

On New Year (Losar)

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Losar means a new year. That's it—a new day, new week, new month, and particularly a new year. Nothing big deal. People say very auspicious. I think the real auspiciousness is that right now you are living! Right now, you are eating and drinking, sleeping and waking! What about that?

Right now, you have the opportunity to study and learn, you can hear the dharma. Then? You are not dumb, you can think about what you have learned. You can digest the meaning of what you have heard. Then you can understand more and more without mistake. Then you can practice, meditate. If you have learned the dharma and really understood it by thinking about it again and again, then you can really meditate. Then your meditation is not just hanging out or staring with your mouth open. It is real practice. If you have understanding, you can do real meditation.

And you will have real faith. Real faith comes from clear understanding. It isn't something you buy or something you have to create. Naturally as you understand, it is coming and coming. Faith is there. As you understand, you trust more and more. That is faith. You trust the Three Jewels, you trust the lama, you trust your own buddhanature. If you really clearly understand the dharma, that means you clearly understand your buddhanature. That means you see the nature of phenomena. Seeing it means that you trust it. Of course you trust what you see! The more you see it and the more you understand it, the more you trust it. Like your old friend.

If really you understand and trust the dharma, then you will see more and more clearly. What will you see? Something big deal? Something "WOW!!!"? No. Sorry. Just you will see the nature. That one is no big deal. Because it is the nature of everything! Everywhere! Not some special thing, just in one place or just one thing. Not just the nature of sparkling things and pretty ladies and wonderful handsome strong men and beautiful places and wonderful delicious things that make you just tickled. Not only that nature. Sorry! Everything's nature, even low things and dirty things and funky guys and stupid ones and poor ones and ugly ones and broken and useless ones. The nature of everything, from giant mountains down to the smallest tiny speck of dust. The nature of yourself and others. One way, that is the real WOW, more than anything. But one way it is no big deal. It is nothing special. It is nothing new, or flashy, or sparkling. Sorry! It is just the nature of all the funky things. Already there! Nothing special!

If you see that nature, trust that nature, then everything arises to you as the deity. You might say, "Wait a minute! Nobody is talking about deities! We don't need those guys and ladies!" Or, "Maybe just the pretty ones! We don't need the nasty wrathful stuff,

ugly scary guys!” No, no, no. That is just go-go brain. Enough’s enough of that stuff, that garbage thinking! The deity IS that nature, what we are talking about. Nothing different from that. Not go-go ladies on this side and nasty ugly ones on that side. You like or you don’t like, doesn’t matter.

All appearances are the form of the deity. That means you are recognizing, you are finally seeing, you have opened your eyes, not just baby staring anymore.

All sound is the enlightened speech of the deity. That means finally you opened your ears, goddammit! Finally really you are hearing. Hearing what? The nature, the pure nature of all sound. Always it was there, always we weren’t listening. Just we listened to our own blah-blah-blah or our boyfriend or our girlfriend. We never went deeply into what was in front of us, what was facing us. That nature is always facing us but we aren’t facing it. We don’t want to face. We are busy!

All thoughts and concepts are enlightened mind. Really? Well, not this lady’s, but she is very bad! Anyway, all sentient beings’ thoughts, they are the nature of enlightened mind. Any thought, if we call it good or bad, it makes no difference. Whatever kind of thought it is, nothing is different in its nature. That nature is the enlightened mind of all buddhas. Whatever thoughts arise, they arise from there. But where are they gonna go? No place to go that isn’t already there, already in the buddhas’ lap! Like baby jumping in mommy’s lap, jumping and jumping, but each time just falls back into mommy’s arms. Really the baby thinks it is getting away, it is flying in space, but just jumping and falling back into mommy’s arms, mommy’s lap. Our thoughts are like that.

Or like waves on the ocean. The wave never leaves the ocean. The wave never separates from the ocean. When it arises, it comes from the ocean. As it moves here and there, maybe becoming giant, still it is just the ocean, nothing different, nothing extra. Actually, you can’t even say there is a wave there—there is just ocean! Ocean moving or sparkling a little bit, we call that a wave; but not one speck different than the ocean. Then when it disappears, where does it go? Just disappears in the ocean. Ocean to ocean. Ocean from the ocean, ocean moving in the ocean, ocean back into the ocean. Where is the ocean going to go? No big deal. Sentient beings’ thoughts are like that, moving inseparably in buddhanature ocean. Buddha mind ocean. Wisdom ocean.

All forms are enlightened body; all sounds are enlightened speech; all thoughts are enlightened mind—do you think that is reason to get excited? Do you think that means you are something special? Sorry! It means everything is already there. What are you going to get excited about? Nobody’s special. Nothing’s special. Which part are you going to point to and call it “special”? Can you show me which part is special and which part is not special? Can you show me which part is buddha and which part is sentient being? Maybe we can build a wall there? I am special, no question, so I don’t

want any nasty sentient beings touching me, even one hair! Their being not-special will make my specialness dirty! Don't touch! They are going to make my buddhanature dirty!

Give me a break! You think you are so pure, so special, so clean? If you were really pure, nothing could make you dirty. If you were pure, you wouldn't worry about dirty. No dirty could harm you, no dirt could get onto you or stick to you. If you were pure, you wouldn't show your butt with shit coming out like that, your self-grasping and self-concern shamelessly all over everything, your five poisons smelling worse than a baby's rotten diaper. All you are showing is you don't have the faintest idea what the real "clean" is, what the real "pure" is, what the real "special" is. All you are showing is your butt, shamelessly. You think you are clean or pure or have some kind of quality, that is why you are a special goddamn one?

Excuse me, may I ask a question? Do you know what a real quality is? A good quality, a quality of enlightenment? Do you know about compassion, for example? Sir and madam? Ladies and gentlemen? Does anybody know about compassion? Not flashy one. Not one that will make you rich. Not George Bush's "compassion" that forced him to bomb Iraq. That was very interesting compassion; I don't think any buddha had ever seen compassion like that before. I mean real Buddhism compassion. Real buddhas' compassion. Do you know what that is? What color, what shape? What smell, not your shit smell? What taste, what sound?

Do you know the meaning of compassion? Its essence? Its source? Can you recognize it? If you really have understanding and faith, and really you have pure vision—seeing all appearances, sounds, and thoughts as the body, speech, and mind of the deity—then you will see that Vajrasattva, Chenrezig, Kilaya, Guru Rinpoche, or any wisdom being is a compassion being. Compassion is not a small thing. Buddhas are the most compassionate. Buddhas are ultimate compassion. Relative, ultimate—they are every compassion. All buddhas' reason or purpose is compassion. Then that's it.

Buddhas are everything compassion. Then why do we think we don't need compassion? We don't need buddhas? We don't need to become enlightened? Do you think all the buddhas were stupid, so many eons they spent cultivating perfect compassion? Do you think you are smarter than them? Do you think you are going to find something better than compassion? Sure, you are so smart. Look how smart you have been until now!

We think we need to be smart to attain liberation? We think we need to be special? We think we need to be handsome or pretty or rich? No. Good luck going that direction! All of those things are useless, just wasting. Wasting time, wasting energy, wasting focus, wasting our human birth, wasting ourselves, wasting the most precious things for the most garbage things. What do we really need? Compassion. That is the real

precious one, the real pretty one, the real richness. With compassion you don't need to be uptight. You don't need to worry about being your special or your rich or your whatever useless things. You don't worry about dirty and clean, pure and impure, rich or poor. That way you get the real clean, the real pure, the real biggest richest. If you just focus on compassion, then you have the real one. The real focus, you got it. Finally you got the real trustable one. That one, you can go for it, 100%, and nothing will be wasted, I guarantee. Only that.

We don't want to trust that one. Not slick. Not flashy. My enlightenment needs to be more slick than that! More flashy than that! Sure. You are so smart.

Please, everybody, don't go that way. Don't go to the slick, the smart, the pretty or handsome, rich or famous or flashy way. Don't cheat yourself, trusting those untrustable things anymore. Enough's enough. Just go for your compassion. Just go for your faith. Humbly, slowly. Really, that is my wish for you.

Everybody has buddhanature. Embarrassing, isn't it? We have buddhanature, but we are always acting like the opposite, like the lowest, nastiest demon. Therefore, please try to act at least like human beings. Please don't act like demons and demonesses anymore, like prostitutes and playboys and doggies, like animals with giant horns on their heads. Don't shame yourself and don't cheat yourself. Nobody is forcing you to do those things.

Drop your trip and just practice. Practice what? Go straight for compassion, straight for faith. Without those, you have no eyes and no feet, you can't see or move. Go straight for the real one, okay? Other things are really useless. You want to move? You need eyes, you need hands, you need feet, legs, arms, everything. Compassion and faith, that we need. That is our eyes, our hands, our everything. Humbly, honestly. Other things, nothing. Just empty. Just liars. We follow them, we lie to ourselves.

Try, honestly, okay? Try, nothing fancy stuff. Just compassion stuff. Just faith stuff. That was plenty enough fancy for all the buddhas. Why not enough for us? Everybody try, honestly. That would be really happy Losar. Really auspicious, that one. That is really my wish for everybody.

Tashi Delek!

-Gyatral

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