



Lama Tharchin Rinpoche and David Curtis
Working together on a text during a teaching in Los Angeles, CA 1995.

Lama Tharchin Rinpoche On Learning Tibetan

Generally speaking, in whatever we do in life, language is of utmost importance because everything is based upon education. Without language communication is not possible, so you will be unable to accomplish anything.

In particular, for someone who wishes to learn and experience the dharma in order to realize ultimate wisdom, it is very important to learn Tibetan. Actually, it is even more important to learn Tibetan than Sanskrit because the dharma has been deeply established in Tibet for over one thousand years. This means that the lineage is still alive and that the true meaning of the words is still present. If you learn Tibetan you can directly connect with Buddhist teachings which include both education and realization. When you can read Tibetan you are directly connecting with the wisdom of the great mahasiddhas and realized beings, and you are no longer dependent on others to translate for you.

When you want to have fruit you must first plant a fruit tree. Likewise, when you want to have wisdom you must first begin with a language in which the words carry the living meaning and the blessings of realized beings. for this reason, I highly recommend to all my spiritual friends to learn Tibetan.

In the West, the V. V. Kalu Rinpoche is the one who originally focused on the need to learn the Tibetan language, bringing together Tibetan language education with dharma practice. We should follow the example of the V.V. Kalu Rinpoche and study Tibetan in order to learn dharma deeply.--Introduction from *The New Light Tibetan Language Book Bestowing Qualities*