

From the Glorious Realm of Vajradhatu

From the glorious realm of Vajradhatu
You, the only father guru,
Have expressed the ultimate truth
For the benefit of all sentient beings.

Remembering your kindness to me and others
I prostrate to the incomparable vajra master,
Karma Ngawang Chökyi Gyatso Kunga Sangpo,
None other than Vajradhara himself.

Here in retreat my thoughts seem to dwell on you
And on the time we have spent together
Naked and lonely I think about you and try to write
my true feelings
Afraid of mistakes, timid and poor, I hesitate, unable
to speak.

Everywhere there are tears and useless maneuvers
Being intelligent doesn't make any sense
My devotion is lacking in substance
Hiding behind my own confusion I think of you
And am overwhelmed by the expansiveness of your mind
Please have compassion toward me and be tolerant
of my ineptitude.

You asked if I knew that you were my father
And rightly so!
What is a father's duty?
Only a father can teach his son
Only a father can be worthy of trust
Only a father can, with extreme care, bring his son
to maturity.

A son is ignorant
Has no tongue to speak with, no skill
He fumbles, trips, cries, feels foolish
But the father can correct his path and point out the way.

With the wisdom and compassion of a father's touch
You take my hand, knowing my fears, my frailty
Because of such tenderness, I see who my father is
You display the Buddha's courage toward your son
Of this there is no doubt.

With you there is nothing to say
Yet because of you I say something
Through inspiration something comes out
But no trace is found.

Memories, hopes, and fanciful thoughts
Have no place to rest
Looking for myself, I don't find anything
Who is there to give up the struggle?

The truth is quite plain
In all experience nothing solid remains
There is only the legacy, the inheritance that has no name
My father's house has many doors, but only one key.

*Written with intense love and longing at Karmê Chöling on the
22nd day of September, 1976, by your son, Ösel Tendzin, who
previously had no name. If anything I have said is not true, I beg
your indulgence. Please continue to turn the wheel of the dharma
and to remain with us in your vajra nature.*

