७९। | हेंगश्चन्त्रम्तु म्त्रास्य स्था । । स्रुत्रसेयाः क्षेत्रासे प्राप्त स्था ।

A Lamp to Dispel Darkness

An Instruction that Points Directly to the Very Essence of Mind In the Tradition of 'the Old Realized Ones' by Mipham Jampal Dorje

The Homage

Homage to the Lama, inseparable from Mañjuśrī, the embodiment of wisdom!

Without having to study, contemplate, or train to any great degree,

Simply by maintaining recognition of the very nature of mind according to the approach of the pith instructions, Any ordinary village yogi can, without too much difficulty,

Reach the level of a vidyādhara: such is the power of this profound path.

ने: प्यट म्हाने के अया प्रति महाम्मान अपने के कि स्वाप्त के प्रति के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त

नेषाने नेषाने प्रत्या । वर्षे मुष्याने प्रत्या ।

The Instruction that Cracks Open the Egg-shell of Ignorance

When you leave your mind in a state of natural rest, without thinking any particular thought, and at the same time maintain some kind of mindfulness, you can experience a state of vacant, neutral, apathetic indifference, called "lungmaten", (a 'no-man's land'), where your consciousness is dull and blank.

In this, there is not any of the clear insight of *vipaśyanā*, which discerns things precisely, and so the masters call it **marigpa** ("non-recognition, ignorance, unknowing").

देःयायदेःयद्यदेःधेन् मुःर्देशः मञ्चरःश्चायाये कान्याये कान्यायायः व्याप्यायः व्यायः व्याप्यायः व्य

Since you cannot define it and say "This is what it's like", or "This is it!" such a state is called **lungmaten** ("undecided, indeterminate"). And since you can not say what kind of state it is you are resting in, or what your mind is thinking, it is also called **tha mal tang nyom** ("an ordinary state of

apathetic indifference"). In fact, you are stuck in an ordinary state within the **ālaya**.

नवना वनमा ने त्र ना त्रान्ते क्षा को में ना प्याने मान स्वाप्त की स्वाप्त की

You need to use such a means of resting the mind, as a stepping stone, so as to give rise to the non-conceptual state of primordial wisdom. However, if there is not the self-recognition of primordial wisdom which is our rigpa, then it cannot count as the main (meditation) practice of Dzogchen.

गुर्तः र्श्वेन प्यमा द्वाप्या प्रेम्पान प्रत्या के प्राप्त प्रत्या के प्रत्य के प्रत्या के प्रत्य के प्रत्या के प्रत्या के प्रत्या के प्रत्या के प्रत्या के प्रत्य के प्रत्या के प्रत्या के प्रत्या के प्रत्या के प्रत्या के प्रत्य के प्रत्या के प्रत्य के प्रत

As The Aspiration Prayer of Samantabhadra says:
A blank state, devoid of any thought whatsoever—
That is marigpa, the cause of delusion.
Therefore, when mind experiences this kind of dull state that lacks any thought or mental activity, by allowing your attention to turn naturally and gently towards the one who is aware of this state—the one who is not thinking—you discover the pure awareness of rigpa, free of any movement of thought, beyond

any notion of outside or inside, unimpeded and open, like the clear sky.

श्चीराचुर्युत्ये विद्यास्त्रे विद्यास्त्र मार्श्चेत्या विद्यास्त्र मार्थे मार्थे विद्यास्त्र मार्थे म

Although there is no dualistic separation here between an experience and an experiencer, still the mind is certain about its own true nature, and there is a sense that, "There is nothing whatsoever beyond this." When this occurs, because you can not conceptualize it or express it in words, it is acceptable to apply such terms as: "free from all extremes", "beyond description", "the fundamental state of clear light" and "the pure awareness of rigpa."

As the wisdom of recognizing your own true nature dawns, it clears away the blinding darkness of confusion, and, just as you can see clearly the inside of your home once the sun has risen, you gain confident certainty in the true nature of your mind. This was 'the instruction (mengak) for cracking open the egg-shell of ignorance (marigpa).

नुष्यः र्ह्मार्थः र्क्षयः क्षेत्रः निष्यः तुष्यः म्यायेष्यः व्यायः म्यायेष्यः व्यायः निष्यः व्यायः निष्यः व्याय नुष्यः याद्यः व्यायः विषयः नुष्यः द्यायः विषयः विषयः

The Instruction for Cutting through the Web of Samsāric Existence

When you gain this kind of realization, you understand that this nature of reality has always been this way, timelessly, that it is not created by any causes or conditions, and that it never undergoes any kind of transition or change in the past, present or future.

At the same time, you can not find even the tiniest fraction of something called "mind" that is separate from this nature.

स्यास्त्रार्वस्याः विष्यान्त्राः विष्यान्त्राः विषयान्त्राः विष्यान्त्राः विषयान्त्राः विषयान्त्

You could also say that the state of mental blankness we looked at earlier is indescribable, but it lacks decisiveness, since you are completely **unable** to describe it in any way. Rigpa, on the other hand, is in essence indescribable, but at the same time it has a

decisive quality that cuts through any doubt about what is indescribable.

So there is a huge difference between these two kinds of indescribability, like the difference between blindness and perfect vision.

This covers the crucial point of distinguishing between the ālaya and the dharmakāya.

देशक्षक्षयाः श्री नेश्वासाः विश्वासाः विश्वासा

Therefore, because terms like 'ordinary mind', 'mental nondoing', 'inexpressible' and so on are used in two different ways—only one of which is authentic—when you come to know the crucial point of how the same words can have a higher level of meaning, you can you can come to experience the true meaning of the profound Dharma.

श्रेश्वराद्धः प्रत्याच्याचित्राच्छेषाः स्त्रिणः स्ति स्त्रिणः स्तिषः स्त्रिणः स्त्रिणः स्त्रिणः स्तिषः स्तिष्यः स्तिष्य

When resting in the essence of mind, some feel that what is to be maintained is a simple clarity, a simple awareness, and so they settle in a state of ordinary mental consciousness, thinking, "This is clarity." Some focus their attention on the awareness of an absorbing

sense of emptiness, as though their minds had 'become' empty.

यद्देन्महेश्याण्येद्वान्येकाण्चेक्त्रम्वान्यद्देन्द्वान्यः विष्ठान्यः विष्यत्यः विष्ठान्यः विष्यत्यः विष्यत्यः विष्यत्यः विष्यत्यः विष्यत्यः विष्यत्यः विष्यत्यः विष्यत्यः विष्यत्यः विष्य

But, in both cases, there is some clinging to the dualistic experience of an aspect of ordinary mental consciousness.

When you find yourself in either of these states, look into the innate nature (bab) of that subtly fixated attention—the clarity and the one perceiving the clarity, the emptiness and the one perceiving the emptiness—and, by doing so, you will take away the support for the ordinary consciousness that perceives things dualistically.

Then, if you can decisively recognize the innate nature of your own mind in all its nakedness—clear and open, without any limit or centre—and a state of lucid clarity arises, **that** is what is called, 'the very essence of rigpa.' With this, as rigpa sheds the covering layer of

experiences involving clinging, its pure and pristine wisdom is laid bare.

This was 'the instruction for cutting through the web of conditioned existence.'

ने'निवेत'णेन'न्ध्रित'कृश्या'चे'क्षुत्र'न्य्य क्षेत्र'न्य निव्याप्ति क्षेत्र'क्ष्य क्षेत्र'क्षेत्र

The Instruction for Remaining in the Equalness which is like Space

This is how you should recognize the pure awareness of rigpa once it is freed from the various layers of ordinary thinking and experience, like a grain of rice freed from its husk—by settling naturally and making use of rigpa's own self-knowing (or self-illuminating) quality.

रेग्'यदे'ग्नेब'दे'वेब'य'र्डब'ग्रैब'सेक्नेप्यस'दे'ग्वि'यद्य'त्वात्र'यद्य'ग्वब्य'क'त्वह्र्य'द्विष'यब'वेब' य'र्ट्ट'त्रत्य'त्वव्य'यदे'त्व'ग्रुब'स'सेट्ब'यर्थेट्व'य्य'य्य'हेंट्व'य्य'य्य'के

It is not enough, however, simply to understand the nature of rigpa; you must be able to remain in that state with some stability through developing familiarity. And so it is very important that, without becoming distracted, you sustain constant mindfulness, so as to continue resting in an utterly natural state of awareness.

देन्यमार्क्ष्मायारुकार्यमार्थाक्ष्मायेन्यम्भारयम्भारयम्भ

याद्वात्त्रद्वात्त्रेत्त्र्यस्य वृद्धात्त्रत्वेत्त्र्यस्य विष्ठात्त्र्यस्य विष्ठात्त्र्यस्य विष्ठात्त्र्यस्य व द्वात्त्रत्त्रत्यस्य विष्ठात्त्रेत्र्यस्य स्वर्णात् विष्ठात्त्र्यस्य स्वर्णात्र्यस्य स्वर्णात् स्वर्णात्

When you are maintaining that state, at times you might experience a vague and dull state with no thoughts, while at other times you might experience an unobstructed state (zang thal) with no thoughts that has the clarity of vipaśyanā. At times, you might experience states of bliss on which you fixate, while at other times you might experience states of bliss free of such fixation. At times, you might have various experiences of clarity with grasping, while at other times you might experience a vivid clarity that is unsullied and free of grasping.

At times, you might have unpleasant and disturbing experiences, while at other times you might have pleasant and soothing experiences. And at times, you might experience an extreme turbulence of thoughts which carries your mind away, causing you to lose your meditation; while at other times, you might experience unclear states of mind because of a failure to distinguish between mental dullness and vivid clarity.

These and other experiences come about unpredictably and to an extent you can not measure, like various waves produced by the winds of karma and habitual thoughts, which you have cultivated throughout beginningless time.

It is as though you are on a long journey, during which you visit all sorts of different places—some of them pleasant, some fraught with danger—but whatever happens, you do not allow it to deter you, and continue on your own path.

In particular, when you are not yet familiar with this practice, and you have the experience of 'movement,' as all manner of thoughts stir in your mind, like a blazing fire, don't become discouraged.

Maintain the flow of your practice without letting it slip away, and find the right balance, so that you are neither too tense nor too relaxed. In this way, the more advanced meditative experiences, such as 'attainment,'[1] will occur one after another.

त्रीत्राःश्चीरः रेमाः याः प्रदासं समाया गुकामिलः प्रदासं अश्वासः स्वास्त्राः याः प्रदासः स्वास्त्राः याः प्रदास अवः प्रमायाः विवासः स्वास्त्राः स्वास

At this point, investigate the distinction between the recognition and nonrecognition of rigpa, between ālaya and dharmakāya, and between ordinary awareness and wisdom. Through the master's pith instructions, and on the basis of your own personal experience, have confidence in the direct introduction you receive. While you are maintaining this, just as water clears by itself if you do not stir it, your ordinary awareness will

settle in its own nature. So you need to focus mainly on the instructions which clearly show how the true nature of this awareness is naturally arising wisdom.

Don't analyze with a view to adopting one state and abandoning another, thinking, "What is this that I am cultivating in meditation? Is it ordinary awareness or wisdom?" Nor should you entertain all kinds of speculations based on the understanding you have gained from books, because doing will only serve to obstruct both samatha and vipasyanā.

रदःचचर्याः पर्हम्। यदैः तुत्रः यदैः क्रुतः चहतः यदैः लेः मत्रुयः ग्रीः मीर्थयः कः तृदः रदः देः रदः मार्थयः तुरेयः यदैः व्ह्रमा'अर्घेट'र्र्र्ट'त्म्रम'ण्चैस'य्रेयोयंत्रवे र्व्व्यादु मिस्सायायह्रद्वार्येर र्वेट'त्रस'द्वर्र्र्र्र्टा'त्रस'योवस'द्र् At some point, the aspect of familiarity or **śamatha** which here means settling in an utterly natural way with stable and continuous mindfulness—and vipasyanā which here means the awareness that knows its own nature by itself—will merge together automatically. When this happens, and you gain some stable familiarity with it, you come to understand how the samatha and vipasyanā that are the primordial stillness of the natural state and the clear light of your own nature have always been inseparable, and the naturally arising wisdom that is the wisdom mind of Dzogpachenpo dawns. That was the instruction for remaining in the equalness which is like space.

हिन्द्वराष्ट्र प्राप्त स्वर्धित स्वर्य स्वर्धित स्वर्धित स्वर्य स्व

The glorious Saraha said:
Having gone beyond thinker and thinking,
Remain like a young child, free of thoughts,
This is the way to be. He also said:
Focus on the master's words and apply great effort—
Then, if you have received the master's instructions introducing you to your rigpa:
There is no doubt that your inherent nature will arise.

As he says, the naturally arising wisdom that is mind's inherent nature, and which has always accompanied your ordinary mind from time immemorial, will dawn. This is no different from the inherent nature of everything, and so it is also called the 'genuine clear light of the fundamental nature (nyukma dön gyi ösal).'

देश'क्'र्रा'च्याया'चलम्'य'द्रा'चेश'यदे'रेम्'यद्रा'येश'येश क्षेत्र'कुंद्रा'चेद्र

Therefore, this approach of resting in a completely natural state and maintaining the recognition of your own nature, or rigpa, the very essence of mind, or the nature of phenomena, is 'the pith instruction that brings

together a hundred crucial points in one.' This is also what you are to maintain continuously.

र्गेश्वर्वि अर्जन्ते अर्जन्ते वि प्रति प्रायय में श्वर्वि प्रति प्रायय प्रायवि प्रश्नाय प्रियं प्रायवि प्रयाय प्य

चन डिट श्रुम न है मैद मुख्य के देश के देश सुन प्रश्नित श्राम्बद प्रश्नित स्वाप्त के प्रश्नित स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वापत

You can be certain about how profound and swift this approach is if you compare the realization it brings with the realization gained only through great effort in other approaches.

र्टा बेबबार्देन् म्बाया नर्झे अप्याय त्व्या नु र्चिन कुत्टा नेते खेटा मी इसा र्हेगा न्टा नेते ना कगाया मी खेया स्टाय प्रायत व्याय व्याय

As a result of cultivating your mind's own natural clear light, the obscurations of ordinary thinking and the habits it creates will be naturally cleared away (sang), and the two aspects of omniscient wisdom will effortlessly unfold (gyé). With this, as you seize the stronghold of your own primordial nature, the three kāyas will be spontaneously accomplished.

बन न् मुं मुं मुं बार्या । स्व के बार्या मुं के बार्या मुं के वार्या मु

Profound! Guhya! Samaya!

This profound instruction was written by Mipham Jampal Dorje on the twelfth day of the second month, in the Fire Horse year (1906), for the benefit of village yogis and others, who, while not able to exert themselves too much in study and contemplation, still wish to take the very essence of mind into experience through practice. It has been set out in language that is easy to understand, in accordance with the experiential guidance of a great many old realized masters. Virtue! Mangalam!