

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 II

Bringing Benefit in Any Role

In the future, if you become a teacher to others, still always humbly study and take teachings, and contemplate and meditate on those teachings. Don't get caught up in your status or position. Don't fall into preferential treatment for the people you like and turn a cold shoulder to 'other people.'

Don't think of 'us' and 'them.' Whatever qualities you have, the basis of those qualities is the buddhanature, which all beings have. Therefore, don't think your knowledge, understanding, or other qualities make you special—all beings likewise have the very basis of those qualities, same as you! On the basis of their buddhanature, however much a being engages in making offerings and other methods of generating merit and works to purify their obscurations, their qualities will emerge and they will be of benefit to all beings. They will bring the greatest possible benefit to themselves as well.

If you cultivate faith in this buddhanature of all beings at the very beginning when you take refuge, then all throughout the path—up to the very pinnacle which is Dzogchen itself, all the way to the very threshold of buddhahood—this will unfailingly serve you well.

In fact, there is nothing beyond this. Be aware of buddhanature, and cultivate pure faith, whether you are a teacher or a student. Then accumulate merit and purify obscurations as much as you can, such as by making offerings and performing acts of generosity.

When we act for the benefit of all beings, that *is* generosity. It accumulates merit. Those who are followers of the Buddha, who wish to emulate his enlightened activity—this is the very thing they need to do. If you are teaching, it is crucial to always keep this in mind.

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~Translated and edited by Shashi Reitz~*

Otherwise, if there is concern for money when empowerments, transmissions, or instructions are given, that is selling the dharma. This is the manifestation of our desire and accumulated negativity. In the future, whatever dharma center you are at, don't shame yourself by showing off your desire like that. Instead, always remember the value of making offerings and being generous. Do not forget that your purpose is to serve each other and all beings in these ways.

Whatever position you are in or status you have, whether you are acting as a teacher, a student, or in any other role, if you act with some understanding of the Buddha's qualities and the sincere wish to benefit others, that is the beginning of the Great Vehicle.

~ teaching continues in Part 12...