

~From the Archives of Teachings by Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche~

HEART ADVICE ON TSOQ AND OTHER MATTERS

*A teaching read to those gathered at Orgyen Dorje Den on January 14, 2012,
to practice Vajrasattva in connection with Dungse Thinley Norbu Rinpoche's Parinirvana*

Part 17

The Same Buddhanature

Some people get very worried about keeping all of the different kinds of vows. Actually, there is no need to freak out. If you keep your vows of refuge, you are keeping all of your vows, so there is no need to worry. If you go into the meaning of refuge, you are going into the very heart of the dharma itself. Everything can be found there. You don't have to go first into refuge to the very bottom, and then go into bodhicitta all over again from the top, and then go into generation stage, and then completion stage, and then dzogchen. It is not piece by piece by piece. If you take any one of those and you go in, really in, really deeply into the nature—into what is actually being indicated by all of the symbols, into what the power or the source of all the blessing is—then you just need one. And for all of you who are lazy, that should be really good news!

The reason that any of the practices can take you all the way into the heart of dharma isn't because you are special, or because you have special buddhanature so you can get there faster than anyone else, or you just need one method but everyone else needs lots of things. The reason is because everyone has the same buddhanature, and every practice will lead you to that same nature if you go all the way down to its essence. All the dharma is pointing at that same buddhanature.

You are able to penetrate the meaning of dharma, you are able to reach enlightenment itself, not because you are special but because you have buddhanature. And yours is the same as every being's buddhanature.

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~Translated and edited by Shashi Reitz~*

Whenever there is someone teaching the dharma, listening to the dharma, practicing the dharma—or working against the dharma, destroying the dharma, too!—they all have buddhanature. They all have the *same* buddhanature. There is no high and no low. That is the kind of respect we should have for all beings. If not, then we are wasting our buddhanature and we are wasting others' buddhanature, ignoring it. That is like the worst kind of poverty. That is like the worst kind of waste. That is the worst thing we could do to ourselves, to impoverish ourselves by ignoring our buddhanature. This worst of all crimes, we have actually already committed it! How many times? So many times, every day and every instant we commit this crime again of wasting our buddhanature.

~ teaching continues in Part 18...