



Advice from the Tradition

October 22-24, 2013

Bodh Gaya

Day One: Opening Speech by Dzongsar Khyentse Rinpoche, 84000 Chair

(Speech in Tibetan, Translated into English)

First of all, I offer my deepest gratitude to Dungse Rinpoche, Samdhong Rinpoche, Khechen Pema Sherab and Sempa Dorji La for attending this conference. The idea of this project was conceived while having a meal at a restaurant in Kathmandu, when Tulku Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche told me that such a vision was necessary. Until then I had never had such a thought. Having realized the importance of such a vision, we immediately made the initial preparation and hence this project came into being. So I consider this conference to seek advice and guidance very important.

I consider this project to translate the words of the Buddha important, both as a follower of the Buddha and as a human being living in this world, both in terms of spiritual and worldly values. I believe, even though it's not too late to translate Kangyur and other teachings of the Buddha, we are not ahead of time. Therefore, this time, although we don't have very many days, we must receive advice and guidance from the Rinpoches just as pouring water from one vase to another. In the same manner, I would like to request Rinpoches and the scholars to give us as much advice and guidance as possible.

Facilitating Harmonious Conditions for Dharma Study and Practice

2,500 years have passed since Buddha Shakyamuni entered into parinirvana. In one sense, this is believed to be a degenerated age. However, due to the unceasing aspiration of buddhas and bodhisattvas, there still has been a continuous stream of people who have faith and interest in Buddha and his teachings. Moreover, people who show faith and interest in Buddha and his teachings are those we have never heard of in the past. Being followers of Lord Buddha, we must facilitate harmonious conditions for those people to study and practice Buddha's teachings. I believe the best form of harmonious condition is to transmit the teachings as much as possible. I think it's the most precious source of benefit.

Translation Ensures Longevity of Buddhadharma

Another point is, I believe that one means of ensuring the flourishing and longevity of buddhadharma is to translate the words of the Buddha into the individual languages of the followers. For instance, Buddha's teachings and Buddhist traditions can still be seen in traditional Buddhist countries such as Japan, China, Thailand and Sri Lanka, and I believe this is because they have the basis to study and learn Buddhism in their own language.

If we consider Tibet, because the successive Dharma kings, lotsawas and panditas spent all their wealth, human resource, majesty and authority to translate the teachings of Buddha into Tibetan language, people have enjoyed and can enjoy the wealth of buddhadharma if one's merit and diligence can afford. Considering all these factors, I see that translating the words of Buddha into modern languages is very important. Since the inception of *84000: Translating the Words of the Buddha*, we have organized many workshops and conferences. However, this is the most important one, so I request all senior scholars to give us detailed advice and comments.