

Space and Awareness, Inseparable

The true nature of the mind is luminosity. This is also emptiness. At first, it is difficult to recognize this inseparability of clarity and emptiness. Therefore, when you are introduced to the true nature of the mind, you are often first given the instructions for recognizing the mind's true nature as luminosity, or clarity. Later, you are given the instructions for recognizing it as emptiness. In actuality, the true nature of the mind is the inseparability of luminosity and emptiness. They are not different. But to facilitate recognition, different pointing-out instructions—the instructions introducing you to the nature of your mind—are given separately. Though you may be first given the instructions concerning luminosity and the instructions concerning the emptiness of the mind, in essence they are one. The only reason for doing this is that it is difficult for people to recognize this inseparability of clarity and emptiness, or luminosity and emptiness, at the beginning.

In the *rangtong* tradition [the empty-of-itself or empty-of-self tradition], the pointing-out instructions in regard to emptiness are mainly given. In the *shentong* tradition [the empty-of-other tradition], the instructions in regard to luminosity are mainly given. But ultimately, these two are inseparable. This can be called the inseparability of space and awareness....The sixteenth Gyalwa Karmapa, Rangjung Rikpe Dorje, said the ultimate view or the ultimate realization is the inseparability of space and awareness. Conventionally, the terms space and awareness are used. These are different aspects, but in essence they are inseparable.

—From *Mahamudra Shamatha and Vipashyana*, Rocky Mountain Shambhala Center, 1991, p.154-5. Translated by Elizabeth Callahan.

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