



SHAMBHALA THE KALAPA COURT

Invoking Generosity

In relation to generating generosity, our community needs to have more visible and focused engagement and practice in generosity. In this light, I'd like to initiate an annual "Great Gathering of Mandala," or "The Great Mandala Offering." This would consist of us gathering for a day, where we offer a great mandala. As a community, we would try to accumulate 100,000 or more mandala offerings in one day.

We would use the long mandala offering chant; everyone would have a mandala plate within a mandala basket, they would read the chant fairly slowly, ceremoniously, and graciously while placing 37 heaps of rice representing the universe; then it would be offered simultaneously. In the front of the shrine room would be an acharya, shastri, or lead teacher. As each mandala is offered, a principal student rises, and then performs the mandala offering that could be on a table or a stand. As the mandala offerings are made, the students rotate; if there is a large gathering there could be several stands. The mandala offering section from the Primordial Rigden Ngöndro could be used.

This creates clouds of merit for those individuals in our whole community. It is an opportunity to highlight this key practice of generosity, and to understand that all that we have; health, wealth, and realization, comes from past acts of generosity. This day would have a feeling of wealth, richness, offering, generosity, and would help individuals understand the power and potency of generosity in their lives and for our community. It could end with a great dedication of merit and a celebration.

I thought I might begin this at seminary this year. If we are to truly transplant this enlightened culture, a shift needs to be made in understanding generosity. People will likely want to attend these Mandala Offering days, because it would benefit them personally at home and work. Simultaneously it is a way to reach out to the entire world, it enhances their spiritual development, and builds the Kingdom.

The Sakyong Jamgön Mipham Rinpoche

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