



S H A M B H A L A

1 June 2006

Dear Center Directors,

As most of you know, Dr. Reggie Ray has decided to develop a path of practice and study within the context of his own independent Buddhist organization, Dharma Ocean Foundation. He has also decided to offer vajrayana transmission to his students. The Sakyong has addressed Dr. Ray's decisions in a letter posted on the members page of the Shambhala website – <http://www.shambhala.org/int/index.html>

In light of this, there are many practical questions coming to the Shambhala Office of Practice and Education about Dr. Ray's relationship to Shambhala. While this is a tender situation, we want to be clear about the relationship of Dr. Ray's students to Shambhala activities.

Students of Dr. Ray are welcome to take part in any Shambhala Community events, pre-vajrayana programs for which they have met the prerequisites, and Shambhala Training. They are also welcome to staff and contribute to programs and events at Shambhala Centers.

Since Dr. Ray has not been authorized by the Sakyong or the Vidyadhara to give vajrayana transmission, students who have attended Dr. Ray's Vajrayana Training Intensives are not regarded as tantrikas within Shambhala and, therefore, do not have access to restricted vajrayana materials by the Vidyadhara, and Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche. These include:

- oral commentaries, manuals on ngondro and sadhana practices, and sadhana tris
- Vajra Assemblies
- Post - transmission Seminary talks
- Vajrayana practice texts and manuals
- Restricted Shambhala texts and commentaries

They would also not be able to attend restricted vajrayana practice and study events at Shambhala centers.

Students of Dr. Ray who also feel a heart connection with Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche and want to enter the vajra sangha of Shambhala, are warmly invited to apply to Shambhala Vajrayana Seminary. As with all students wishing to attend Vajrayana Seminary, they will need to take part in all the required training programs offered in Shambhala centers and residential land centers.

Dr. Ray is offering an independent path of practice and education. Therefore, Dharma Ocean programs alone no longer fulfill the requirements for Shambhala programs. His students who wish act as meditation instructors within Shambhala will need to qualify for and attend meditation instructor training programs offered in Shambhala centers.

We encourage you to contact this office if you have any further questions.

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