



SHAMBHALA  
THE KALAPA COURT

Introducing the Shambhala Teachers Academy

In light of the path to the Scorpion Seal and the new curriculum, as well as the general state of the world, it is essential that we as Shambharians strive to have the best possible teachers. In order to facilitate this, I have initiated a Shambhala Teachers Academy and I am delighted to announce Acharya Judith Simmer Brown as the first Dean of the Shambhala Teachers Academy. Individuals wishing to teach in the Shambhala mandala will receive support, instruction, and training through the Academy.

I am grateful for the exertion, generosity, and service of the many teachers within Shambhala. You have sustained and protected the teachings for all of these years. I understand that there are myriads of different teachers within our community so it is important that we apply a fresh start and realize that we are all in this together. The purpose of the Academy is to provide an opportunity to reexamine what we know and inspire ourselves to go further. The training will also include contemplations and exercises to act as a bridge between theory and practice. I initiated such a process this year by personally examining the acharyas themselves; I concluded the examinations by asking them to continue to learn and memorize with a beginner's mind.

Learning is at the heart of our Shambhala centers, so it is essential that our teachers be thoroughly trained and updated. An essential element of this training is to reinvigorate and examine our knowledge and experiences of the Shambhala root texts, important themes of the Buddhadharma, and especially the Vajrayana teachings. In particular, we are only beginning to uncover the profundity of the Shambhala terma entrusted to us by the Dorje Dradul.

The path of teaching is a tremendous way to develop ourselves, however, we are ultimately there for the benefit of the student. Our teachings and curriculum primarily need to be relevant to our students, and therefore I have asked Acharya Judith Simmer Brown to be the Dean and to establish and maintain rigorous integrity.

I hope to initiate the Shambhala Teachers Academy at the various gatherings in the Spring, Summer and Fall of next year. I encourage all of you in a teaching role to participate, so that we may mutually sharpen our swords of prajna, open our hearts of compassion, thus revealing the Great Eastern Sun.

Blessings in the Vision of Shambhala,

The Kongma Sakyong, Jamgon Mipham Rinpoche