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<https://kagyuoffice.org/special-address-by-the-gyalwang-karmapa-for-the-37th-kagyu-monlam-in-bodhgaya/>

Extracts from Ogyen Dorje's speech during the Mönlam ceremonies in Bodhgaya, February 2020

"I would also like to take this opportunity to say a few words about my own situation. I have been staying in a sort of retreat. My health has improved, I have lost some weight, and I am certainly happy. What I would primarily like to explain today are the two things I would like to accomplish or do while in retreat."

So did Ogyen Dordje say in USA by a video link to the congregation at the Mönlam ceremonies in Bodhgaya, India. He did not say, how a 'sort of retreat' could be anything like a proper retreat, a half open retreat nor an open retreat. But it seems that he has meditated and contemplated a lot. Also, he does not seem to be afflicted by depression or sadness. He says that he is happy. This is very good. USA seems to have been a good residence for him.

He continued:

"The second thing is that while I am abroad, opportunities to meet with Gyalwa Thaye Dorje are a little easier. I have now met with him twice. During the first meeting, we got to know each other and established trust. Our second meeting was about the topic of Kunzik Shamar Rinpoche's reincarnation. On that occasion, we collaborated to write a long life prayer for Shamar Rinpoche together. There were primarily two reasons for writing it.

The first is that it has been about five years since Shamar Rinpoche passed away, so the reincarnation has probably already been reborn. Thus, if we think about the signs and connections, it is better to recite a long life prayer than to continue reciting the prayer for his swift rebirth, so we wrote the prayer.

The second is that in the future, it is extremely important that Shamar Rinpoche's reincarnation be recognized without any mistake or confusion, without any 'our side' or 'their side.' Having a unanimous recognition is absolutely crucial for Buddhism in general and our lineage in particular, and with this in mind, Gyalwa Thaye Dorje and I intend to cooperate in the search and recognition. The prayer illustrates that commitment."

This part of the speech could indicate, that Ogyen Dorje is not convinced, that indeed Karmapa Thaye Dorje's son *Thugsey* is the new 15th Tulku of Shamarpa. Maybe so, but all indications about the child Thugsey have pointed to this boy as the incarnation of Shamarpa. By co-writing a prayer, Ogyen Dorje seems to recognise Thugsey as the Shamarpa. But of course, no one has in fact appointed Thugsey yet. The little boy is too young, so years will pass, before we shall hear about him.

Ogyen Dorje continued:

“Generally, my taking interest in Shamar Rinpoche's reincarnation is a way to follow the example of Gyalwang Rigpe Dorje's activity. This is because the 10th Shamar Chödrup Gyatso was accused of leading the Gorkha [Nepali] armies into Tibet in the eighteenth century. When he passed away, the Tibetan government [and the Manchu Emperor of China] prohibited the enthronement of reincarnations of the Shamar Rinpoche. For over 170 years, the reincarnations of Shamar Rinpoche could not be publicly recognised.

Then, after fleeing to India in 1959, the 16th Karmapa requested permission from His Holiness the Dalai Lama to recognize and enthrone Shamar Rinpoche. Among all of the great lamas, contemporary or past, who have upheld the teachings of the Kamtsang Kagyu, there is almost none who was not recognized by the 16th Karmapa. We do not hold any doubts or suspicions about them. It is the same with Shamar Rinpoche.

Not only that, needless to say, the 16th Karmapa made a huge effort to recognize him, so it must have had great significance. That's why it makes an ordinary person like me think: If Gyalwang Rigpe Dorje went to such great effort, then it must be very important.

In his history of the Nyingma and Sarma traditions of Tantra, Kunzik Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo wrote this about the 10th Shamar:

However, no one could possibly block the permanent, single, pervasive activity the Buddhas engage in spontaneously.

As Jamyang Khyentse Wangpo wrote, an obstacle did arise for the 10th Shamar's activity. Recognizing his reincarnation was prohibited, and his Yangpachen Monastery was converted to a Geluk monastery. But in the end the obstacles could not block him, and the reincarnations were once again recognized, and Yangpachen Monastery was once again returned to the Kagyu. Similarly, there were external and internal obstacles to the activity of the previous Shamar, Mipam Chökyi Lodrö, but they were not obstacles for him alone; I think they were obstacles for our entire Kamtsang Kagyu. When obstacles arise, you must do something to dispel them; giving up is to give in to the obstacles, and how could that be right?

I see the reincarnation of Shamar Rinpoche as a crucial point for bringing unity to the Kamtsang [tradition], and am putting effort into it. If the reincarnation of Shamar Rinpoche is disputed, in the future, all

the Kamtsang high lamas will be disputed and the Kamtsang will be completely split.

The attachment and hatred will be the same as in a feud that lasts for generations. If we fall under its power, all the majesty and power of over nine hundred years of history will be destroyed. As I see it, everyone will scorn and despise the Kamtsang, and there is the danger that in the end, there will be nothing left that we could call the Karma Kamtsang.

So I think that it is critical for us to reconsider this, looking at it from a wider perspective and taking a long-term view. I'm just one little person talking about thinking big, but it is still too early to say whether it will work out, as I hope. The main thing is that it is important for everyone to support and pray for this."

The activity of Ogyen Dorje has not been known to the public for the last two years, besides his meetings with Karmapa Thaye Dorje and the two video streaming events from USA to the people gathered for the Mönlam ceremonies at Bodhgaya in India.

So, this occasion could have been for more information about the last two years and an announcement of his future activities. But that has not happened.