

Migmar Tsering - “A Tibetan-Vermonters”
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Mary Wesley: I'm curious, do you identify as a “Vermonters?” As someone who lives in Vermont? I don't know if you do, that's a question. And then I'm just curious how that connects, or doesn't, to your identity as a Tibetan.

Migmar Tsering: Absolutely. I, I mean I absolutely 100% consider myself as a Vermonters. And I'm fortunate to land here because it's a place where you can enjoy all the four seasons. Winter is pretty tough but it has its own beauty. So yeah, a Vermonters, I absolutely feel I am. And my connection with the people here in Vermont is by being a Tibetan-Vermonters. So I become special when I can become a Tibetan-Vermonters. By saying that it doesn't mean Tibetan-Vermonters are special. [laughter] What I mean to say is if I can share stories about Tibet, if I can share Tibetan culture, I can add another beauty. I can add to this diversity and I can make Vermont a little more richer, culture-wise.

So, whoever I'm teaching now, they are all Vermonters too. And then there will be more Vermonters who will be practicing Tibetan cultural dances, who will be singing Tibetan songs, playing Tibetan instruments. In a community, we have different people with different thoughts, different ideologies, different cultures. But when we are living in a community we should embrace the difference at the same time we should respect whatever differences the other person has.

So I don't know how to say this but I have the feeling like, it's like a drop in the ocean, but we know that oceans are built by drops. So somebody might not feel the importance of that drop, but if you think about it, each single drop is the reason why we have the ocean.

So yeah, I think that's how I'm connected...