

From the Archives of Teachings by Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche~

SEEING OUR OWN SITUATION CLEARLY

*Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche gave this teaching as his parting advice
at the end of his visit to Osel Nyingpo dharma center in Ojai, California, January 2010.*

Part 10

Being Willing to Face Your Faults

Another thing: If some young lady comes and is teaching, some of you might think, "That young lady—she's a teacher. I want to sleep with her." This is disgusting. Young guys, young men might think, "She is wonderful, she is a teacher, so I need her. I want her." If you think like this or act like this, you are ruining the jewel that can bring benefit to all beings. A teacher is like a wish-fulfilling jewel and can bring benefit and happiness to everyone. If you are possessive and want the teacher for yourself or indulge in these kinds of thoughts, you are taking away all beings' wealth because of your own selfish desire. One who does that is a demon, male or female. Such a one is ruining their own samaya. Be careful.

It is not only non-Tibetans who act like this. These days, many Tibetan lamas and monks are also eager to ruin themselves and ruin others in this same way. Embarrassing!

On the other hand, I am not saying that I am a pure one, either, better than everyone, without faults or mistakes myself. Going the mistaken way many times, that is how I learned. Don't be like me! And don't be like those stupid so-called 'lamas' who go around ruining everybody, either!

If you guard against negativities such as these, and recognize your own faults, you will be able to develop your qualities. But it is only with clear sight of your faults that can you bring about your own benefit. Consider this. You won't get anywhere if you won't look at your own faults. But if you are willing to face them, you can slowly learn to draw back the black curtain of negativity and replace it with the bright new curtain of your wisdom qualities.

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~Translated and edited by Shashi Reitz~*

You don't need to have any doubt that your wisdom qualities are the same as the Buddha's.

If you have doubts about your own wisdom qualities, how will you be able to cultivate them? If you just remain unsure about them, wishy-washy and hesitating, what are you going to get? Nothing.

In that case, tough luck!

Instead, have confidence in your wisdom qualities. You each have these qualities—now you have to choose to engage them rather than just engaging samsara again at every turn. Turn your attention to your own qualities of enlightened body, speech, mind, qualities, and activities. Focus there and put your energy into them directly. You don't need to have any doubt or hesitation.

What you *don't* need to engage are your mental afflictions, negative emotions, and suffering. If you grab at those, they might look beautiful or attractive, but they are not anything positive.

I don't need to tell you this—everybody knows these things a hundred times better than I do, you are all a hundred times smarter. You do have knowledge and understanding, so please put them to good use.

Do you understand that in this way you already have the real teacher here, within you?

~ teaching continues in Part 11...