

Our Own Faults

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What are we doing? What do we need to do?

We need to get rid of our own faults.

That means first recognize them, because if you don't recognize them, you'll never be able to get rid of them. You won't know *what* to get rid of. You won't know what you are facing. So first recognize them. You have to know that they are faults. You have to know that they are the very thing that you need to get rid of.

Then how do we get rid of them? Once we know what they are, then slowly, slowly we will get rid of them. Naturally you will get rid of them, because you have recognized that they are harming you. Seeing your faults, you can't just drop them instantly. But don't keep them in the bank, either, holding them forever! You don't need to throw them away, but you don't need to grab and hold them, either.

Really knowing they are faults, that's the thing! That's the key.

Without knowing that they are faults, without knowing that they are harmful, without seeing them for what they are, we are just casual about them: "Oh, those are just this and that." That is not how a practitioner thinks. If we think that way, our faults will never go away. Instead, a real dharma practitioner recognizes how harmful faults are. For example, if they have a stomachache, they think, "Oh, last night I ate this kind of food, that is why I have dysentery!" Then they don't eat that thing again.

Simple, isn't it? Like that.

To get rid of your faults, once you see them, you don't have to make a big deal of them and throw them in the garbage and tell everybody. Just don't repeat them!

And all this fuss about others' faults, just drop it. People make a big commotion about other people's faults, pointing them out, dwelling on them, gossiping about them. They are not your business! Slowly, slowly give up that habit of gossiping and pointing the finger at others. If you see others' faults, if you know others have faults, just shut up! What is the benefit of blabbing about them everywhere? Instead, keep your mouth shut and have more patience, more compassion. If you see others' faults, you don't need to point at them! Maybe it's your own concept, after all, and they don't even actually have a fault. Or if they do, I don't think you can help them. Do you think your money or position can fix somebody else's faults? I don't think it's your business.

So many people love to point at others' faults and talk on and on about them, all the while claiming, "I am a Buddhist! I am a practitioner!" That is really backwards. Real Buddhists, they don't say too much. They don't complain that other people's heads are too big or their butts are too long or whatever. It's not their business! No reason to complain about it!

Look at the example of our teachers. His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche, whatever happened he said, "Ya, ya!" Good things or bad things, still he said, "Ya, ya!" He was so smooth, so even, regardless if everything was perfect and beautiful, or if the earth was shaking, or he was in the middle of a thunderstorm in the rocky mountains and it looked like everything was going to come down on his head.

Try to be more like that. Slow down! Slow down your mouth. Slow down and watch. Be calm, calm, calm and watch.

If you want to be beautiful, you need a mirror to see your flaws so you can fix them, yes?

You can only eliminate your faults if you see them. Even having seen them, you can't instantly throw them away. That doesn't work. First you see them, then you have to decide, "No more! No more!" And slowly, slowly you do that.

Don't be like our Tibetan refugee people, always trying to lie and cheat. Or some lamas, they just want to gobble up the sponsors' money, their food, everything— "for myself, for my wife, for my son, for my daughter, for my center!" You don't need to do that, think that way, cheat that way. If you don't have that problem already, you don't need to learn that, okay?! Just be honest, with yourself and with others.

If others have faults, that's not our business! If others don't have faults, that's not our business, either—just appreciate it!

Not seeing your own faults and only seeing others' faults—pointing them out, "Here! Here! And here!"—that's big trouble. Don't do that.

Just look. Just watch. Just check. You are not a spy, so you don't need to be smart! You are not an army leader, so you don't need to be a hero! Don't be a politician. Just stay purely, nicely, honestly. Look at your own faults, your own face. Your work is there. That is what we need to do.

Tashi Delek!

-Gyatral

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