

Large Ears Need Large Minds

In a dream, one hears sounds—pleasant sounds, unpleasant sounds, and sounds that are neither pleasant nor unpleasant. However, the sounds and the ear consciousnesses that hear the sounds are neither the same nor different. Therefore they are of the nature of equality that is beyond being the same or being different. Similarly, in this lifetime, ear consciousnesses hear pleasant sounds, unpleasant sounds, and sounds that are neither pleasant nor unpleasant, just as in dreams, but the sounds and the ear consciousnesses that apprehend the sounds are neither the same nor different. They are beyond same and different. What is their way of being? They are of the nature of equality. If you realize the meaning of equality, the complexities of sounds and the consciousnesses that apprehend them as being either the same or different will be completely pacified.

The attachment and aversion that ordinary beings experience in dependence upon sounds is great, and the suffering that they experience in dependence upon that attachment and aversion is also great. For that reason it is important to correct the complexity of sounds and the thoughts that apprehend sounds. In particular, these days the sounds of this world have come close to us. Because they have come close to our ears, it is important to pacify the complexity of sounds and the thoughts that apprehend sounds. Our ears have become very large and long. Sounds have come very close.

If along with our ears becoming so large, our minds were to become very large, that would be fine. But when our ears become very large and our minds become very small, that's difficult.

—From *Mahamudra Vipashyana, Karmê Chöling, Summer, 1993*, pp.53-4. Translated by Jules Levinson.

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