

## *AFTER DINNER TEACHING PART 4*

### *NEEDING A POKE WITH THE WISDOM NEEDLE*

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*The following is an excerpt from spontaneous teachings Rinpoche gave one evening while sitting with several students after dinner:*

It is a real obstacle to get stuck in thinking, “I am pretty!” or “I am smart!” or “I am special!” “I am this and that!” Then we waste all our chances to benefit ourselves and others.



Don't try to be something special. Do you think that the dharma is going to make you something special, like a light getting turned on? No. Learning brings understanding, understanding and practice bring recognition. Of what? Your nature. Not something special. If you think you are becoming special, and you are a little bit lazy, then you will end up like me—I polluted my dharma, the pure blessings I received. I polluted my own nature! Of course nobody can pollute their real nature, but it looks like that.



When you are doing dharma, don't get stuck on thinking you are special or any other kind of uptightness. If you do, then you need someone to poke you in the butt with a needle! What needle do you really need to be poked with? Wisdom. For the first step, learning is going to poke you. You learn. You understand. You recognize yourself. You see: “Oh! That's wisdom!” Then, as you recognize it again and again, it becomes more obvious to you and your understanding grows. What are you recognizing and understanding? Rigpa, your own pristine awareness. Rigpa wisdom is *very sharp!* That is the needle of all phenomena's nature or essence. That is what you need, more than any needle. With wisdom, what you don't understand is liberated. Your problems are liberated. That isn't the same as saying someone threw them away. Nobody can throw them away! But with wisdom, they are liberated, which means completely recognized; you see nothing was there except their own nature. Then all your uptightness—everything—completely calms down.



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