

An Accurate Account of the Parinirvana of H.H. Getse Rinpoche

This account of the passing of His Holiness Getse Rinpoche is being written down only to be able to ease the minds and hearts of the disciples who are left behind. Lingtrul Rinpoche and Lama Chonam are in Nepal now and have been able to learn the background to His Holiness Getse Rinpoche's Parinirvana. It is important that we all have a chance to know what happened to our Master.

The day before the accident occurred, Rinpoche told his small but trustworthy group of disciple attendants that if he were to die they should not disturb his body at all. He was against having any intervention and said that the usual types of actions are disturbing to one's meditation at that crucial time. They all took this as an important teaching.

Then on the day of his passing, Rinpoche refused to travel by car down to Adzom Monastery, and also refused to walk down on the car road. Rinpoche wanted to go on an alternate trail, which is quite treacherous. After walking down a ways with only one attendant, they reached an area that was particularly dangerous. The attendant asked Rinpoche to turn back and Rinpoche scolded him saying, "You are so attached to your corporeal body." The attendant insisted on going first and went down a little further, and then suddenly he turned around and Rinpoche was rolling down the hill. Rinpoche had apparently lost his footing and had a fatal fall. Recalling the instructions that he was not to be touched or disturbed at the moment of death, the distraught attendant watched as Rinpoche struggled to lift himself up twice in order to sit upright and rest in pristine awareness. Then, after the second time, He slumped back down and Rinpoche closed his eyes and He was gone.

The attendant called for help and the other monks eventually arrived there. After not disturbing Rinpoche for some time, in the dark they hoisted Rinpoche's body up the hill and returned Rinpoche to his bedroom. They placed Rinpoche in the Lions posture and covered him with his monk's robes.

Presently, Rinpoche's sacred Kaya is in the Adzom Monastery in Pharping Nepal and the traditional puja ceremonies are beginning to be carried out.

This account was composed by Sangye Khandro, as told to her by Lingtrul Rinpoche and Lama Chonam, and lightly edited by Scott Globus, Nov. 24, 2018.