



New Kadampa Tradition

International Kadampa Buddhist Union

Open Letter

7th January 2017

From: Secretary of NKT Education Council, Steve Cowing

On 11 August 2000, during a meeting with the Members of the NKT Education Council, 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. For example, I know some Lamas who were put into prison in Tibet by the Chinese, while some of their disciples escaped to India. These disciples heard that their Lama had died in prison so immediately they went looking to find their Lama's reincarnation in India. They asked other Lamas to make divination or 'mo', and after making divination these Lamas said 'Yes, this boy is your Lama's reincarnation' and on that basis they would choose a particular boy as their Lama's reincarnation. Later, however, everyone understood that their 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 this present Dalai Lama is the reincarnation of Trijang Dorjechang'.



Steve Cowing
Secretary of NKT Education Council