

DHARMA EMANATIONS

This quote from a teaching of Tsele Natsok Rangdröl:

“Thus emanated to tame beings, these reflections of the moon correspond to the number of vessels of water where they appear.”

IMO, this bit of what I would call pure poetry does not go in one ear and out the other. It imprints and stays in my mind for me to reflect to you, just as the quote suggests.

Like the compound eye of a honey bee or dragonfly, where there are hundreds of reflections of a single image or as in the quote above of Tsele Natsok Rangdröl, where the number of emanations of a particular quality or being depend upon the number of pools or lakes out there that are calm enough to reflect them clearly.

I can't speak to this analogy in the dharma literature, because I only have this one quote. Yet, for me this concept of the emanations of great beings depending on the number of those who are pools able to reflect them clearly is beyond brilliant. It is awe inspiring.

It reminds me of one spring day when I witnessed a total solar eclipse in the brightness of midday as reflected through the pinhole-camera-like interstices between leaves in an overhanging tree. The ground was covered with thousands of tiny images of the eclipse reflected on the ground below.

Perhaps as this teaching suggests, emanations only appear in proportion to our ability to reflect them. If we

are muddy water, there is little to nothing reflected. To me, this speaks to the very real need for the preliminary practices such the Ngöndro to help calm the waters of the mind so that we can reflect contain a reflection.

I love this concept because it puts the onus and emphasis on we the students to sustain emanations.

[Photo of an eclipse reflected by tree leaves.]

“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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