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Wisdom Nectar



Dudjom Rinpoché's Heart Advice

Translated and introduced by RON GARRY

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Due to our individual karma, we have diverse feelings that we try to engender or avoid, and we sometimes react differently to similar external phenomena. Whatever my personal likes and dislikes, it is all based upon feelings that arise within me that I like and want to sustain. These feelings are in turn based upon circumstances such as those just mentioned. Hence, I then attempt to create and sustain circumstances that will result in internal feelings I enjoy, such as love, inspiration, pleasure, and happiness. I attempt to change or avoid circumstances that may result in feelings such as pain, suffering, disappointment and fear. But isn't it actually the feeling itself that we enjoy and want to recreate and maintain? Don't we actually spend our entire lives grasping after pleasurable inner experiences, attempting to create and sustain these feelings through creating and sustaining outer circumstances; just as we push away unpleasurable inner experiences, trying to change and avert these feelings through changing and averting outer circumstances?

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Unfortunately, sooner or later, all these projects based upon grasping at pleasure and avoidance of pain end in failure—either due to unforseen circumstances beyond our control, such as illness, divorce, unwanted separation from loved ones or imminent death, whatever the case may be. Such attempts at maintaining or avoiding these circumstances will almost certainly bite the dust. Especially when death occurs, a nonpractitioner has no power or ability to control circumstances at all.

According to Vajrayana Buddhist teachings, when we die we enter a series of experiences called the intermediate state (bardo), that culminates in rebirth into one of six realms of cyclic existence, unless our previous practice and the blessings of our lama results in liberation during this intermediate state. Thus at death, when our mind separates from our body, we no longer have the power or ability to create the circumstances that support feelings we enjoy, or to prevent the feelings that cause us suffering. In the intermediate state between this life and the next, our experiences and the feelings related to these experiences arise based on conditions that are the results of the cause and effect of our past karma. This is the bad news.

Fortunately, there is also very good news. Through practicing Buddha's teachings with faith and devotion, it is possible to become free of all circumstances, both positive ones that lead to feelings we enjoy, and negative ones that lead to feelings we find disturbing. Buddha skillfully taught many methods based on circumstances that take us beyond circumstances, progressively leading us to the realization of our true nature which is Always Noble (Kuntu Zangpo), primordially pure great exaltation. Dudjom Rinpoché's writings compiled in this book are the essence of all Buddhist teachings, and the quintessence of the wisdom mind of Always Noble, the original Buddha. His direct and simple pith instructions on view, meditation and conduct are a sure guide upon the path of Great Perfection, leading to fully enlightened Buddhahood in a single lifetime. As His Holiness writes in his preface to Essential Advice for Solitary Meditation Practice:

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The Essence

By mahipal

I could not think of a more accurate title to this precious work than "WISDOM NECTAR", and I would also like to thank Ron GARRY for his involvement. This book tries to convey the essence of Dzogchen and could be compared to Einstein's Formula E=MC2.

Every child can "know" the formula but this intellectual knowledge does not help him a great deal. Between understanding the words and understanding the meaning lies about 47 years in my case. But until recently the words were not spelled out that clearly as here. May more beings understand the simplicity and precision of the inherent meaning!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Too the heart of awareness and enlightenment

By Dennis Crane

The work is well translated. The view of the enlightened condition is wonderful. I read a small portion at a time while I am in bed at night. It's good to have the core teaching of the Buddha in my heart for my night's activities. Dudjom is simply the finest I have read in my 48 years as a devoted Buddhist. I also recommend his work: The Nyingma Tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, which is a definitive look at the Buddha's teaching. Dennis Crane

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"This collection of prayers and songs from Dudjom Rinpoche (1904-1987), former head of the Nyingma lineage of Tibetan Buddhism, provides a rare opportunity to absorb the core insights of a master. The teachings -- often transcribed from the same poetic verse that he presented orally to his students -- are not concerned with complex rhetoric. Rather, they are intended to communicate directly Dudjom Rinpoche's personal realization, his heart advice. A prose section, "Essential Advice for Solitary Meditation Practice," includes a complete discussion of the Dzogchen path and answers all the questions that might arise during a three-year retreat (and a shorter one, too)."--Tricycle Magazine

"Wisdom Nectar: Dudjom Rinpoche's Heart Advice... is a work of inspiring, beautiful translations of Rinpoche's writings. This is a book that will be of interest both to the general reader, as well as those who practice Dzogchen and scholars. And for those who study the Tibetan language: you will find an extensive word list in the Tibetan script."--Tibetan Language Institute

His Holiness Dudjom Rinpoche (1904-1987) was the head of the Nyingma lineage during his lifetime. He was a treasure revealer, teacher, and poet; he also built monasteries, retreat centers, and stupas.

Ron Garry has an M.A. in integral psychotherapy and a Ph.D. in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism, and has completed

the traditional three-year retreat. He is also the translator of The Teacher-Student Relationship.

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