

A prayer for degenerate times

*{The five degenerations: lifespan, views, emotions, time, and beings}*

Wars, and the threat of wars  
that would end life on earth;

epidemics, and new diseases appearing

famines,  
the increasing rate of species extinction,  
and environmental destruction;

Look on these if you have the courage,  
and if you can bear to:

fires, hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes

food and medicines deteriorating,  
and causing even more illness,  
and addiction

lifespan, and views, emotions,  
and the environments in which we live in this time,  
people becoming more and more difficult to reach,  
their minds more difficult to tame

people losing the ability to practice,  
the motivation, and the understanding,  
despite all the wise and holy beings who have come before  
and left us their teachings

extreme views these days,  
more and more are taken as normal,

racism, materialism, hedonism,  
and fanaticism

false teachers proliferating,  
divisions between genuine students,  
and between students and their teachers  
relationships are harder to form and are easily broken -

All these were foretold,  
and such are these very times,  
and I call out  
*Where are we to turn to now?*

There is a tradition I heard of,  
and have felt to be true  
that said  
when times get really bad,  
and when it seems that nothing works,  
then these particular practices -  
tantra and the revelations known as terma -  
would become effective  
that said  
when the conditions became truly dire  
they would work to change the conditions,  
and liberate beings from their suffering

We need you now  
to stop the terrible flood of suffering  
to end the great dangers we face  
so whatever prayers you have made, or embodied  
may they be effective now  
May they ripen for us now  
Now is the time

Guru Rinpoche, not many have heard of you,  
and even fewer believe  
in the compassionate pledges you made  
when you saw what was to come

While we can still hear you,  
and receive the blessings you intend,  
O all you great compassionate ones  
extend your hand and your power  
While there is still time  
make your blessings known to us