

## DHARMA -- WHY WE ARE ONE OF A KIND

Each of us ultimately is different from one another, adding up our differences as they accumulate until we are uniquely individual. We have unique fingerprints; how much more do we have a unique mindset, repeatedly stamped with our own personal experience until we stand out. We differentiate ourselves or are differentiated, try as we might to remain the same. It is unavoidable.

And so, our dharma path or solution, however much we resemble one another, is also unique, hand tailored to fit us like a hand to a glove. My point in pointing this out is simply that we should be ready for this individuation and not expect a cookie-cutter solution. What am I saying here?

Of course, we are talking about dharma realization. We always are, so what this means is to look closer to home for dharma realization and not somewhere out there beyond our own skin. Realization comes from within, inside us, and not from anywhere else. It's not like it is coming from on-high or in a strange language or tone. In fact, far from it.

As the pith dharma teachings say "From within the midst of experience, realization can arise." Again: realization comes from inside. It dawns on us. And, as pointed out, realization comes in our own speak, our mother-tongue. In other words, we will first hear it as filtered from the one person we always listen to, ourselves.

Realization will reach beyond or beneath what we know as ourselves and into the nature of the mind itself, at which time it will be obvious that it is totally familiar and has always been there. That's why there is no possibility of mistaking realization, because it changes everything at once, including ourselves and how we measure anything. The measuring stick by which all is measured itself is transformed. That's why there is no going back. Realization is a one-way street.

It's more like "Back to the future" of what we have become or are becoming. The glove is turned completely inside out. That is the nature of realization: transformation.

And transformation means just what the word says, that we

are transformed. Our history also is transformed. It's what I call the "Last Judgment," the idea that the most recent view rewrites history in its own image. It's a moveable feast.

I find that it's good to remind myself that realization of any kind is non-dual and not a relative-truth. In other words, with realization there is no room for subject and object, but only a straight shot at what is, what has been called eternity.

["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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