

Introduction to the Online Yamantaka Series

By H.E. Garchen Rinpoche in January 2024

These films were made for Yamantaka practitioners. Yamantaka's practice lineage of blessings is unbroken, tracing back to Rigdzin Chötrak, and as such, holds a special place in the Drikung Kagyu tradition. I, too, carry this unbroken stream of blessings within me, a lineage endowed with the warmth of blessings.

To preserve this unbroken lineage, I have dedicated myself to spreading the Yamantaka practice far and wide. Many have deeply resonated with it and feel a profound desire to engage in this practice. These films were made in response to such interest.

The purpose of these films extends into the future. When I'm physically here, you may think, "he is here," and say, "Garchen Rinpoche is here." Do not think that Garchen Rinpoche is present in this way. I'm no one special, but I know the nature of the mind and that it never dies; I'm together with the deity.

As you follow the videos, remember that we are together, lama and disciple, now and in the future. These videos serve as a channel for you to see the nature of buddha-essence, which, when understood, imbues your practice with blessings and power, and the ability to benefit others.

During your practice, you may encounter various obstacles. This is due to the profound nature of this practice. Obstacles tend to increase as teachings become more profound. Longchen Rabjam said in the Treasury of Pith Instructions, "Obstacles arise just before siddhis are attained." Milarepa said that obstacles themselves are siddhis in disguise, or manifestations thereof. Therefore, face these obstacles with patience, knowing that suffering serves to cleanse karmic imprints. Maintain equanimity amidst favorable circumstances and unpleasant challenges, and persevere in the practice!

These films were made to ensure the continuity of this lineage. For those practicing online, don't worry if you lack any offerings or tormas; everything seen in the recordings is present because offerings created by the mind are superior to material

offerings. Practicing in this way, alongside the recordings, we are together. My presence in the online recordings, as seen on the screen, is a true reflection of who I am. You can see my body right now, but it is impermanent, a compounded phenomenon. My mind is everlasting; it cannot die, transcending birth and death. Through my direct experience of the nature of the mind, I know that it exists beyond birth and death.

The purpose of these films is to offer reassurance that you may continue to practice this also in the future and for you to cultivate trust. It aligns with the words of the Buddha and the scriptures, so have no doubts. Anyone can engage in this practice by themselves or with other disciples. Practicing with these videos also benefits the practitioners in the films since our mind, buddha-nature, transcends birth and death; we are one. Please continue to practice it diligently!

I offer these words to encourage you to trust in the practice. Thank you!

May we be inseparable from the guru! Lord Jigten Sumgon said, "I, a yogin, have realized the unity of the guru's mind, my own mind, and the Buddha's mind. I have no need for superficial devotion, for I, the yogin, find joy in effortless being. This joy is a gift of the guru's kindness."

Tashi Delek, dear Dharma friends! Our minds are united across the three times. In our connection, there is neither meeting nor parting. Without coming together, there can be no separation.

By H.E. Garchen Rinpoche

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