



Updated Conditions for Participation in the HIGHER EMPOWERMENTS

(update: 24th of October 2024)

Should Rinpoché accept to bestow the Four Higher Empowerments upon you, he is wholly committing himself to guiding and taking care of you as his Vajra student throughout your entire path to Buddhahood. For your journey to be successful, it is necessary for you to have great confidence in yourself and in Rinpoché's capacity to guide you, and all doubts and reservations about following his instructions need to be completely removed. Without this level of confidence, honesty, and devotion, this path will not work.

You may ask whether this required degree of focus is contradictory with the *Rimé* view. However, *Rimé* is not about seeking a variety of spiritual traditions for your own personal Dharma path. Thus, there is no contradiction whatsoever to being personally dedicated to a single path and so forth ([Read more about Rimé here](#)). While a variation of practices is important for a beginner to attain an overview of the different traditions and lineages, in order to truly progress further on the Vajra path, a resolute choice needs to be made. Acknowledging that one path, lineage, and Root Lama are the most suitable for you, does not mean that you no longer see the benefit of other traditions and masters for others. You can still respect and honor diversity and your past teachers while maintaining your own focus.

Devotion, confidence, priority, focus, and loyalty are not in contradiction with the *Rimé* view. You can be resolutely established on one lineage, while at the same time having a non-biased perspective toward others. The main point here is that at this higher stage of the Vajra path, spiritual progress will not occur if you do not have a high degree of confidence naturally present in your heart. You need to be assured about your personal choice of path, lineage, and Root Lama, and **only you can be responsible for deciding whether or not to apply to participate.**

Below is an overview of the main conditions you will need to gather for your reference. If you feel that you are not yet fully prepared, do not be discouraged. As these conditions will remain relatively similar in the coming years, you can start preparing for them now for future participation.

These conditions are not demands but need to be naturally present within your heart.

1st Main Condition (Intangible):

You feel 100% confident in **your own choice of Shar Khentrul Rinpoché** as your **main Root Lama**.

2nd Main Condition (Intangible):

You feel 100% confident in **your own choice for the Kālachakra as taught by the Jonang Lineage** and feel 100% that you do not need any other path. Thus, **you want to focus on the Jonang Kālachakra Path as your main spiritual path for the remainder of this life**.

Important Note: Practicing the Kālachakra Ngondro will directly support you in developing these confidences. While Rinpoché does not need to be your only Lama, you will however need to follow his advice above all others. You can still practice other practices and lineages as *supplementary* practices to your main path of Kālachakra if you so need, but you should be fully aware that you are committing to Rinpoché as the **main reference for your spiritual path** for this life. By trusting him, his teachings, and his lineage, you will undoubtedly progress on this path. Such a feeling is not a stipulation, but should instead be naturally present for your own success.

3rd Condition (Tangible):

If you are participating for the first time: **300** hours of Jonang Ngondro Practice and Study.

Exception: **150** hours is acceptable if you have done so far a minimum of **600** hours of volunteer work for Dzokden, Dzokden Kalapa, Rimé Institute, or Land of Śhambhala. In either case, **Ngondros of other lineages are not included within these hours**.

Alternatively, if you have been practicing the Jonang Ngondro for a long time, but have not counted your hours or number of accumulations, you need then to have extensively studied Rinpoché's books and be very familiar with subjects such as Śhambhala and the Jonang-Kālachakra lineage masters. If this applies to you, you will need to contact us to organize an oral test to determine your familiarity with these subjects. This will be scheduled **only after** you send your application.)

In addition, you need to be participating (or joyfully willing to start participating as soon as you can) in the [Enlightened Activities Program](#) (former 'Volunteering') to support Rinpoché's projects.

If you have not yet fully completed the required hours you can still send your application, as long as you resolutely commit to completing them before the event. Otherwise, you will need to wait for the next opportunity. After establishing all these conditions, you can present yourself as a candidate by sending your application here.