

*A Special Note for Faithful, Avowed and Well-Intentioned Dharma Friends*

*We are especially joyous to have a plan to stay in retreat this year, 2021, on the shores of the crystal clear and pure waters of Lake Tahoe. This is a renowned and pleasurable spot that delights all who see it, surrounded on all sides by many rocky and forested mountains, where many different kinds of deer naturally wander freely and myriads of ravishing birds dance around.*

*The purpose is that over the past year and more, due to the COVID-19 pandemic coming about from collective karma, a few million people on this earth have died and otherwise met with extreme misfortune, such that our escaping with our lives is indeed a cause for celebration. To train in virtue and make dedication and aspiration prayers for this, our fortune, the suffering of the pandemic, and other circumstances that have happened in the past, and especially so that another pandemic like this one will not occur again in the future, for world peace, and for harm from the four elements not to come, the opportunity to study, reflect, and meditate upon the sublime Dharma is very precious. Therefore, we have made the plans for us to gather together in retreat.*

*Generally, to properly practice the sublime Dharma our great compassionate teacher practiced austerities for six years in earlier times. The ways that Jetsun Milarepa, Omniscient Longchenpa and other of our past lineage lamas practiced are clearly expounded in their biographies. While staying in retreat, they took whatever hardships they encountered, whether heat, cold, and more, as opportunities to gather the accumulations of merit and wisdom, to purify negative karma and obscurations, and to increase their experience and realization. Since retreat certainly provides the conditions to do that, I request you to keep this in mind.*

*For our upcoming retreat, I have a plan to teach and for you to hear a few extraordinary profound and timely teachings coming from the mind treasures of the great Sera Khandro, the principal and accomplished noble dakini lady. In the future, should time and merit accord, I hope to continuously preserve and give these teachings. Since I don't have the intention to give them to just anyone, anywhere, but only to individuals in this retreat who most certainly have faith in and a desire to practice them, I am telling you this. Thank you very much.*

*Sotrul Pema Lodoe, July 1, 2021*