



New Kadampa Tradition

International Kadampa Buddhist Union

Open Letter

7th January 2017

From: Secretary of the NKT Education Council, Steve Cowing

On 11 August 2000, during a meeting of the NKT Education Council, some of the Members requested Venerable Geshe Kelsang Gyatso to explain the relationship between himself and Trijang Tulku, who was chosen by the present Dalai Lama. Venerable Geshe-la replied as follows:

'Trijang Tulku who was chosen by the Dalai Lama has no connection with me because I don't believe that he is the reincarnation of my Root Guru Trijang Dorjechang. There are two reasons for this.

'The first reason is that generally the Tibetan recognition of reincarnate Lamas, or Tulkus, is very unreliable and very uncertain. One example is, I heard that there was a Lama in Tibet who was put into prison by the Chinese, while some of his disciples escaped to India. In India they heard that their Lama had died in prison so immediately they went in search of their Lama's reincarnation. Finally they found one boy who seemed suitable so they requested another Lama to make divination or 'mo', and after making divination this Lama said 'Yes, this boy is your Lama's reincarnation' and on that basis they recognised that the boy was their Lama's reincarnation. However, later, everyone understood that the Lama was still alive!

'Secondly, when I last met Trijang Dorjechang in India a short time before he passed away he told me twice that he was ready to go to Keajra, and I immediately understood that he was telling me that his reincarnation would not come.

'Therefore, I have never believed that the boy chosen by the present Dalai Lama is the reincarnation of Trijang Dorjechang'.

Steve Cowing
Secretary of the NKT Education Council