

On Pure Vision--Part II

Message from Venerable Gyatrul Rinpoche

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When should you start training in pure vision? Now. Starting this second, train in seeing your body and the universe, both inner and outer phenomena, as pure. Train in seeing the elements and your experiences as the five dakinis or the five families of buddhas, male and female. If you don't train now, while you have the chance, when are you going to start? When is it going to happen?

If you don't train now, while you have the capacity and the power, then if you finally want to start training at the moment of your death, forget it! It won't work. If, starting right now, you train in viewing everything you see, hear, and think as the deities' bodies, speech, and wisdom, then you have a foundation for your liberation. The more you are familiar with pure vision, the easier the moment of your death will be. The more you have trained in seeing your phenomena right now as the pure land, the less scared and nervous you will need to be as you die. But if you don't train now, then liberation at death is very difficult. Instead of liberation--freedom, relief-- you will just have fear and worry, thinking you are losing everything. If you have trained in pure vision, how could you possibly lose anything? What are you going to lose? You cannot lose what is pure--it is everywhere.

If you want there to be no bardo, but only liberation at death, then you have to train in pure vision now. Do you think there will be some other liberation than that? No. We don't get any other liberation; there is no other nirvana. Liberation is not somewhere you go. It is liberation from our grasping to everything as impure. Freedom from our own self-cherishing; that is our liberation and true freedom. But we think it couldn't possibly be that simple, and so we go looking in the ten directions for some sparkling flashy liberation. If you think liberation is sparkling and flashy, bullshit! Anybody who tells you that is a liar. The buddhas and great masters never said that. That is not the liberation they attained. Real liberation doesn't need to be flashy. Only ignorance needs to be flashy or pretty or rich, only ignorance is uptight that way.

Liberation is like our buddhanature: we already have it but we don't trust it. We have such a strong habit of not trusting our buddhanature or pure phenomena, and instead putting all our trust in the five poisons and impure phenomena! That is how we screw ourselves up, 100%. Rather than constantly focusing on what increases your five poisons, create the habit of seeing things as their pure nature. That will naturally calm your poisons and negative emotions. Whatever you see or hear, that is what should be used for your training. How do you train? Give up your grasping. Give up your self-cherishing, give up your self-centered stupidity, give up holding so tightly to everything being truly existent. We hold to true existence like we have the worst case of

constipation ever! When we relax that, even a little bit, with faith or compassion, then we can see things more and more purely. To see things more purely simply means to see their nature more clearly. It is not that phenomena were impure before and now we are making them pure. Don't hold to that MY WAY idea--"phenomena have to be pure because that's MY WAY! I said so! I'm gonna punch you!" The buddhas don't tell us that phenomena are pure just because they want them to be that way. They don't have to lie to anyone or cheat anyone like that, as if they were businessmen. They have no reason to do that. They just are telling us what they see directly--pure vision, the nature of phenomena. They aren't pretending or making things up in order to screw anybody up. That's what you do, not what they do.

That's why they are liberated: they see things as they are. Then they tell the truth about them! In contrast, we lie all the time because we are so ignorant, we see everything upside down. Worst of all, we constantly lie to ourselves. That is the cultivation of impure vision, not pure vision. Please, don't increase your impure vision. Don't lie to yourself.

Furthermore, the buddhas don't make some big deal, "Hey, I'm having pure vision over here!" or "Hey, don't touch me--I'm busy with my pure vision." Please, give me a break--no buddha ever said that. The lineage masters never said that. Why do we need to say it, thinking we are so special? Pure vision doesn't mean you are special. Being special is sentient beings' trip, which means it is just ordinary ignorance garbage. Someone with real pure vision doesn't need that junk. So please, everybody try, humbly and honestly. That will benefit you and others.

You think that you are so special, so precious? If you cultivate pure vision you will be even more special, more precious. So, go for it! But it won't only be you--all beings will be more special, more precious. Hahaha! So you lost your specialness again. See, Buddha Shakyamuni tricked you, Guru Rinpoche tricked you, all the lamas tricked you. If you follow what they say, they will steal all your five poisons and just leave you with the five wisdoms. Actually, you are stealing from yourself. Actually, the poisons weren't even there from the beginning. Oops! Now what are you going to do? Haha again!

Tashi Delek!

-Gyatral