

Bokar Rinpoche: The Importance of Training in the Tibetan Language



VV. Bokar Rinpoche (1940-2004)

Bokar Rinpoche was Kalu Rinpoche's principle disciple and the head of the Shangpa Kagyu Lineage of Tibetan Buddhism. On several occasions he emphasized the necessity for practitioners to learn Tibetan. He wrote that

The vast and profound body of teachings expounded by the Buddha is the ultimate source of benefit and happiness for all beings. The majority of the Buddha's teachings of all three yanas [vehicles] is presently preserved only in the Tibetan language. In order for the teachings to become well established and fully assimilated throughout the world, **I strongly feel that people outside the Tibetan-speaking areas must train themselves in the Tibetan language.** By this means, they will be able to have direct access to the Dharma, and this will also allow that the teachings become fully and accurately translated into new languages.

Courtesy of the Tibetan Language Institute

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