

~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 4

Genuine Qualities Come from Knowing the Oneness Nature

These days, the teacher needs MY chair, MY throne. But their body is made of earth, water, fire, air—same as a piece of shit. And that throne, what is it? Just pieces of ordinary material things like wood, put together as a box. So, if you put the lump of material things that we call a body onto the materials assembled like a box we call a throne, what is the big deal? Do you think somehow you are getting something special?

On the other hand, some really high lamas, if they are on a throne, they are there only to benefit other sentient beings.

Our habit is to be dumb, but even being dumb, if we have impure faith, slowly we can get merit through that.

Then our wrong view goes down a little bit, the impure faith slowly opening.

This is impure faith because real faith we don't know. The nature, reality, we don't know. The most precious, most valuable thing is the nature, reality. Being handsome, pretty, smart, rich, poor—nothing much important. What is important is the person's essence, buddhanature. Essence of the handsome one, essence of the ugly one. Essence of the rich one and the poor one, the same.

“These are hands!” “Those are feet!” “This one is handsome!” “That one is pretty!”

That is not buddhanature. That is just samsara, samsaric concern.

Buddhanature cares nothing for rich or poor.

Therefore, buddhanature is important!

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~Translated and edited by Shashi Reitz~*

Animals have buddhanature. Among the animals, some are peaceful, some are nasty. Both have buddhanature. If you recognize that nature, then that is Buddha.

Recognizing Buddha, that buddhanature, then are the good ones more special or are the bad ones?

Neither.

They are equal.

If you recognize, then good is nothing good, bad is nothing bad. Good or bad, no big deal. If you don't know, then you take good and bad to be the big deal, then you can go to the lower realms. If you are on a diamond throne but your mind is filled with negativity, you go to hell. Hot or cold, who knows?

A yucky, poor, funky guy, if she or he understands buddhanature, if you put them in the garbage or in the toilet, or up on a throne, for them any of these are wonderful, the same. If they recognize the nature, already they are liberated. So, "so what?"

Someone on the throne who has to go stage by stage because of their karma, if they don't recognize the oneness nature yet, they still think, "I am on a throne!" Then they get more and more pride, thinking "I'm special." Watch carefully—that high becomes low!

It is the same thing when you see a lama on a throne. You think he must be a wonderful lama, he has a really high throne, big retinue, big deal. You are so tickled to have faith in that one, especially if he is handsome or she is pretty.

Uh-uh!

If they have real qualities, then yes. If they have real qualities, then it doesn't matter if they have a throne, a retinue or anything. Don't have faith in the throne or retinue—just have faith in their qualities.

~ teaching concludes in Part 5...