

~From the Archives of Teachings by Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche~

On Faith and Recognizing the Oneness Nature

In April of 2013, Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche gave the following spontaneous teaching privately while at Tashi Chöling Center for Buddhist Studies, near Ashland, Oregon.

Part 2

Visualization and the Oneness of Buddhature

When high lamas like Yangthang Rinpoche open their mouths and explain something, they open everything. The whole space becomes Buddha. That is oneness.

Seeing that, you don't need a particular meditation, a particular deity, this and that. We think we need to do generation stage piece by piece, building the palace of the deity, the doors, windows, inside, this thing and that thing, the thrones, the sun and moon seat or whatever it may be—maybe a flower, maybe nothing, sometimes elephants holding up the throne, sometimes snow lions, blah blah blah.

Actually, everything is oneness. In our confusion, we take out each piece as if they were separate: this is the throne, snow lions are holding it, there is that one and this one, this one is held by dragons, blah blah. But actually, the whole thing is one piece.

We made it 100 million pieces! Then we have to follow that. Then our poor mind gets so tired...then it collapses...that's it.

Why did we have to go that way? Because we spread one thing out over 100 million miles, condemning ourselves to follow each piece.

But if we understand it is Buddha's body, we can establish it as oneness, we can understand. That is our opportunity to become Buddha's body.

It is the same with Buddha's speech, the same thing with Buddha's mind. If we are always making it this piece and that piece, frozen, stuck here and there, then how are you going to realize the oneness same nature?

Anything is the same—the peaceful and wrathful manifestations, heaven and hell, all

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the offerings, all the billions of offering goddesses, the peaceful enlightened activity, enriching enlightened activity, powerful and wrathful—we think we need them piece by piece.

We are deluded to even think it's *possible* to get them piece by piece. "I got one enlightened activity, not the other three." "I got four but not completely." "I got three or four but not exactly."

That 'exactly' is that there is one thing there!

Rigpa is *sangye*. Buddha. Enlightenment.

If everyone is angry at you and they say, "Go to hell!" and blah blah blah like this, or if they say "I love you!" "I have FAITH in you!" "You are so wonderful!" blah blah blah like that—either way, no big deal. Either way, just phenomena. Same nature.

The nature, really, if you ask what it is, it is buddhanature. If you are so angry or so happy, then what? If you are angry, actually there is nothing you can destroy. If you have so much happiness or love or faith, likewise you are getting nothing, there is no benefit, you establish nothing through that.

Why is there nothing to get and nothing to destroy? Is it because somebody stole it? No. It is because the nature is one piece. Then what are you going to destroy? What are you going to create? What are you going to grab?

~ *teaching continues in Part 3...*