



Message from Lama Zopa Rinpoche on 29 December 2008

Dear Geshe-la and Sanghas who are looking for virtue and liberation, who are learning Dharma to help oneself and others, dear Laura and all my dear Dharma brothers and sisters,

When we invited His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the land in Bodhgaya for the Maitreya statue, to participate in the Puja for 1,000 offerings to Maitreya, His Holiness at that time said that we would succeed in building the statue. After the Puja when everyone had left the land, the huge thangka of Maitreya and all the altar with thangkas around caught fire and everything was burned and destroyed completely. All that was left was an image of Guru Shakyamuni Buddha. Immediately upon hearing this, His Holiness's ritual attendant said that everyone had taken it as an auspicious sign. Ribur Rinpoche also said that it was an auspicious sign.

I think what has happened at Lama Tsong Khapa Institute with the blazing fire destroying the Gompa is an auspicious sign - that you have overcome all the problems by this blazing fire. Anyway I thought Lama Tsong Khapa Gompa was strange even though it was blessed by so many high lamas such as His Holiness Ling Rinpoche and Tsong Rinpoche. Even there was so much work and effort done for this Gompa. The burning of it gives us the opportunity to build an Enlightened Gompa and for the encouraging Gompa not [to be used as] a place to eat pizza and mozzarella. We definitely need a very beautiful Gompa that becomes an encouragement to everyone, to the depressed people, to the people who believe 'I am helpless', to everyone something which brings greatest joy and fulfillment in the heart.

It is also a teaching to us on impermanence. Do not hold on to things which are impermanent, which are a dependent arising, like the butter lamp depends on causes and conditions, like lightning, like a water bubble, like clouds, also like a star in the day time, like the defective view of the senses ... an illusion, a dream, all this was said by Buddha.

We recite these lines every day; we should realize that the Gompa was causative phenomena - something that was, but is not now.

Thank you very much and big love to everyone. I am waiting to see the wonderful beautiful nice new Gompa. Thank you very much. Grazi.

I am going to try and come see you soon.

When the new Gompa is complete we will invite His Holiness to teach in the new Gompa. Maybe we can invite Geshe Jampa Gyatso's incarnation.

Much love and prayer,

Lama Zopa.