

Zürich, 2024-09-06

Dear Lama Jigme Rinpoche,

Thank you for your teaching, for the light of your consciousness which you share so kindly, for the Dharma as you communicated it to me and others live and in your books, and for your patience as you read this letter. Please take only the time you can afford to read this, I understand if you are busy.

My name is Eduardo Ivanec and I am a householder who has been trying to follow the Bodhisattva path for some years. By trade I am a Site Reliability Engineer, and I have always liked and done well with computers, but in my free time I am also a writer. I am originally from Argentina, but have been living and working in Switzerland for ten years, and have been practicing Buddhism with a daily meditation practice for nearly five and a focus on the Bodhisattva path for three.

The cycle of talks graciously hosted by [Dhagpo Männedorf](#) was the first opportunity I took to attend a Dharma event locally, and the first time I attended any event linked to your tradition. I very much appreciated receiving your teachings and will try to use what I have learned for the benefit of all beings.

As some of my fellow practitioners might have noticed, I was unable to recite the mantras of your tradition due to lack of familiarity, although I am happy to report I have been doing a form of Chenrezig practice for years without knowing it was standard, usually chanting the name and mantra of Avalokiteshvara and trying to visualize and embody their boundless compassion. Before and after I listened to your lovely voices, which if I understand correctly were vowing to raise Bodhicitta, practice the Brahmaviharas and embody Chenrezig, I tried reciting to myself some I know. During my practice, I usually invoke the names and qualities of Avalokiteshvara, Tara and Maitreya. I intend to translate your verses further, though, and study them going forward.

My day to day practice is so far guided by the Nikayas, the writing of the Dalai Lama and that of others teaching within the Theravada and Mahayana traditions. Recently I have been reading your book and researching the Karma Kagyu school and the Karmapa. I find it inspiring how the Karmapa is engaged in vegetarianism and environmentalism. I am also interested in learning more about the efforts of Shamar Rinpoche in the field of Buddhism and democracy, which seem likely to be relevant to one of my projects.

I have some questions that arose during the cycle of talks and I wanted to take the opportunity to ask them, only if you or someone in your organization have the time to entertain them.

- During the talks, you gave the example of visiting a market to notice the suffering of living beings and practice compassion. When doing so, how can one maximize the chances of practicing skilful/right action, given there are many possible ways to try to help, and the world is so complex and inter-dependent? For example one could try to free all animals in the market; or convince the traders to seek other professions; or go home and join organizations for the welfare of animals, then dedicate a significant part of one's efforts to them. How can one try to make the right choice, when there are so many options and matching opportunity costs?
- Do you know the work of Monk Taixu (1890-1947), in particular as it relates to the forming of large coordinated groups of Bodhisattvas to try to improve the world into a Pure Land in the Human Realm? Do you find the approach promising, and do you know of similar work in your tradition or in other traditions?
- Are there any existing communities of Bodhisattvas that you could recommend interested practitioners join, in particular perhaps any online in nature? I ask this because I believe in the potential of the internet to maximize the benefit of Buddhist practice on a global scale, and if such a platform does not yet exist or is not yet widely known I think I could contribute some of my effort to try to build one or find an existing one if you think that could be useful. This platform would allow aspiring Bodhisattvas to connect, learn from each other and coordinate.

Thank you again for your teaching and your direction. If I can be of any assistance to you or your organization, please let me know anytime.

May you be happy! May you be free from suffering! May you continue to shine for the benefit of beings!

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This letter is also available at: <https://anagora.org/open-letter-to-jigme-rinpoche>