

The first visit of His Holiness Karmapa, in the winter of 1974-75, was the largest-scale project that Vajradhatu had coordinated up to that time. Everyone involved with the visit soon learned the value of acting promptly, without hesitation. We were not at all prepared for the intensity of what was about to happen, but through the Vidyadhara's unceasing energy and effort, we found an example of how to get things done quickly and accurately. I can still hear him saying, "Do it now!" Throughout the entire visit, we were barely one step ahead of His Holiness and his party. Traveling around the country with throne cushions, brocades, serving dishes, silverware, chopsticks, and the rest, we would often arrive at a place the day before His Holiness was expected. We would work all night, outfitting shrine halls, audience halls, His Holiness' quarters, and the monks' quarters, just in time for their arrival. When we felt fatigued, exhausted, and bored, there was the Vidyadhara, still working.

The day before His Holiness was to arrive in Boulder, the shrine hall at Karma Dzong was not even close to being ready. We worked all day and all night, and everyone who took part in the work felt the strain. But at the same time, there was a certain delight in putting all our effort into it, even though we took frequent breaks. While the Vidyadhara directed the setup in the shrine hall, we took turns assisting him. We also took turns napping in Fran Lewis' apartment down the hall. The Vidyadhara didn't sleep at all.

An event that occurred during His Holiness' visit to the 1974 seminary still makes me smile. One morning he was to go down to the shrine hall at six a.m. to witness the students practicing. The Vidyadhara, Ken Green, myself, and several others got up at 4:30, dressed, and prepared to meet him. Ken and I had the brocade table covering and the brocade seat covering for his chair. We were about to leave when we discovered that someone had locked the keys to the Vidyadhara's car inside the car. The shrine hall was below the Eldorado Lodge, and the stairs that led to it were coated with ice. The Vidyadhara said to Ken and me, "Hurry! Go down there and greet him." We took off, ran down the steps, across a lot, into the building and into His Holiness' anteroom, quickly pinned the brocade on the chair and table, saw that everything was in order, and were still puffing and panting when His Holiness walked in.

After His Holiness had his tea and observed the meditators, he got back in his car to go up to the Eldorado for breakfast with the Vidyadhara. Suddenly, Ken and I realized that the same brocades were necessary for His Holiness' breakfast seat and table. So as his car pulled away, we dashed back into the anteroom, removed the

brocades, and ran back up the steps to the Eldorado, arriving at the same moment that His Holiness stepped out of the car. With the brocades tucked behind our backs, we bowed, and as he entered the building, we ran to a side entrance and into the breakfast room and quickly pinned on the brocades a moment before His Holiness walked in. He was smiling broadly as we bowed and left the room.