

Milarepa continues...

The cleric (who was supposed to be Marpa) said, "Very well then, I will introduce you to Marrpa, but meanwhile, plow this field of mine." From under his hat he took out the wine he had buried in the ground and gave it to me. It was refreshing and delicious under the scorching sun. Then the cleric went off saying I should work hard to plow the remaining field. I drank the wine and then plowed the field with determination. After a while, the handsome youth whom I had spoken with among the cow-herds came to call me. "The Lama says that you should come home to meet him," he reported, and I was overjoyed.

"The cleric had arranged an introduction for me," I replied, "So I will plow the remaining of his field." Thus I turned over the little bit of field that remained to be plowed. That very field served as the favorable circumstances for me to meet the Lama, and I called it Thuen Kyen (Favorable Circumstance). I joined the youth and went to the Lama's residence. The cleric that I had met just before sat upon a carpet, raised high with two cushions and a woolen rug, and a pillow at his back. He had wiped himself off, but his brow, his nostrils, his mustache and goatee had not come clean. While he sat there in a relaxed manner, waiting for his meal, I just thought, "This is the same man as I met before in the field. Where is the Lama seated?" And I looked around.

The Lama said, "It is true that you really do not know who I am. I am Marpa. Prostrate yourself!" I bowed down and touching his feet to my head, I said, "Precious Lama, I am a great sinner from Nyima Lhatoe. I offer my body, speech, and mind, and I humbly request food, clothing, and Dharma. Please look upon me with your kindness so that I may attain Buddhahood in this life time." The Lama replied, "Do not go on bragging to me that you are a great sinner. You were not driven to commit sins on my behalf. What evil deeds have you done?" I explained to Lama my entire circumstances at length and he said, "So be it. In any case, it is good that you offered your body, speech and mind, but you will not get food and clothing in addition to Dharma. Either I will give you food and clothing, and you need to seek Dharma from

someone else. Or I will give you Dharma, and you will seek food and clothing elsewhere. Choose between these two. But remember, if you choose that I should give you Dharma, whether or not you attain Buddhahood in this life will depend on your perseverance.”

In that case, I replied, “Since I came to the Lama to receive Dharma, I shall seek food and clothing elsewhere.” As I was carrying my volume of scripture (black magic book) into the shrine room, Lama said, “Take your filthy book away. It would defile the sacred objects of my shrine.” It occurred to me that he responded this was because exactly my scripture contained works of black magic. I kept it with me and remained in a quarter for several days during which time Lama’s wife, Dakme Ma offered me enjoyable meal. Thus Milarepa spoke. This ends the first of the Supreme Deeds, the Deeds of his Meeting the Lama.

To elaborate the theme of this particular deed, it shows the renunciation from this mundane world by reflecting on the impermanence of all composite things. Then one must endeavor to Dharma. Though all the Doctrinal Teachings contained in the Buddha’s Dharma can lead to Buddhahood. Yet it depends on individual fortune and the Master he attends to. Milarepa prior to his meeting with Lama Marpa had already met with great accomplished master where his teachings can lead; if practiced in day time, will become a Buddha in day time and should it practiced in night, will become Buddha in night time. However, Milarepa did not heed it and he could not reap any results. Yet he did not stop from seeking his fortunate and most heart-connected master, Lama Marpa. One should note that, it is not necessary to say that one must attend none other than the most connected Master leaving aside other learned ones. It is wise for one to attend as much as more Master in order to produce the stream of karma to connect with fortunate master in next life.