

Lama Lodu Rinpoche Gives the White Tara Initiation and Teachings, April 12th-13th 2025

April 12th (Sat.) 10 AM – 12 PM: Refuge & Preliminary Part of Initiation

April 12th (Sat.) 2 PM – 4 PM – Concluding Part of the Initiation

April 13th (Sun.) 10 AM – 12 PM: Teachings on the Practice of White Tara

April 13th (Sun.) 2 PM – 4 PM: Conclusion of Teachings, Group White Tara Practice

TUITION: \$100 for KDK Members of six months or more, \$200 for Non-Members. The tuition goes directly to supporting the KDK Dharma Center and the KDK Retreat Land to ensure people have a place to receive Dharma teachings, as well as to practice them. Please register online at: http://kdk.org/event_reg.html Please consider registering and paying online in advance. We can only accept cash on the days of teachings, no credit cards will be accepted.

Tara is the fully awakened female aspect of enlightenment. Many eons ago, there was a time when a Buddha was giving teachings and she was born as a king's daughter. Unusually, she became very dedicated and devoted herself completely to supporting the Sangha and the Buddha. All of the Bodhisattvas and Sangha admired her dedication and merit, and told her, "You have selflessly accumulated amazing merit. You could dedicate to be reborn as a male body in your next lifetime and be even more beneficial." She rejected this idea, and replied, "What is the difference between male and female? I want to attain enlightenment in the female form." This was her reply, and she took the vow to work for the benefit of all beings and to attain full awakening in the female form. This is the way she worked for many eons, taking the form of a woman and benefiting many beings in different realms, keeping her commitments stainless and pure and never violating them. In this way, she attained full enlightenment and was empowered to have the activity of all the Ten directions Buddhas and Bodhisattvas: peaceful, increaseful, wrathful, powerful; in this way she can benefit beings in need through their blessings. She became the powerful form of Tara, with the power to overcome any obstacle if one performs the practice accordingly. For a serious practitioner, she will bless that individual and give siddhi to accomplish their wishes. This is one story of her origin.

Another story, when Avalokitesvara practiced, the more he practiced, the more he observed the suffering and confusion of sentient beings. He was so touched by their suffering, that his unbearable compassion overwhelmed him and tears burst from his eyes. One drop on the left side became Green Tara, and the right side dropped down to become White Tara. These are the manifestations of Avalokitesvara's unbearable compassion and loving kindness to all sentient beings. This is another story of her origin.

Lama Lodu Rinpoche will describe White Tara in more detail during the teachings and initiation. In particular, this lineage originated from Serlingpa, an Indian Mahasiddha who had a vision of Tara and received the initiation directly from her. He received the initiation, sadhana and commentary directly from White Tara, who then passed this down to his student Atisha and continued on until Gampopa. Gampopa passed this teaching to the first Karmapa, Dusum Khyenpa, then to Tai Situpa Dogon Rechen, then to Pomdrappa, then to the second Karmapa Karma Pakshi and then continually on until the Lord of Refuge, His Holiness the 16th Karmapa Rangjung Rigpe Dorje, and then to Lama Lodu Rinpoche received this initiation directly from him, as well as the Third Jamgon Kongtrul Rinpoche, and also from His Holiness Kalu Rinpoche, Rangjung Kunyab, Lama Lodu Rinpoche's root guru.

Lama Lodu Rinpoche was appointed resident lama of Kagyu Drogen Kunchab in San Francisco by His Eminence Kalu Rinpoche and His Holiness the 16th Gyalwang Karmapa in 1976, and since then has worked tirelessly to benefit sentient beings throughout the world. He has led multiple groups of Westerners on Three Year Retreats, erected marble stupas, and gives teachings at centers spanning the entire world, from Hanoi, Vietnam to St. Louis, Missouri. His Holiness the 16th Gyalwang Karmapa once described Lama Lodu Rinpoche as "a lama who has highly developed his inner practice." Rinpoche's teachings are clear, unique, and profound, giving time for question and answers to clarify the student's understanding and ensuring they have the full capability to engage with the practice and benefit not only themselves, but all sentient beings.



Lama Lodu Rinpoche



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