



Advice from the Tradition

October 22-24, 2013

Bodh Gaya

Day Three: Concluding Remarks from His Eminence Ratna Vajra Rinpoche

(Speech in Tibetan, Translated into English)

Need to Take the Risk of Translating the Buddha's Words

We have mentioned about the risk of translating the Buddha's words, and also some questions came up like whether it is too early or too late. Of course, there is a risk, and if you don't take the risk then it won't work. We have to take the risk by thinking of the benefit that will come out of taking that risk.

To give an example, when a farmer does farming and when crops have grown, there is always the fear of "what if there is a hailstorm" or "what if the rain doesn't come on time." That kind of fear is always there. Also, there is always the danger or risk of failed crops. However, if thinking of and fearing that risk, one doesn't do the farming, then one cannot reap the benefit out of it, there is no possibility of getting good crops. For someone who is not a farmer, whether the rainfall comes in time or not, it doesn't matter much. For a farmer, despite these obstacles that may come in the process of growing crops, if the farmer persists in growing the crops, then there is a possibility of reaping good crops.

When it comes to the practice of tantra compared to bodhisattva practice, it is said in the scriptures that there are more advantages in tantric practice. At the same time, there are more dangers. Now, if you don't practice tantra just because there are more dangers, then it is wrong. Because we lose the possibility of achieving, or there is no hope for us to achieve the state of Vajradhāra. Therefore despite having those dangers, by taking risk and practicing, this would provide us with the possibility of achieving the state of Vajradhāra.

In the same way, in translating the words of the Buddha, if you leave the work aside just because there are risks, just because there are disadvantages to this work, then it won't do because the teachings of the Lord Buddha need to remain for a long time for the benefit of sentient beings. When we actually translate the words of the Buddha into English, there is a greater possibility for the Dharma to remain for a long time. There is also a greater possibility for the existence of Dharma holders in the long run.

Important to Produce Translations of Good Quality

As I mentioned before about not entirely or solely relying upon dictionaries, to understand the context in which the terms are and accordingly translated, that is very important. I wish to remind you again, when we translate we should not give too much priority to finish it within this time, because the

quality of translation is what is important. Even though it may take a long time, if we can produce a translation of good quality, that will benefit more. Tom mentioned that the editorial committee is quite open to different ways of translation. In this regard, I would like to say of course, if the translation is good, then less effort will be needed for another edition and so forth. However, if the translation is not so good, then again it is important to have some kind of standard quality in terms of translation. So therefore, it is important to have that control from the side of the editorial board.

Conclusion

I really appreciate the project of 84000 in making the teachings of Lord Buddha available to everybody, everywhere. This is very important because the Buddha's teaching is the source of all kinds benefit and happiness. Personally from my side, you have all my support. I totally support this and I will support according to my ability.

To remind you of the project of the concise Tibetan dictionary, a kind of big dictionary project started by Geshe Lobsang Monlam. In that, there will be terms which are related to the Sakya tradition and doctrines. Because we are already compiling a dictionary of Sakya terms, in that respect, if there is any support needed from our side, I am willing to provide that.

Finally, I wish success for this project and also for the long life of His Holiness Dalai Lama as well as all the lineage holders of all traditions, and the flourishing of all the enlightened activities, and under that may this like project also become a huge success. That is my sincere hope and prayer.