

Feb 23, Saturday: The Luminous Nature of the Mind

Commentary on Valid Cognition by Dharmakirti (chapter II)

The nature of mind is clear light,
Defilements are only adventitious.

If compassion is brought to familiarity to the mind, Spontaneously does it flow. It is like fire consuming fuels, And mercury [reacting] to gold. (v. 125)

Through familiarization of the preceding moments, The mental qualities such as loving kindness and non-attachment, Will become the prime Of the other manifestations. (v. 130)

Through practice, [the mind] will have the nature of loving kindness, Like non-attachment [for Arhats,] crave [for the lustful], and the thought of repulsion [for the practitioners of impurity.] (v. 131)

In order to quell the miseries [of sentient beings,] The Compassionate One with [initial] rigor engages in the means [to overcome one's own sufferings]. Being deprived of the knowledge of the results of the means and their causes, It is difficult to teach [others] of these. (v. 132)

Familiarizing in multitudes of means through various ways, Over an extended period of time, One then becomes the One with [Omniscience] To vividly [perceive][all] the demerits and merits. (v. 137)

The Bodhicaryavatara, Preliminary Teachings to the Kalachakra Initiation by The Dalai Lama:

In the third Turning of the Wheel, particularly in the *Uttaratantra* or *Sublime Continuum* of Maitreya and also the *Tathagatagarbha Sutra* or *The Essence of Buddhahood Sutra*, Buddha explains the nature of our mind... that the negative aspects of our minds, the afflictive emotions like desire, hatred, anger and so forth, are not innate aspects of our mind but rather are adventitious. They are adventitious in the sense that they arise in our mental continuum as the consequence of circumstantial conditions but they are not essential or basic to the mind.

The pristine clarity and the luminous awareness is an innate aspect of our mind. The negative aspects such as the afflictive emotions as they are not basic to the mind are separable, can be removed from the basic continuum of our mind. This point has been underlined in the sutras that are related to the third Turning of the Wheel.

<https://www.lamayeshe.com/article/what-mind>

<http://www.ktgrinpoche.org/teachings/selected-teachings>