



BODHI PATH[®]
BUDDHIST CENTERS

To: The Bodhi Path Community

From: The Bodhi Path Assistants Worldwide

LETTER OF INTEREST TO THE BODHI PATH COMMUNITY

Dear Friends of the Bodhi Path Community,

During the 49 days of mourning that followed Shamar Rinpoche's passing, many of us engaged in an evolving process of deep reflection about Rinpoche's life and activities. Some have wondered what happens to Bodhi Path now that Rinpoche is no longer with us in an embodied form. We, the Bodhi Path Assistants, would like to share with you our understanding and vision of Bodhi Path centers at this important time.

For many of us, reflecting on Rinpoche's life involves recognizing and appreciating the vastness of his generosity, and the wisdom and skillfulness of his activities. Bodhi Path is one of Rinpoche's great accomplishments, marking a key manifestation of his wishes to help sentient beings in contemporary society.

Rinpoche poured his energy into establishing our centers by developing our curriculum, training our teachers, and establishing our methods of operations. He has left Bodhi Path in a strong, stable position. In addition, it is evident to us that, through his wisdom, Rinpoche devised and cultivated Bodhi Path precisely so that it could function without him.

Bodhi Path is not a centralized organization. Each center is established in a self-sustaining fashion, with its own organizational structure, coordinators chosen with Rinpoche's blessing, and access to qualified teachers whom he trained. Rinpoche provided very specific guidelines about what it means to be a Bodhi Path center, leaving mechanisms in place for ensuring that his vision for Bodhi Path is properly realized and followed on each continent, and at each center.

Rinpoche devoted tremendous energy to developing a curriculum that transmits the authentic Buddhist teachings in a manner suited to the conditions and needs of people living in contemporary secular society. Bodhi Path's curriculum emerged out of Rinpoche's years of experience teaching in modern society, and his identification of what he felt were the most effective ways to transmit authentic Dharma in each culture and context. Rinpoche has given us a non-sectarian curriculum that is open to people from all traditions and walks of life, and which emphasizes the pure Dharma apart from the cultural context in which it developed in the Himalayas.

In order to realize his curriculum, Rinpoche devoted continuous energy into training and nurturing teachers for Bodhi Path centers. He appointed teachers to guide centers on a residential and regional basis, and requested others to travel to centers on a periodic basis. In addition, Rinpoche has identified and invited key Rinpoches and Khenpos who understand his vision for Bodhi Path and who are dedicated to this path and committed to teaching at Bodhi Path centers. The teachers he has chosen to guide Bodhi Path centers are uncommonly gifted and qualified, and collectively represent one of the jewels Bodhi Path has to offer the world.

Fitting this organizational structure, Rinpoche appointed and cultivated a team of administrative Assistants that span each global region of Bodhi Path's reach, including Europe, USA & Canada, Latin America, and East Asia. Each group of Assistants operates independently, facilitating activities among the centers in their region in order to help guide activities according to Rinpoche's vision. The Assistants from each region communicate with each other on a regular basis to share experiences and address issues that cut across regions. The mission of the Assistants continues to be to facilitate and coordinate cross-center activities. Rinpoche has empowered the Assistants to undertake our activities on behalf of his vision, and these organizational activities continue going forward as they have been for many years.

Rinpoche also took steps during his lifetime to help safeguard the proper use of the Bodhi Path name and identity. This effort, along with the Bodhi Path guidelines, work together to promote the proper use of the Bodhi Path identity in ways that are consistent with Rinpoche's vision.

It is quite evident that Rinpoche built Bodhi Path to outlast his own lifetime, and to thrive in the years ahead. We are inspired by his wisdom and compassion in manifesting this organization and proud to be a part of Rinpoche's enduring legacy.

While many may ask for clarity and certainty about the road ahead, Rinpoche has taught us that the only thing we can count on is change. In time new questions will surely arise, and while we cannot anticipate what they will be, we are confident in our collective abilities to find solutions and seek guidance wherever and whenever necessary. We continue to operate with the blessing of H.H. Karmapa Thaye Dorje and the ongoing support of many other teachers.

We look forward to continuing our efforts with you, the Bodhi Path community, as we make the most of the many gifts Shamar Rinpoche has given us.

With Warm Regards,
The Bodhi Path Assistants Worldwide
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