpoche for almost thirty years and can't properly express the experience of learning from him. He has been to our center here in Big Rapids many, many times and we have travelled to the mountains above Woodstock, NY as often as we can to be with him to hear his teachings. For the last 22 years my wife and I have spent ten days with him each year practicing and listening to his intensive teachings on Mahamudra meditation. Let's see, 22x10... that is about two thirds of a year just on one practice and driving some 35,200 miles. Let me tell you it has been an incredible experience and worth the effort.

So, if you have any time this morning, Saturday April, 23 at 10:30 AM EDT, you can hear him streamed live from the Piedmont KRC in Chapel Hill, NC teaching on "The Perfection of Wisdom." In fact, his streaming schedule for this weekend is as follows:

Sat April 23, 10:30 AM EDT Part 1
Sat April 23, 2:30 PM EDT Part 2
Sun April 24, 10:30 AM EDT Part 3

[Join me here during the live teaching and we can comment]

Rinpoche is 87 years old and was given the title "Choje Lama" (superior dharma master) by His Holiness the 16th Gyalwa Karmapa, who is like the Dalai Lama, but the head of another sect of Tibetan Buddhism. Translating for him is Lama Yeshe Gyamtso, who himself did six years of closed retreat, and is in my opinion a superior dharma translator.

And since it is hours before the teaching and some of you, like me, may get up early, here is the story of how I met Khenpo Rinpoche many years ago.

HOW I MET RINPOCHE

Although I had been studying dharma for many years, it was not until 1983 that I met my root teacher, Ven. Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche. In fact, it was right around Halloween of 1983. Here is the story.

I was living in Big Rapids, Michigan and working at Matrix Software, a business I founded in 1977. I received a call from an old (and close) friend who lived in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He wanted to tell me to come to Ann Arbor and meet this Tibetan teacher he had met that he thought was just great.

From my view, my friend was always meeting wonderful teachers and telling me about them. I assumed this was just another one in a fairly long string of gurus he had found.

I told him that I had no time to drop what I was doing and just come to Ann Arbor. After all, I was

a business man and had business to attend to. I thanked him and promptly forgot all about it.

Then some few days later I awoke from a dream I was having. It was just about dawn. The dream was very intense, more real than life. I dreamed I was driving to Ann Arbor to meet this radiant Asian man and I was happier than I could remember, but I woke up. It was early in the morning. I just sat bolt upright in bed, but the dream was already fading.

I sat there in bed, but with a deep kind of sadness, a sadness that my life had become such that this kind of event (like meeting such a man as in my dream) was not so likely anymore. I was very affected by this thought and resolved to somehow change my life so that spiritual opportunities might again be possible for me.

First off, I decided that I was not going to work that day. Period. I needed a day off from business and I called my friend (woke him up) and said I was coming to Ann Arbor to see this man he told me about and that I had a dream about him. He told me that it was too late. The man, a Tibetan Rinpoche, was leaving Ann Arbor for Columbus, Ohio in just a few hours and it was about a 3-hour trip from Big Rapids to Ann Arbor. My hopes fell but I had already made up my mind to break the routine.

I said I was coming anyway, whether the man was there not and I grabbed my wife (who had a similar dream that same night), kids, and toothbrushes in hand we jumped in the car and were off to Ann Arbor, no breakfast, etc. It was like that.

As it turned out the Rinpoche was still there and my friend had gone down to the main street we would come in on and was flagging us up the proper drive. As I drove up to the house, sitting on the front steps was a young Tibetan man, handsome, with dark black hair. I was taken aback. This was not the man in my dreams, and I was for the moment somewhat confused.

My friend explained that the man I saw on the steps was the translator and that Rinpoche was inside, waiting for us. Inside we went and, sure enough, there was the man from my dream, smiling at me and just radiant.

We only saw Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche for a few minutes that morning and then he was into a car and off to another center, but those moments changed our lives.

For several days afterward, my wife and I wandered through our life in kind of a dream state, one filled with compassion and we were spontaneously kind to everyone we met. How unlike me! We were filled with some kind of grace that we received from meeting Khenpo Rinpoche and transported to some wonderful realm. This of course, gradually wore off, leaving us with the desire to see Rinpoche again and to take refuge at the earliest opportunity, which we did. That is how I met Khenpo Karthar Rinpoche.

Photo by Michael Erlewine



