



An Open Letter To New Or Potential White Conch Students

We at White Conch Dharma Center have a responsibility to protect and uphold the Dharma. Our precious teacher and guide, Domo Geshe Rinpoche, continues to gain many students worldwide by her extraordinary qualities, clear Buddhist teachings and kindness to all. However, it is always true that with renown come detractors. We are surprised to see false statements that can result in confusion for inquirers or those that do not know Rinpoche well. Out of respect for both Rinpoche and those who benefit from her extensive activities, we offer information to represent our understanding of the truth.

We are aware of messages and a slam website on the Internet that seek to discredit Rinpoche's authenticity and convince the public that she and White Conch are fraudulently seeking fame, power and wealth. In fact, Rinpoche lives a very simple personal life and does not accumulate wealth. Rinpoche lives in a small cottage at Lotus Lake Buddhist Center, a simple retreat center operated by White Conch in Central Wisconsin. Recycling and sustainability are key elements of daily life. Rinpoche generously uses donations to fund projects such as new retreat rooms and spreading the dharma. Her nature is kind. Rinpoche is often observed to be in prayer and is active and accessible day and night, guiding her many students.

Since the main claim made is that she is not the "authentic" reincarnation of the previous Domo Geshe Rinpoche, we will outline the method of her reincarnation, the traditional recognition process, and some of the dynamics involved. Although Rinpoche has not yet been officially recognized by the Tibetan Government in Exile, she has been accepted and welcomed as the authentic incarnation of the previous Domo Geshe Rinpoche by spiritual masters from a variety of spiritual traditions. Many of these masters have requested her to teach in their centers and/or have themselves taught at White Conch programs. A beautiful long life prayer was composed for Rinpoche by a prominent Buddhist reincarnate lama and is posted on our website. Namkha Rinpoche has spent time with Domo Geshe and affirmed to a large group of her students that she is who she says she is. He also offered extensive advice to the formally assembled group on how to care for the tulku of the Domo Geshe. She received transmission and direction to teach from him, and has been teaching extensively from The Words of My Perfect Teacher by Patrul Rinpoche.

Rinpoche's students have experienced first-hand her wisdom, compassion and the personal transformation that unfailingly results from her profound transmissions, teachings and guidance. We trust that those reading this are seeking the truth that is motivated by equanimity, compassion and the desire to benefit all sentient beings. This has been Rinpoche's goal for countless lifetimes. We hope what is provided here is helpful for your understanding. Because of the tremendous benefit to her students, many of whom have been with Rinpoche for many years, we wholeheartedly encourage you to meet Rinpoche in person. Read or listen to her many teachings available online, and experience her compassionate presence and wisdom to decide for yourself, based upon a direct experience. Please do not be unduly disturbed by spurious tabloid style websites. If questions arise, please feel free to ask any member of our ordained community or White Conch students of Rinpoche. Nothing speaks more clearly than the truth.

Blessings,

The White Conch Sangha

More information at www.white-conch.org or call (262) 370-5974, White Conch Dharma Center

Information on the Reincarnation Process:

Transference of Consciousness.

In brief, Rinpoche's previous incarnation, Domo Geshe Rinpoche, performed a ritual of transfer of consciousness; in Tibetan this is called *grong 'juk*. Though rarely done, this form of reincarnation is recognized and has been performed in the past by high lamas. In recent interviews, in fact, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has alluded to the possibility of choosing an adult successor, perhaps even a female form, to continue his work, implying a similar process is under consideration. (Quote from <http://www.livemint.com/2008/11/16214348/Tibetans-meet-to-mull-future-o.html>, partner of Wall Street Journal) "...what is crucial is the capacity of incarnate lamas to transfer their soul/consciousness through the womb," Dr Sangay wrote. "[T]he same spiritual mystical capacity could be utilized to transfer the soul/consciousness to an adult of the lama's own choosing."

One reason for Rinpoche's unusual method of reincarnation was the immense work to be done in the West; Rinpoche's specific work in this life is to help westerners understand and study Buddhism. In order to have a successful result, a thorough understanding of western culture and language was needed, which could be accomplished through the transference of consciousness to a Western adult. In this case, the form of a female monastic, a close student who had been ordained by Domo Geshe, was chosen.

During the first years after this transfer of consciousness, which occurred in 2000, the newly incarnated Rinpoche's English language skills and cultural knowledge increased, and this progress is well documented and quite evident in early audio and video recordings, which are available to the public. Throughout this process, Rinpoche retained the full training acquired in previous incarnations as a Tibetan lama as well as the memories of previous lives.

This choice of a reincarnation method was guided by wisdom and has already brought much benefit. However, it has not been without controversy. Most reincarnates are born as babies, most are male, and most are Tibetan or at least from Tibetan families. As an *adult American female*, and considering this unusual method of reincarnation, when Rinpoche let it be known that she was indeed the reincarnate of the male Domo Geshe, some believed her, while others did not. It is important to understand that the Geluk tradition historically has been less open to women due to Oriental cultural influences and has never formally recognized a female Rinpoche (teaching lineage holder). HH Dalai Lama has begun the process of opening the all male Geluk monasteries and Geshe training to women, as well as remarking that he may incarnate as a woman in the future. Domo Geshe Rinpoche is demonstrating that a woman's body can hold the authentic teaching lineage, and trains women and men equally as monastics as the dissemination of Tibetan Buddhism in the West expands to include women as serious spiritual practitioners.

Recognition Process.

The process of recognition has developed over time in Tibet and varies among the different schools of Tibetan Buddhism. It is acknowledged, though rarely emphasized in the west, that up to five incarnations of a previous lama can be recognized. The nature of enlightened beings is to be unencumbered, and they are able to incarnate as multiple beings. This aspect of reincarnation is little understood in the west, partially due to our strong cultural affinity for individuality. Therefore, when a westerner learns that a particular individual has been recognized as a reincarnate of a particular lama, the predominant belief is that this is *the only* reincarnate; this is not necessarily the case. At this very moment, there are also two others, a Tibetan boy and a Sikkimese boy, who have been officially recognized as Domo Geshe Rinpoche by two separate well-reputed Buddhist groups.

This process of identifying a reincarnate can be confusing to those not familiar with the politics of recognition, thereby presenting an opportunity for those who wish to discredit our Rinpoche, citing the

unusual and difficult method of transference as evidence. However, Domo Geshe is and was known as a highly realized yogi, a perfect example of one who could accomplish *grong 'juk*, which he did.

We at White Conch have been steadily working toward Rinpoche's official recognition within the Tibetan Buddhist structure. The resistance by many to recognizing a female as Domo Geshe (one of the premier teaching lineages) is strong, but time and efforts by HH Dalai Lama to change culture are progressing. We remain certain that in the future Rinpoche will be officially recognized and accepted as the incarnation of Domo Geshe Rinpoche, laying these issues to rest once and for all. When that happens, many more will benefit from her guidance and instruction.

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