

## Communiqués from two Acharyas on the Vajra Assemblies of the Vidyadhara, Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche

From Acharya Larry Mermelstein:

The Vajra Assemblies of the Vidyadhara became his primary teaching vehicle for all tantrikas, following their immersion in the three-month Seminary training. They are transmissional in every sense, and I believe they are among the "holy grail," so to speak, of his vajrayana presentations--essential instructions for bringing the vajrayana pointing-out to the path and our daily life. Hearing them can be a significantly different and more powerful experience than reading the published version, which itself becomes more useful afterwards. These teachings will sustain and nurture us, carrying us forward on the path of enlightenment.

Cheers,  
Larry

And from Acharya Adam Lobel:

Dear Shambhala Teachers, Leaders, and Directors of Practice and Education,

Between the years of 1976 and 1983, the Druk Sakyong convened a series of Vajra Assemblies. These Assemblies provided an intensive learning environment for tantrikas, and in this space the Vidyadhara offered some of his most powerful, direct, and evocative teachings. The Vajra Assemblies are historic moments in the journey of the dharma into modernity. We are tremendously fortunate that these Assemblies were carefully recorded, and we are additionally fortunate that these recordings have been digitally remastered and produced by the Shambhala Archives. It is now possible for Shambhala Centres, Groups, and individuals to hear the original recordings of these teachings in the Vidyadhara's own voice.

The topics covered over the course of fourteen Vajra Assemblies range from now-classic presentations of ground, path, and fruition Mahamudra to the Vidyadhara's instructions on the vajrayana aspects of the Shambhala teachings. For example, it was during the 1976 "Great Eastern Sun" Vajra Assembly that the Vidyadhara evoked the image of the universal monarch, facing East, sitting in the midst of a great hall with the walls falling

away. We also find direct instructions on vajrayana view, practice, and action; samaya, and selected themes such as sacredness and the Three Lineages emphasized in the Great Perfection tradition. This ocean of vajradharma is both traditional, and made completely fresh and vital through the Vidyadhara's uncanny ability to penetrate directly into personal experience.

These teachings have been central to the path for many of us, and the Collected Vajra Assemblies volumes have been dear companions during many a solitary retreat. It is good news indeed to now have the opportunity to directly listen to these ear-whispered teachings, and the Sakyong is delighted that these Assemblies will be even more available to Shambhala vajrayana students. I encourage Centres to consider purchasing these recordings with the intention of allowing more and more beings to assemble under the victory banner of the great mahasiddha and dharma king, the Dorje Dradül of Mukpo.

In the Great Eastern Sun Vision,  
Adam Lobel  
Kalapa Acharya