

Things We Don't Need to be Taught

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July 1st, 2019

Rinpoche frequently makes comments while watching television about how the Buddha's teachings are being demonstrated onscreen for all to see.

Watching someone being arrested:

Look! Going to jail. You deserve it, mister!

Actually, that is everybody. Whatever you do that is stupid, you're going to have to face it. Nobody particularly has to send you to jail. You do it yourself, send yourself to jail. Then you have to give up your negative thing. It is on your own head, in your own face. You don't need a teacher to tell you or show you. It's just naturally there, obviously.

Actually, lots of things are like that. You don't need a teaching, just open your eyes.

Watching a singing telegram (which required some explanation), he said, "Is that guy just crazy?..."

Oho, that's exactly our samsara. Look at our samsara! It's a big joke. We think it's wonderful, terrible, up, down—actually we are just stuck in a joke jail. We ourselves are the biggest joke there. Everything is our joke and nobody has to send it to us [like a singing telegram]. Look at the television, it's the same—joke laugh, joke cry, joke kiss, joke baby, joke dying. Whole thing, top to bottom—actually nothing's there. Joke! Nobody needs to tell you these things. It comes naturally into your eye. We think the real one's real and television is the joke. Actually, same-same.

Watching a commercial showing people working at all kinds of jobs:

Look, everybody is so busy. Everybody is going blah blah blah, like it's so important. Then one day, dead! All this work, useless! All the blah means nothing. Obviously we can see that!

Watching a man and a woman arguing on a soap opera:

Hey, mister, you are just a liar. Nobody's going to trust you, even this demon lady knows better than that! She is like a hyena who wants to gobble you up, it looks like, and still you are trying to cheat her. Disgusting, both of you.

Actually we do this ourselves. We point to him and say, "He is the liar! He is the cheater!" But we lie to ourselves. We cheat ourselves.

We call her a demon lady, demoness, hyena—actually we are our own biggest demon.

Of course, they are just pretending. Maybe pretend kill each other, maybe kiss — anyway we see their lie. We don't need to be taught. We just see that, enjoy it. Our own we don't see. Nothing different from that one, though.

At the 'happy ending' of a movie:

Everything's impermanent. One second it looks like it's good. We think that means happy. But at the same time impermanent. Just like a dream. When a dream is finished, it's instantly gone. Movie finished, instantly gone. All our happy things, same thing — instantly gone. Sad things, happy things, doesn't matter. That is our life, exactly. First one movie is finished, then another one finished, another finished. All the past, all the movies have finished, good ones and bad ones. Being king or queen or president or leader doesn't matter one hair. How come we don't see it? It's there, everything inside our world, everything inside our dream, everything inside our television — all the same! We love to watch, again and again, but we don't see it.

-Gyatral

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