

DHARMA -- THE RAIN OF BLESSINGS

“Things are not what they seem” is an age-old adage that we all know. Not only is that true, but things often are the opposite or reverse of what they seem. Just like all eyes are on an idol like Elvis Presley or Lady Gaga, that’s only true because of those who look. We have collectively buried our role as a looker in what it is we look at. Yet without looking, nothing would be seen.

I was struck by this recently in a powerful dharma teaching about the emanations of great beings like a buddha. Rinpoche pointed out that the moon is only reflected as many times as there are receptacles to reflect it. In a similar way, dharma emanations are only as numerous as there are those receptive enough to reflect. And that would be us.

It is also said that a buddha emanates 84,000 dharmas; and often added to that is the statement that there are infinite gradations for each of those 84,000 dharma. Or, the truth of a buddha is reflected individually in as many sentient beings as can reflect it. I hope you are getting the point here.

The rain of blessings of the dharma, like raindrops, fall everywhere and are all different depending on the conditions of their placement on the ground. The more perfectly formed the raindrop, the clearer and less riled the water in each drop is, the better the reflection.

The teachings of a buddha only exist for those of us who are reflective enough to mirror them. If our reflective ability is unclear or filled with muddiness (or

whatever), then our ability to reflect is diminished until we can purify its surface. This is why all the preliminary purification practices exist, to polish our mirror so that we can reflect the dharma perfectly. This is just an analogy.

The Buddha is not out there somewhere, but right here within us. Buddha Nature is in each one of us. It is written that we are all buddhas; we have just not realized this. Like a receptacle that mirrors the moon, we can polish our internal mirror until it perfectly reflects the buddha nature within us. There are as many perfect emanations as there are perfect reflections.

[Photo by me.]

“As Bodhicitta is so precious,
May those without it now create it,
May those who have it not destroy it,
And may it ever grow and flourish”

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