

Vajra Regent Ösel Tendzin: Anniversary of His Parinirvana

“All I want to hear is that you love me still...”

When I first met Rinpoche
Devotion was immediate
I asked him
“How do you know when you have found your guru?”
He said, in some British vernacular, “It beats me!”

With you it was different
It was someone saying
“Let’s go play”, “Let’s take an adventure”
“Let’s find out how things work, or don’t.”

Everything was bright, captivating
A little shiny, a little edgy, we were like magpies
Like a millennial with green hair, or purple
But most of all, we were following a rhythm you had.
I guess you could call it spiritual punctuation.

Looking back
I see it was the way you might pause
after somebody asked you a question.
You gave them the opportunity to hear the echo
of what they were trying to understand.
Overall, beyond fabrication, your natural discipline
Added nothing, took away nothing
only being there...

Then later, while alone, there was something, beyond timing
Like a tear leaving phantom salt
Sliding down the cheek then the chin
And taking, seemingly, seconds or minutes
While it floated to the floor,
and splashed into a river,
turned into a lake,
became an ocean,
leaving me with a sense of both

concussion and space, dissolving into wonder.
Like the loneliest man on earth, I miss that.
And like everyone else, I wish you were here.
Protector, friend, Vajra master
You are the adhithana of the Kagyü lineage.

RBS, August 27, 2022