The Beginning of Love

The holy grail of a spiritual life is to reach a state of total love for every single person and creature that we encounter, throughout the day, every day. How the Buddhas of the past first reached this love themselves is described in many of the sutras. It is said, for example, that the current Buddha first perfected this love in the realms of hell.

In a lifetime many millions of lives before he was born into this world, he took birth there amidst the hellfires, compelled like an ox to pull a huge wagon across the burning ground, mercilessly whipped by guards of the hell, yoked with a team of other hellbeings. And it is said that he gave up his life there, in the hells, to protect another from the whips.

But how love began is found in another sutra, called *The Different Forms of Karma (Karma Vibhanga)*:



शुद्र, युन्याः भे अप्तान्त्र स्थाः विकान्त्र स्थाः स्

Then spoke Lord Buddha:

O monks, there was a time here on Earth, long ago—countless human lifetimes ago—when there was one like a minor king.

There was a certain town, and in this town lived a young man named Maitri Yajna. He was a popular youth, and often met with his friends, some 500 of them.

One day they went walking among the trees of the town park. And his friends said to Maitri Yajna:

This is a town of merchants—people like your own father—and they sail the sea. They journey to foreign lands, like Indonesia. They have a chance to see the world, and become wealthy as well.

We were thinking that we would also like to travel the sea, and win our fortune; and we would like you to be our leader.

देश-दे-क्ष्र-चित्रं बिश्यम्बर-हे-दर्गेदश्यये मात्र-दुः स्टान्य। अम्बर्ध-मात्र्य-सुः वर्गेदः विश्वयायः देश-द-दुः

Maitri Yajna agreed, thinking "Well then, let us go!" And he approached his mother to ask her permission: "Mother, what would you think if I journeyed to Indonesia?"

She answered him saying, "Son, we have no need of wealth; we have an immense amount here in our home. Please don't go."

देशः अदे: द्याः अद्युः द्याः अद्युः द्याः अद्युः द्याः द्याः अद्युः द्याः द्याः अद्युः द्याः अद्युः द्याः अद्य व्यायाः व्यायाः द्याः अद्युः द्याः विद्याः विद

The boy obeyed his mother's words, and decided not to go. But then he went again to the park, where he met his friends, who asked him again if he would make the journey with them. And he agreed to their request, saying "Yes, I will go with you."

द्रमः स्थ्रायक्षेत्र्य। व्याप्यते विष्णामक्षेत्र्य। व्याप्यते विष्णामक्षेत्र्य। व्याप्यते विष्णामक्षेत्र्य। व्याप्यते विष्णामक्षेत्र्य। व्याप्यते विष्णामक्षेत्र्य। व्याप्यते विष्णामक्षेत्र्यः विष्णामक्षेत्रः विष्णामकष्णिके विष्णामक्षेत्रः विष्णामकष्णिके विष्णामके विष्णामकष्णिके विष्णामकष्णिके विष्णामकष्णामकष्णिके विष्णामकष्णिके विष्णामकष्णिके व

He went once again to ask his mother, and his mother knelt and grasped his leg, and begged him to stay. This scene was repeated then three times, until one day the youth went to the park, and his friends told him that it would be very wrong if they didn't make the journey.

देश'यद'रा'य'युव्या'व्याच्यां विक्यां विक्यां

He asked his mother one more time, saying "I will go then, to foreign lands." But his mother locked all his things away, and then once more knelt and grasped one of his legs, begging him not to go.

रुषःम्बदःबिमानः विदुःने प्रवार्याः स्वार्येन स्वीरः प्राप्तेन स्वीत्रः स्वीत्रः स्वार्याः स्वीत्रः स्वीतः स्वीत्रः स्वीतः स्

Later on the young man went again to the park; this time his friends said, "It's your fault that we haven't been able to leave yet for our journey; we have decided to depart anyway, on the thirteenth day of the moon."

देशः सायाः सामुक्षायमः मुद्धास्य वस्य स्वर्धाः वद्याः वद्याः विष्य साम्याः वद्याः सम्याः सम्य

This time he said nothing to his mother; he went and took out all his provisions, and readied himself to leave. But she was waiting for him at the door, and knelt and grasped to his leg once more, and cried, "My son, I beg you not to go."

दें। विश्वास्त्र स्वास्त्र स्वास्त्र स्वास्त्र स्वास्त्र स्वास्त्र स्वास्त्र स्वास्त्र स्वास्त्र स्वास्त्र स्व स्वास्त्र स्व

He lost his temper then and broke away, stepping on her head. He went down to the water and gave this direction to his friends:

When a man takes to sea, there is no certainty whether he will live or die. As such, I think it appropriate that first we all take the eight vows.

All were agreed, and they swore to the vows.

And so they set to sea, and travelled long—and then in the very middle of the ocean they were set upon by a great wind, and the ship sank. All but the young man were drowned.

Maitri Yajna held on to some brass tubes that he tied together with a length of sail, and the current carried him aimlessly away, travelling further and further onward.

He landed in a place where he saw a city surrounded by a wall of pure gold, spread with gardens and gentle pools, fragrant with the smell of incense, strewn with flower petals, festooned with silken banners.

देव:बर्ष:अर:स्वा व्यावर्धकाते। दे:दमायीश्वायम्बरायबर:स्वे व्यावक्वायम् ।देवश्वरः दमादर:व्यायर:स्वा व्यावक्वायम्यर:स्वा व्यास्टर्ग व्यास्यायम्बर:स्वायम्बर:स्वायम्बर:स्वायम्बर:स्वायम्बर:स्वायम् इत्याप्तर:व्यायम्बर्गः

A group of four goddesses stepped out of the gates of the city and approached him. They took him by the hand, and led him inside. Here he enjoyed himself with them for many years; no, many hundreds of years; thousands of years; hundreds of thousands of years.

र्स्यान् मुन्नान्त्रे नक्ष्याया यस्त्रायायात् मुन्नायात् स्त्रायात् स्

And then the goddesses gave him this direction: "O noble child, this was never your own place—one day you must leave. And when you do, it is to the north that you must turn."

One day he did in fact go outside; he wandered away further and further, until he came upon a city with a wall of pure silver. It possessed as well parks of fruit trees, and pools of gentle water. He smelled the fragrance of incense, and saw flower petals strewn across the ground. Pennants of silk flew from the ramparts.

स्रुंदिशतिशतिशत्त्र्यात्र्य्यात्र्यात्त्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्यात्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्य

A party of eight different goddesses stepped forth from the city gates, and as before he took his pleasure with them. And then came a day when he was walking outside, wandering further and further, until he came to a city with walls of pure lapis lazuli—and with all the same features as before, up to the silken pennants.

नेविः बरः बरुः खुः क्यां वर्ष्यक्तां नेविः क्षेत्रः अरः क्षेत्रः कष्टे कष्टे कष्टे क्षेत्रः कष्टे कष्टे

A group of 16 goddesses stepped from the gates, and also took him by the hand, and led him within. And with them as well did he enjoy himself, for many hundreds and thousands of years.

र्म्योः संस्था विष्या विषयः विषयः प्रत्या विषयः प्रत्या विषयः प्रत्या विषयः प्रत्या विषयः प्रत्या विषयः विषयः प्रत्या विषयः व

Then again came a time when he left the city walls, and walked ever further, until he came to a city with walls of pure crystal, and everything else, up to the banners of silk.

नेत्रवाद्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र भित्रवाद्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र

A group of 32 different goddesses came from the gates, and clasped him by the hands, and led him inside; and he took his pleasure with them as well, as before.

पिट.त.ट्रे.येश.चैंट.क्रे.पि.चेट.क्र्रेयोश.शे.यकेश.येश.श्र्ट.श्र्ट.प.जश। हो.ट्रज.ट्रे.चेंट. टे.ट्रो पश्ची.ज.उर्वेंट.येउट.पि.चेंट.क्र्यीश.शे.क्रेंश.ट्रे.चैंट.ख्रेयो.श्र.श्रीश.तपु.ठ्र्य प्रे.ट्रच.योश.पश्चेंटा उत्तयोश.तपुंट.येउट,ये।चेंट.क्र्यीश.शे.क्रेंश.ट्रे.चैंट.ख्रेयो.श्र.श्रीश.तपु.ठ्र्या.धे.ट्

And then they directed him, as the ones before: "O noble child, this is not a place which is yours. You must one day depart from here; and if you do, then it is to the north that you should turn your steps." One day afterwards he did depart, and traveled to the north, ever farther.

र्देर-अदे त्रवाश्वार्य लेवा हु स्वेत अध्या हवा हु स्वेर स्व

He came to a forest of thorns, and then beheld a city with a wall of black iron. He travelled far, until he had stepped inside, and the minute he had then the gates of the wall slammed shut behind him.

यबेद्दर्भिराद्दर्भात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात् यबेदर्भुत्दर्भिराद्दर्भात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्र्यात्

He looked up to the parapets of the wall, to the heights, and heard a terrifying scream of pain. He wondered who it could be that was living in such a place.

र्था म्री विर्वर थें अर्थे था विर्वर बिर मर्डिन यदे अ बिया अर्थर द्रमा न्या म्री अर्थे विष्य इस द्रमा म्री विषय विर्वर विराम के स्थान के स्थ

And then he saw a man, who wore upon his head a crown of whirling knives, and he cried out to the man, "Alas, what is this place?"

And the being of hell replied to him, "This is a hell realm, here upon the earth."

And Maitri Yajna said to him, "What evil deed did you commit, to come to such a place?"

And the hellbeing replied, "I once lived in a town by the name of Kosali. I was born there the son of a ship captain, and grew up there."

One day I went with a group of my friends, who numbered five hundred, to a great park of fruit trees there in our town. And my friends said to me,

Your father was a ship captain, and under his command our fathers too sailed to distant lands, and won their fortunes. They saw the world: the islands of Indonesia, and of Ceylon, and many other places. We would travel there as well, under your leadership.

ने निया यी श्रास्त्र में विसान् सिन स्थायायनिया स्थाय मिन से प्राप्त स्थाय स्थाय स्थाय स्थाय स्थाय स्थाय स्थाय

And I agreed with their words, and I returned to my home, and asked my mother's permission: "I would like to set sail upon a ship, and visit other lands."

ड्रम्या विकास मिन्न विकास क्षेत्र क्ष

And my mother said to me, "Son, your father also sailed the seas, and journeyed many times to foreign lands, and then ultimately lost his life. You are all I have left. Our home is filled with riches; and so I beg you not to go."

वनवान्त्रीयाम् स्त्रीत्त्रे विश्वास्त्रीयायम् । ने स्त्रमायम् विश्वास्त्रे विश्वास्त्रे विश्वास्त्रे विश्वास्य वनवान्त्रीयाम् विश्वास्त्रे विश्वास्त

And three times I obeyed my mother's wishes not to go; and upon a fourth time, my mother knelt at the doorway, clasping my leg.

र्शाम्बद्धस्य व्या व्याप्त व्यापत व्या

Later I went once more to the park of fruit trees, and my friends told me that I must surely travel with them, and I promised them I would, and made ready to go.

And at the door my mother met me, and clasped my leg, and told me "Son, it is wrong to abandon me."

But I broke away and left, treading upon her head, and went with my 500 companions down to the edge of the sea. Together we took the eight vows, and then set sail.

We set off to Indonesia, and travelled long, until a great wind came upon us, and sank the ship. All my companions were drowned. I myself was carried then by the currents to the very end of the sea, where I made land, and wandered far across the countryside.

And I came upon a city with walls of solid gold, and pleasing parks of trees, and pools—covered in the fragrance of incense, strewn with the petals of flowers, with banners of pure silk fluttering from the ramparts.

देवःबर-ब्रमः भ्रुं त्राविः लेगा यर्षेवः प्रवेशः प्

And the hellbeing told a story that was all the same, beginning with how four goddesses stepped forth from the city gates, on up to how the group of 32 goddesses stepped from the gates, and how he came to a city with walls of black iron: "And then I stepped inside, and immediately the gates slammed shut behind me."

द्वायदेशम् विष्याम् । यद्वर्ष्ययम् म्यून्यं स्वर्ष्ययम् म्यून्यः विष्यद्वर्षयम् । यद्वायदेश्वरः विष्यः विषयः विष्यः विष्यः विष्यः विषयः व

And there I saw a man with a crown of whirling knives set against his head, and even as I stood and watched the crown rose into the air, and moved over, to settle here upon my own head.

I followed my mother's wishes, and abandoned my plans four times; and I took the eight-fold vows—the karma of these deeds ripened upon me and I experienced a heaven on earth, within the four cities.

But also I trod upon my mother's head, and this karma has ripened upon me as this crown of knives, circling my head and slicing it open.

And Maitri Yajna thought to himself, "I have committed exactly the same karma; and I can see that it is soon to ripen."

The hellbeing turned and said, "Maitri Yajna, from where have you come?"

The youth replied, "I hail from the continent of Jambu, where there is a certain town by the name of Tamalipa. I have travelled here from there, and I myself have done every one of the deeds which you just described."

And the hellbeing said, "I think you are right; for only today I heard a voice from the sky, which said to me, 'The ripening of your karma is finished now'."

"And it said to me," he continued, "that someone by the name of Maitri Yajna, the son of ship captain, would come now—and that he had committed exactly the same deeds."

Maitri Yajna asked him, "How do you survive? What food do you eat?"

And the hellbeing replied, "I have lived by eating my own flesh, and drinking my own blood, as they slide down my face from the cuts of the knives." And with that, he fell dead to the ground.

Maitri Yajna was filled with fear, and sadness. He said a prayer for his mother, and spoke the following words:

विद्याः हेत्रः स्वारः दुः स्वेतः यस्यः यद्याः यो श्वाः स्वाः स्वाः स्वाः स्वाः स्वाः स्वाः स्वाः स्वाः स्वाः स विद्याः हेत् स्वाः स विद्याः हेत् स्वाः स

There are countless living beings
In the countless different worlds
Which stretch from the highest worldly heavens
To the lowest realms of hell:
Great masses of the beings of pleasure,
And those who are just below them,
On down to the spirits of suffering.
May all of them be happy;
May I take now all their pain.

And when he had spoken thus he thought of his parents, and bowed to them in thanks, and said his prayers for them.

"In all my future rebirths," he said, "may I commit myself to the service of my parents. Until then I shall remain here, in this hell on earth, so that I might serve others who are born here."

"I bow to all those in the world who have reached understanding; I bow to all those who have attained liberation. And I beg them to shelter me."

अप्राक्षः त्रस्य अप्राप्त स्वाप्त स्वापत स्वाप्त स्वा

And this new hellbeing stood there then, praying for his father and mother. And he prayed for all the other beings in hell—all those in the lowest realms of hell, and all the other beings of the universe, up to those of the highest worldly heavens—prayed for all those chained within this mortal coil, that they might meet the teachings, and be sustained by them, and reach happiness: reach that nirvana which is beyond all aging, and beyond all dying again.

नुःस्निन्छेशःमहेन्द्रेनस्निन्यः। वर्षिरःवर्षेद्रःसर्वेत्यः। वर्षिरःवर्षेद्रःसर्वेत्यः। स्वर्षेद्रःसर्वेशःमहेन्द्रेनस्निन्यः। वर्षिरःवर्षेद्रःसर्वेत्यः।

He stood there with his eyes closed, repeating his prayers again and again; and the crown of knives stood spinning in the air inches above his head—but never did it descend.

देव: सम्याम् नायाः ने प्रमानीः श्रीकः प्रया र्ष्याः विष्यः प्रमानी स्वीतः प्रमानीः विष्यः वि

And at the same time his mother was making her own prayers:

If I have ever done any good with my acts of generosity; if I have done any good by following a life of kindness; if there is any good that I did by serving and bringing up my family, then I take the karma that will come to me, and I send it to my son, wherever he now may be, and I pray that it brings him happiness.

She repeated these prayers constantly, for the rest of her life—and thus it was, that the crown of knives was brought to a stop.

The boy did stay there in that hellish place, but was able to die and pass to another birth before even sixty years had passed.

His story was like that of King Ajatashatru, who was born in the realms of hell but was able to die and pass on before living out the full life of a hellbeing, thousands upon thousands of years. And yet the effects of our deeds can never simply go away, and for many lifetimes he suffered from severe pains in his head.

ने देश भी प्रत्या के स्वर्ध के स्वर्य के स्वर्ध के स्वर्ध के स्वर्य के स्वर्य के स्वर्य के स्वर्ध के स्वर्य के स्वर्य के स्वर

And when he had ended the story, the Buddha, the Conqueror, turned again to the monks, and spoke the following words: "You may think, my monks, that the son of the ship captain, Maitri Yajna, was someone else; but I tell you, that he was not.

८ क्षेत्र देवे के देवे दुर्भ व देत्र दर्भव की तु कुर्भ भाषा सकेंद्र क्षेत्र विश्व कुर्म हो।

"For it was none other than myself; I was, in those days long gone by, the ship captain's son, Maitri Yajna.

र्याः ह्येंट्रान्य । दे.के.चन्नां पर्ये। म्याः स्थाः प्राप्ते । क्ष्यः प्रद्रम् त्याः क्ष्यः प्रम्यः म्याः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः प्रम्यः स्थाः स्थाः प्रम्य स्थाः प्रम्यः स्थाः स्याः स्थाः स

"And so my monks, you may believe what I have said to you today; and I beg you, from this day on, to honor the Enlightened Ones, the Conquerors. Honor the teachings, and honor the community. Honor your father, and your mother, and the one who has granted your vows to you, and the one who has granted you the teachings."



Love and the Five Paths

This then is how, historically, the ancient scriptures of Buddhism describe the first moments of ultimate love—love for all living creatures, which in Buddhism is called *bodhichitta*. There is a crucial time in the life of a being who is striving for enlightenment: they are faced with decisive moment of personal torment, and they make a decision to take it on gladly, with a prayer that it may substitute for the pain of every other living being.

Within the great philosophical schools that grew up in ancient India in the centuries following the Buddha's passing from this world, this first moment of ultimate love was incorporated into the five stages or paths in the spiritual evolution of any one of us.

We can go through these five stages on three different levels, depending upon our motivation; basically, depending on whether we are trying to stop only our own suffering, or the suffering of all other beings as well. The highest of these levels is the track of a bodhisattva; when we go through the five paths at this level, then in the end it brings us to complete enlightenment.

Here is a quick description of these five stages. We reach the first most often when we undergo a personal tragedy—such as the death of our mother—which forces us to admit inside that we face inevitable pain and death in this life. It is said that a person who is on the bodhisattva track, the third level, is able at the same time to recognize that everyone else around them faces the same problem.

And so they undertake their spiritual journey down the five paths with the added intention of helping everyone else around them. This intention is what we call bodhichitta.

The person then moves on to the second stage or path, at which they begin to have intellectual insights into where this pain, and all the rest of the world, is actually coming from. That is, they begin to figure out that their world, and all the people in it, are actually coming from karmic seeds within their own mind. And these seeds have been planted by deeds of either kindness or malice towards others.

This second stage culminates in a moment of understanding where the spiritual seeker first perceives how an actual object in their life—something like a pot on the stove—is actually flowing from seeds in their own mind.

At the third stage, a person who has reached this understanding goes further, and in a state of deep meditation sees directly that there is nothing in the world which is not coming from seeds within their mind. This deep meditational union with ultimate reality, the culmination of billions of lifetimes of effort, is so powerful that the practitioner will, within a brief period of time afterwards, be transformed into an enlightened being.

At the fourth stage, these insights enable the practitioner to overcome, permanently, all of their negative emotions, including the tendency to misunderstand their world. The fifth stage is perfect enlightenment, where mind and body transform into that of a being of light who is capable of attending personally to countless billions of people in countless worlds, guiding them to their own enlightenment.



The Winds of Love

There are higher teachings though—those of the Diamond Way, or Vajrayana—which explain the first experience of ultimate love in a way which is different than what we have seen so far, as part of a personal encounter with pain.

The Diamond Way describes the birth of ultimate love in terms of the inner world of the bodhisattva. In this case, the crucial moments for ultimate love are those following the first direct perception of ultimate reality, at the third stage rather than the first.

The Diamond Way describes the first direct perception of ultimate reality in terms of the inner body, also known as the "diamond body" or the "rainbow body." As we will see later, this body lies below our gross physical body, and is composed of a network of subtle channels made of light itself.

Within these channels flows *prana*—a subtle physical energy which also provides the basis upon which thought itself moves. The better that prana moves through our channels, the better thoughts we can have—including both the direct perception of ultimate reality and the attainment of ultimate love, the same kind of love that Lord

Buddha reached in the realms of hell, and with the crown of knives hovering above his head.

That is, we don't need billions of lifetimes or a journey to a hell on earth in order to achieve the very love of the Buddha. We just need to get prana flowing properly through our inner body.

The free movement of prana through the channels though—and thus our arrival at ultimate love—is prevented by knots that form within these channels even in the womb.



Releasing the Knot at the Heart

As we will see, the most serious of the knots that tie our inner channels is located at the heart. But releasing this knot has the most powerful effect within us. For a person on the path of a bodhisattva, the release of this knot manifests first of all in the twenty minutes or so of their first direct communion with ultimate reality—the experience which quickly transforms them into an enlightened being who can serve all creatures.

In the hours immediately following this threshold experience, the knot at the heart—which is the basis of the heart chakra, really—remains somewhat open. This allows the practitioner to undergo an entire series of additional experiences which transform their very being. These experiences are thus given, by tradition, their own special name: the "four higher truths" of the "wisdom of the aftermath."

The highest of these additional experiences is the first moment of ultimate love: the breakthrough into *bodhichitta*.

 $\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond$

The Faces of Infinite Planets

This breakthrough lasts only a few minutes. As prana pours through the heart chakra, the perceptions of the practitioner—normally facilitated by the channels emanating from this chakra---are suddenly opened up, in a burst of high love.

And suddenly the new bodhisattva is able to gaze directly upon the face of every individual living creature in the entire universe, on countless worlds, all in the very same space of a few moments. And in these moments as well we feel an intense and overwhelming love for each of these beings.



I Know I Will Be Their Savior

Suddenly upon this revelation follows another: the direct perception of the day of our own enlightenment, occurring in the future. We are standing above the world, above countless worlds, within the universe of stars and galaxies. And we gaze down upon each and every being, as they go through their day. Spontaneously, without conscious effort, we are able to emanate clones of ourself, avatars, who will care precisely for the needs of each of the infinite beings in our care. And at our side is our Heart Teacher.



The Kindness of Our Teacher

We see then that there is a way to reach our holy grail, love and concern for every single living being, through the workings of our own inner body, and through the direct perception of ultimate reality. This is a love for all beings which does not come from a wish or prayer that happens when something bad happens to us; rather, it is founded upon the direct perception of the face of every being we love, every being we will serve directly.

How we do this we only learn in one way: by finding and devoting ourselves to our Heart Teacher. Only through their blessing may we find this holy grail.

 $\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond$

The Seven Steps to Love

Pabongka Rinpoche Dechen Nyingpo, on the seven-step practice from the sutras for love:

The next step is the meditation where you recognize that every living being is your mother. Gaining this recognition is much easier if you apply the line of reasoning mentioned in *The Commentary on Valid Perception* for demonstrating the infinite regression of one's awareness. We'll present this reasoning here, in brief.

Your awareness of today is a mental continuation of the awareness you had yesterday. This year's awareness is a mental continuation of the awareness you had the year before. Just so, your awareness over this entire life is a mental continuation of the awareness you had in your former life. The awareness you had in your former life was, in turn, a mental continuation of the awareness you had in the life before that. You can continue back in a regression like this and absolutely never reach some point where you can say, "Prior to this, I had no awareness." This then proves the infinite regression of one's awareness.

चार्याचीयात्रीयात्रीत्राचार्याच्यात्राच्यात्याच्यात्राच्यात्राच्यात्रच्यात्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्यात्रच्यात्यात्यात्यात्यात्यात्रच्यात्रच्यात्रचयात्रच्यात्यात्रचयात्यात्यात्यात्यात्यात्यात

My own circle of life then must also be beginningless, and the births I have taken as well can have no starting point. There exists no place where I have never taken birth. I have taken birth in every single place, countless times. There exists no creature whose body I have not worn. I have worn every kind of body, countless times. Just the lives I have taken as a dog are themselves beyond any number to count. And the same is true for every living being.

देशक्षित्रश्राह्म प्रति स्वति स्व म्याप्ति स्वति स्वत

Therefore there exists no being who has never been my mother. Absolutely every single one of them has been my mother a countless number of times. Even the number of times that each has been my mother in just my births as a human is past all counting too.

त्वायःद्रवाः अञ्चेत्रः वययः उत् ग्रीयः स्टः वीः यः व्याद्यः योत् । त्वायः द्वाः यः श्रीयः वरः यदः व्याद्यः विषः विवायः द्वाः यः स्वयः यदः विषः विषः

Do this meditation over and over until you gain a deep-felt certainty that each and every living being has been your mother, over and over, countless times.

त्र श्चार्य त्री त्र त्री त्र त्री क्षेत्र त्र त्र त्र क्षेत्र त्र त्र क्षेत्र त्र त्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्

Developing a sense of gratitude is the next step, and you can start by taking your mother in this present life. She began her hardships for me while I was still in her womb, gladly taking it upon herself to avoid anything she felt might hurt me—even down to the food she ate—treating herself with care, as though she were sick. For nine months and ten days she carried me in her womb, looking at her own body as though it belonged to someone else, someone very ill, and hesitating even to take big steps.

धुरःश्चेशयदे त्रेंदर सम्दाय द्वार्य के द्वर स्थाप स्थाप के दार स्थाप स्थाप के दार्थ स्थाप स्याप स्थाप स्याप स्थाप स्थाप

As she gave me birth, my mother was torn with violent suffering, excruciating pain, and yet still felt an overwhelming joy, as though she had discovered some precious gem that would grant her any wish.

यद्वे द्वे त्याप्ये व्याप्य व

Right then I knew absolutely nothing more than to cry and wave my arms around somehow. I was totally helpless. Totally stupid. Incapacitated. Nothing more than some baby chick with a red-rubber beak still yet to harden. But she swayed me on her fingertips, and pressed me to her body's warmth, and greeted me with a smile of love.

र्यायः प्रयोगः मोर्चे न्यानः सुरायानः सुरायान्यः सुरायान्यः सुरायान्यः सुरायान्यः सुरायान्यः सुरायान्यः सुराया विषयः प्रयोगः स्वायः प्रयोगः स्वायः सुरायान्यः सुरायान्यः सुरायान्यः सुरायान्यः सुरायान्यः सुरायान्यः सुरायान

With joyful eyes she gazed on me, and wiped the snot from my face with her lips, and cleaned my filthy shit with her hands. Sometimes she chewed my food for me, and fed me things like milky porridge straight from her mouth to mine. She did her best to protect me from any hurt. She did her best to get me any good.

In those days I had to look to her for everything; good or bad, happy or sad, all the hope I could have lay in one person: mother. But for her kindness, I wouldn't have lasted an hour; they could have set me out in the open right then and some birds or a dog would have come and made a meal of me—I'd have no hope of coming out alive. Every single day she protected me from harms that could have taken my life, no less than a hundred times. Such was her kindness.

रट.योश.मेट.ज्र्ट्य.क्रीट.श.सट.योश.क्रीया.क्रीया.योथश.टव.ज्य.श.ट्र्याश.ट्र्याया.ये.यथयोश.यथयोश.यथा.य

And while I was growing up she gathered together whatever I needed, avoiding no bad deed, and no suffering, and caring nothing for what other people might say of her. All the money and things she had she handed over to me, hesitating to use anything for herself.

| ४८ व्याक्ष्याची १ प्यते स्नाया व्यापित स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप स्वाप्य स्वाप्य

For those of us who are fortunate enough to be practicing the monastic life, it was Mother who put forth all the necessary expenses, giving without reservation, to arrange our admission into the monastery. And from that time on she supported us here, from whatever resources she had. Thus the kindness she has shown us is truly without measure.

स्वालिन हो।

स्वल

And this is not the only life in which my present mother has given this kindness to me. She has showered me with this kindness, great kindness, over and over, countless times, in my many lives before. And she is not the only one; every single living being has been my mother in my past lives, and during those lives cared for me no less than my present mother does—it is only my transitions from death to birth that prevent me from recognizing all these mothers now.

Look now, concluded our Lama, at the way any common animal—a dog or bird, even the tiny sparrow—shows affection for its young, and cares for it well. From watching this we can imagine what kindness we were given too.

यर्जनायांश्वेत्रात्मार्श्वेयात्मार्श्वेयात्मार्थेयात्मार्येयात्मार्येयात्मार्येयात्मार्येयात्मार्येयात्मार्येयात्मार्येयात्मार्येयात्मार्येयात्मार्थेयात्मार्येयात्मा

The next step in gaining the wish for enlightenment is to develop a wish to repay this great kindness. So every living being is my mother, and has given me her loving care over and over endlessly, for time with no beginning. And we know from what was described above that they are being swept along by four great currents, out to sea—to the vast expanse of the ocean of cyclic life. They are tormented, without a break, by the three types of suffering, and all the other pains. Their situation is desperate.

त्रः तक्ष्रः व्याप्तः व्यापतः व्य

And here am I, their child. Right now I have a chance to rescue them from this ocean of cyclic life. Suppose I simply sit and bide my time, and give no thought to them. This is the lowest a person could stoop—base and absolutely shameless.

२वेंश्यय्यक्ष्यः प्रस्तर्भाः देश्यव्याः विवाधः वि

Right now I could give them things that they would be happy to get—food, or clothes, or beds to sleep on, whatever. But these are only some temporary happiness within the circle of life. The very highest way of repaying their kindness would be to put them into the state of ultimate happiness. So let me decide within myself that every living

being must come to have every happiness. And every one should be freed as well from every form of pain.

न्या चीर्या चीर्या स्वर्णा स्

Right now it's absurd to say that these beings have any kind of pure happiness—they don't even have any of the impure kinds. Every single thing they think is happiness is, in its essence, nothing more than pain. They want wantables but don't want to know about doing the good deeds that bring happiness. They want no unwantables but don't want to know about giving up the bad deeds that bring pain. They act perfectly backwards: they do what they shouldn't and don't what they should. And so my dear aged mothers, these living beings, are made to suffer.

"How good it would be if they could all find every happiness, and every cause of happiness. I wish they could. I'll see that they do."

"How good it would be if they could all be free of every pain, and every cause of pain. I wish they could. I'll see that they do."

स्रुय: रु: प्यट: प्यट: प्रस्तिया या प्रायः प

Let these two trains of thought run through your mind; meditate on them over and over again. Then you will come to feel the very strongest loving-kindness and compassion.

Some people might come up with the idea that "Why should I take upon myself this great load, of every living being? There are plenty of Buddhas and bodhisattvas around to guide them on their way." This kind of thought though is absolutely improper. It's base. It's shameless. It's as if your mother in this life was hungry, and parched, and you expected someone else's child to go and give her food and drink. But it's you for whom she has cared, and the responsibility of paying her back has fallen only to you.

योज्ञ् याद्री स्वर्थः क्षेत्रः योद्रः स्वेय्रक्षः याव्यः स्वृत्यः स्वर्धः याद्रः याद्र्यः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर भ्रायकः व्यव्यः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वरः स्वर्धः स्वरः स्वर्धः स्व स्वरः स्वरं स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वर्धः स्वरं स्वरं

It's the same with all these living beings, who for beginningless time have served as my mother so many times, and who in each of these times cared for me in every way with the kindness of this present mother. Returning their kindness is no business of anyone else at all, not for some Buddha or bodhisattva—it is my responsibility, and only mine.

यग्र्रिक्षेत्रानदुःक्षेयानदुःचन्नन्नान्त्वीयान्त्र्याः स्वात्र्याः स्वात्र्याः स्वात्र्याः स्वात्र्याः स्वात्र स्वात्रात्त्र

So someone is going to do it—to make sure that every living being has every happiness, and never a single pain. It is going to be myself; I'll rely on no one else. I by myself will see to it that every single being comes to have every single happiness. And I by myself will see to it that every single being gets free of every single pain. I will by myself put them into the state of the Lama, the state of Buddhahood. Meditate strongly on these thoughts; they are the step which we call the "extraordinary form of personal responsibility."

I may be able to develop this noble intention, but the fact is that I'm completely incapable of leading a single being to Buddhahood--much less every one of them. Who then has the capacity? This power is had by a fully enlightened Buddha--only by them, and by no one else at all. If I can reach the same state, I will by definition have brought both mine and others' benefit to its perfection. And then every single ray of light that emanates from me, whether it be an action of my body, or my speech, or my thoughts, will have the power to accomplish the ends of countless sentient beings.

देशः वः श्रेशः वः श्रुशः वः श्रुः श्रेशः वः श्रेशः श्रेशः श्रेशः वः श्रेशः वः श्रेशः वः श्रेशः वः श्रेशः वः श् वेषः श्रेशः वः श्रुशः वः श्रुशः श्रेशः वः श्रेशः व वेषः श्रेशः वः श्रुशः वः श्रुशः वः श्रेशः वः श

And so, for the sake of every living being, I will do anything I can to achieve this one great goal—the state of a Buddha—with every speed. Think this way to yourself, and do anything you can to develop the genuine wish to reach enlightenment for every living being.



Strive to Understand the Chakras

The following excerpt is from Je Tsongkapa's famous Commentary on the Practice of the Diamond Recitation.

द्युर्याण्येयाच्ची । सुरायायाच्ची । सुरायायाच्चीयाच्यीयाच्यीयाच्चीयाच्य

So too it is said—

If the various stages
Of the inner channels
Did not themselves exist,

Then surely the different heaps
And other parts of ourselves
Could never happen in the first place.

And if there were no heaps,

Then yogis and yoginis

Could never reach great wisdom.

Our body, this combination

Of the fire different heaps, Has been declared to be Five Angels themselves

This embodiment
Of the five elements
Is what gives the five wisdoms
A home to live in.

प्रमुभःयत्राप्तस्य प्रमुखः ग्राप्तः विकार्यात्र । अः प्राप्तः विकार्यात्र । विकार्यास्य स्वाप्तः । अः प्राप्तः विकार्यास्य । अः प्राप्तः विकार्यास्य । विकार्यास्य स्वाप्तः । अः प्राप्तः विकार्यास्य । विकार्यास्य स्वाप्तः । विकार्यः । विकार्

With every effort then
That you can make,
Strive to understand
The chakras of the channels.

And of course it is just as important as knowing these two that we come to understand the various elements which pass through these channels.

 \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond

A Wind from the Indestructible Drop

From the same work—

चर.ट्रं.ट्रे.कु.चयु.यूट्.च्राक्षण.लका.चैंट.चय्। । ट्ये.कयु.झ.कट्टे.ज्ञ्ज.चयु.चार्यका.की.कु.की.चार्याता.च्रुका.तत्। ।क्र्य.ग्री.ट्येट्या.ग्री.क्री.कारीय.लका.चींट.च.यु. ट्यट.कॅर.चर्यटे.त्.ज्ञ्या.चयु.चार्यका.की.कु.च्यंत्रा.च्यंत्रंत्रा.च्यंत्रा.च्यंत्रा.च्यंत्रंत्रा.च्यंत्रंत्रच्यंत्र्यंत्रच्यंत्यंत्रच्यंत्रच्यंत्रच्यंत्रच्यंत्रच्यंत्रच्यंत्रच्यंत्रच्यंत्रच्यंत्रच्यंत्रच्यंत्रच्यंत्रच्य

As we mentioned before, we must achieve this dissolution of the channels, winds, and elements, bringing them step-by-step into the central channel, where they then melt into the indestructible drop—the very place where we release the knot in the central channel at the heart.

In normal circumstances the ultimate nature of things within us streams on, and we go on to become a being of the intermediate state, through the clear light of death.

यश्चिरः द्वः श्वेतः यह वा अवस्य विश्वाय विश्वाय विश्वाय विश्वेतः विश्वाय विश्वेतः विश्वाय विश्वेतः विश्वाय विश्वय विश्वय

Now the teaching on how the cycle of suffering is triggered is common to both the secret and open ways. It all starts when we fail to realize a certain thing: the true nature of our own mind, which has no quality of its own. We take the mind to exist in and of itself. This then triggers all of our mental afflictions. And because of these afflictions, we collect new karma, and the cycle begins again.

म्यायाम्याश्वर्ष्याः स्वायाम्यायाः स्वायायाः स्वायायाः स्वायायः स्वायः स्वायायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वयः स्वयः

In the great books of the unsurpassed group of the secret teachings though are taught a very special version of how this cycle of pain is triggered. Out of the indestructible drop at our heart rises a very specific inner wind, which then triggers inside of us mistaken perceptions of the world.

These perceptions then cause us to collect new karma, which leads us to a new birth. And then at the end of that birth this wind dissolves once again back to this same drop, in stages. It is because we have no understanding of this process that we are chained to the cycle; and if we do come to learn these two things, the books say, then we shall be freed from the wheel.

्रित्यक्तान्त्रीं अप्यस्ति स्वास्त्री स्वास्त्र स्वास्त

If you really understand the process of birth and death according to the explanation shared by both the open and secret ways, then you'll understood that—to stop this process—we must seek the worldview which says that nothing has any nature of its own, as explained in the teachings on the middle way. And you'll see that you must hone this worldview until it is perfect.

त्रभ्योः भ्रत्या स्त्रीत्र वित्र स्त्रा स्त्रिया स्त्र स्त्

If though you really understand the process of birth and death according to their unique explanation in the secret way, then you will clearly see that to stop this process you must seek to gain an understanding of extraordinary methods for stopping the mistaken perceptions triggered by the karma wind.

ग्रीवित्र वित्राय्य सर्वे वाया वित्र वित्र वाया स्था वित्र व

Now if all you seek to do is to escape from the wheel of pain, you don't necessarily require this particular understanding. This can be seen from the fact that there are practitioners of the paths of the listeners and self-awakened who manage to free

themselves from the cycle, even without utilizing the extraordinary methods of the way of the secret word.

तक्रम्कुः तम् तर्देन् पर्वे विकास स्थानि स्

What we seek, then, is not only to put an end to the mental afflictions which make the circle spin; rather, we want to cleanse ourselves as well of each and every one of the mental seeds for these afflictions. However, if we rely solely on the teachings of the open way, we can work for a great many eons and still not achieve the goal. You and I want to get enlightened *fast*.

क्ष्याच्चीरक्षित्रच्चीत्राय्याक्ष्यायाय्यां व्याप्यायाय्यां विष्ठाः विष्ठा

And so it is mistaken perceptions such as liking and disliking things which chain us to the wheel. The open teachings explain that these are triggered by our belief that things have some nature of their own; and it's important to understand that we are in no way suggesting that you should reject this idea—that these afflictions are *instead* triggered by the karma wind. Rather, our tendency to believe that things have some nature of their own acts as the substantial cause in triggering these afflictions, while the karma winds provides their supporting cause. It is this power of the wind that we seek to destroy.

श्रीर-प्राणित्रः त्री।

देशवर्षित्रः प्राणित्रः व्या देशवर्षा देशवर्षा देशवर्षित्रः प्राण्ये विष्णः विषणः विष्णः विषणः विष्णः व

The ultimate method for stopping this process—where our belief that things have some nature triggers this cycle, this continued clothing ourselves in the parts of a suffering being—is then that wisdom where we realize that in truth things have no qualities of their own.

Suppose though that we never reach this wisdom. Oh, we may be able—for a time—to block the grosser forms of the power that the karma wind posseses to provide that supporting cause. But we will never actually have the power to free ourselves then from the wheel. As such, we need both.

The fact is that the path of the open way we've talked about here does possess the power to rip out our ignorance from its very roots; and if we combine it with the second path—the path of the secret way—then we create a shortcut for tearing out these roots.

शर-र्याश्वरायम्याश्वरणा।

शर-प्रियाश्वरायम्याश्वरणाः

शर-प्रियाश्वरायम्याश्वरणाः

शर-प्रियाश्वरायम्याश्वरणाः

शर-प्रियाश्वरायम्याश्वरणाः

शर-प्रियाश्वरायम्याश्वरणाः

शर-प्रियाश्वरायम्याश्वरणाः

शर-प्रियाश्वरायम्याश्वरणाः

शर-प्रियाश्वरायम्याश्वरणाः

शर-प्रियाश्वरणाः

शर-प्रियाश्वर

There are the two great divisions of the secret teachings of the unsurpassed class, along with the traditional commentaries which clarify their intent: all truly authoritative instructions. And whether they mention it directly or not, there is absolutely no difference between them on this point: they all agree that our goal, when we undertake

to practice the stage of completion, is to stop the karma wind from running in the right and left channels—to force it into the central channel, and thus bring it to rest.

This point is described repeatedly in the secret teachings of the Angel of Diamond.

 $\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond$

Working Up and Down

Again from the Commentary on the Practice of the Diamond Recitation:

प्रभट्टे प्रति स्थित स्थान्त स्थान स्थान्त स्थान स्

As a general rule, the way we eliminate those misconceptions of the world is through the process of getting the element of enlightenment to melt down, which itself is accomplished by igniting our inner fire. On this point, all the authoritative teachings on the stage of completion which involve working at crucial points of the body are in agreement. These sources do though give a wide variety of different instructions on just how we ignite our inner fire.

Some of these teachings show us how to ignite this fire through a visualization known as "blaze and drip." Others teach us to meditate upon an inner capsule. Still others describe how to meditate upon sacred letters or drops at crucial points of our body.

These and other such systems are all providing us a wide variety of explanations, each emphasizing a particular idea presented in individual tantras and their separate commentaries.

Of all these different methods, it is only the one practice of the diamond recitation—the yoga of the inner winds—which our deep protector, Nagarjuna, chose to focus upon in his teaching, and no other. He teaches us how to use this single practice to ignite the inner flame, melt down the element of enlightenment, and bring on those forms of wisdom known as the "four blisses" and the "four forms of emptiness."

 $\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond$

Entrances of the Sun & Moon

The following is from The Lamp that Illuminates the Very Heart of All the Essential Points in the Golden Harvest of Attainments, by Chone Lama Drakpa Shedrup (1675-1748) of Tibet's famed Sera Mey Monastery.

त्त्रचित्रश्रास्त्रम् विष्याः स्वार्थः स्वर्थः स्वार्थः स्वार्थः स्वार्थः स्वर्थः स्वर्यः स्वर्थः स्वर्थः स्वर्थः स्वर्यः स्वर्यः स्वर्थः स्वर्थः स्वर्यः स्वर्यः स्वर्थः स्वर्थः स्वर्यः स्वर्यः स्वर्यः स्वर्थः स्वर्यः स

To put it in a nutshell, there is one particular method for reaching enlightenment which is simply unsurpassed, and which combines the crucial points of every high tantric instruction. And this is where we use two different means—the outer one, our spiritual partner; and the inner one, working at the crucial points of our channels, winds, and drops—in order to bring the winds from the two side channels (the channel of taste and the solitary channel) to enter, stay, and dissolve into the central channel, the channel of the dance—thus achieving the union of bliss and voidness.

We see this fact described in the *Source* of the teachings of Highest Bliss, where it says:

Suppose a person undertakes
To reach their total enlightenment
Through the union of these two,
Of method and wisdom.

Into this one then,
And only into this one,
Every single Buddha there is
Will come and enter.

Master Saraha too has said,

The spoon
Touches the feast,
And then
There is bliss.

Over And over again The sphere Is filled.

With this teaching then
We can achieve
The world
Beyond the world:

Press there, Stay there, Those of you

Who seek to turn
The blindness of this world
Around.

Come to that place Where the inner winds and mind No longer run;

Block the entrances
To the sun,
And to the moon.

Those who knew nothing
Before
Find final comfort here;

Come then,
Fulfill now every instruction,
Shoot your arrow here.



 \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond

Meet Your Inner Channels

Again, from Master Chone Drakpa Shedrup—

यवर माला मुरायवर मा सुर प्यवर मा हिमाये प्यवर मर्थे । पर में हो

Our third section from above—an explanation of the layout of the inner channels, winds, and drops—will be covered in three parts: an explanation of the channels, an explanation of the winds, and an explanation of the drops. Here now is the first.

र्श्वीरः स्वरः वार्याः स्वरः तीयः तार्थः स्वरः स्व योज्यः योध्यः याद्ये संक्षितः याद्ये अपः से स्वर्धः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वरः स्वर स्वरः स्वरः वार्याः स्वरः स्व

There is, generally speaking, a standard way of explaining the number of inner channels. This is first because the *Sutra on Entering the Womb* teaches that there are a total of 80, 000 inner channels: 20, 000 each on the left and the right sides of the body, and the same for the front and back. And then according to the way of the secret word, there are a total of 72,000 channels in the body.

ने निया यी बिर बिर ही विदेश स्वाप्त के स्वाप इ.स. प्रविष्ट्रे स. प्रवृत्त के स्वाप्त के स

Of all these inner channels, there are 120 primary ones: the 32 petal channels at the tip of the head, the 16 at the throat, the eight at the heart, and the 64 at the navel. These are considered primary in that they serve as the foundation for the inner wind, and the elements of enlightenment.

Among these 120 channels, there are 24 which are considered main channels: the channels of the 24 holy places. We think of them as "main" channels because they supply the causes for growth of things like our head hair, bodily hair, nails and so on.

भ्रमामिष्ठभायाञ्चीमा समामामिष्ठभायान्त्रम्था इत्यामामिष्ठभायान्त्रम्था स्वामामिष्ठभायाः स्वामामिष्ठभायः स्वामामिष्ठभायाः स्वामामिष्ठभायाः स्वामामिष्ठभायाः स्वामामिष्यः स्वामामिष्ठभायाः स्वामामिष्ठभायाः स्वामामिष्ठभायः स्वामामिष्ठभायाः स्वामामिष्ठभायाः स्वामामिष्ठभायः स्वामामिष्ठभायः स्वामामिष्

You might ask just what, in the body, these 24 locations are. They come in three groups of eight, with the first group called the "eight channels of enlightened mind." Through these channels it is inner wind which principally flows:

- 1) The channel called The Lady of the Indivisible, at the hairline
- 2) The Lady of the Subtle Form, at the tip of the head
- 3) The Lady of Love, at the right ear
- 4) The Lady of the Father, at the left temple
- 5) The Short Lady, at the left ear

- 6) The Lady Born of the Turtle, at the center of the eyes
- 7) The Lady of the Gate, at the two eyes
- 8) The Lady of Power, at the two shoulders.

यार्थातः सुरिन्त्रा स्त्रीत्रः या स्त्रीतः यात्रा त्यात्रः यात्रा त्यात्रः यात्रः यात्यः यात्रः यात्रः यात्रः यात्रः यात्रः यात्रः यात्रः यात्रः यात्यः यात्रः यात्यः यात्रः यात्यः यात्रः यात्यः यात्रः यात्रः यात्रः यात्यः यात्यः यात्यः यात

Next are the "eight channels of enlightened speech." The main thing that flows through these channels is the blood element:

- 9) The Lady of Faults, at the two armpits
- 10) The Lady of Entrance, at the two breasts
- 11) The Lady of Flow, at the heart
- 12) The Lady of the Course, at the navel
- 13) The Lady of the Night, at the tip of the nose
- 14) The Lady of Coolness, at the mouth
- 15) The Lady of Heat, at the throat

16) The Lady of Joy, at the two cheeks.

Lastly there are the "eight channels of enlightened form." What primarily flows through these is the element of semen:

- 17) The Lady of Perfect Excellence, at the tip of the sexual organ
- 18) The Lady of Heaviness, at the anus
- 19) The Lady who Disrupts the Flow, at the two thighs
- 20) The Lady who Splits the Union, at the two calves
- 21) The Lady of Absolute Beauty, at the sixteen fingers and toes
- 22) The Lady of the Juice, at the tops of the two feet
- 23) The Lady of Cooking, at the four of the thumbs and big toes.
- 24) The Lady of Pure Mind, at the two knees

यश्चर्यः स्त्रीतः द्वरः सः याल्वरः इस्रश्चात्रः यात्रुसः याद्वरेतः प्येवः हो। देः यात्रुसः योत्रः स्त्रः याल्वर यार्द्वर् वर्षः स्त्रः याल्वरः इस्रश्चात्रः यात्रुसः यात्रुसः याद्वरेतः याद्वरः स्त्रः योत्रः योत्रः योत्रः यो

Of all these different channels we've mentioned so far though, the most primary are the three of the channel of taste, the solitary channel, and the central channel. This is because these three provide the primary foundation for wind and consciousness; and also because all the other inner channels develop based on these three.

सबर तक नत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र स्था त्रिया मुख्य तक न्या विषय क्षेत्र क्षेत्र

Now some have expressed the opinion that the inner channels and drops begin their development in the body at the navel, but the fact is that both of these form first at the heart. This is true because a great many highly authoritative sources state that—when the consciousness enters the womb, at the beginning, it enters at the place where the heart develops; and so too, at the end, the consciousness when we die moves on from the heart.

स्र तक्ष्यकार्त्र स्व विद्या विद्या

Now there is a specific way in which the primary channels develop. Eight channels form first, at the heart, with five of these coming before the rest. These are the channel of taste, the solitary channel, and the central channel at this location; the Lady of the Triple Turn, which is the channel petal on the east side; and the Lady of Desire, the channel petal to the south. After these form the Lady of Home, to the West; the Lady of Inner Fire, to the north; and the Obstructing Demoness, which is a channel that runs

together with the central channel. These channels collectively are known as the "eight channels which form first, at the heart."

The channels of the four directions come out of the point where the two side channels—the channel of taste and the solitary channel—hook around the central channel, twining around it and creating a knot. These channels develop out like something in the inside of the central channel bulging forth then popping out, piercing through the side channels.

चुनाः से निवस्तान्त्र निवस्तान्त्र स्त्र स्त्र

The upper ends of these three channels—the channel of taste, the solitary channel, and the central channel—extend straight up through the middle of the body; then the tip bends down a bit until it reaches the level of the spot between the eyebrows, where they then go down a little to the right and left.

The lower ends of the same channels, in a male, extend down to the tip of the penis; in a female, to the tip of the vagina. There are also parts of these channels that extend down to the soles of the two feet.

त्यः मान्यः स्वात्त्रः स्वात्तः स्वात्त्रः स्वात्त्रः स्वात्त्रः स्वात्तः स्वातः स्वतः स्वात्तः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः स्वतः

There is also a specific manner in which that channel called the "Obstructing Demoness," the one which runs along with the central channel, is situated within the body. Its lower end penetrates the navel chakra; the upper end travels up along with the central channel until it reaches the level of the throat, where it bends over and penetrates the channel of the tongue.

स्रीट मादे संक्षिण्य है से मान्य स्थान देवे मान्य संक्षित स्थान है से स्थान स

The channel known as the "Heart Channel" is the Life Channel: it runs up the inside edge of the spine and is supported by it. It is like the main beam then of the house of the body; and the trio of the channel of taste, the solitary channel, and the central channel are themselves supported by this channel.

चिर्न्ना मितृ स्वार्थ त्या चिर्न् विष्णु स्वार्थ स्वा

The four channels of the ordinal directions split off then from the four of the cardinal directions. From the Lady of the Triple Turn, to the east, branches the Channel Petal of the Southeast. From the Lady of Desire, to the south, branches the Channel Petal of the Southwest. From the Lady of the Home, to the west, branches the Channel Petal of the

Northwest, and from the Lady of Inner Fire, to the north, branches the Channel Petal of the Northeast.

ने'मक्कन'त्य'बे'क्केन'यादे'स'तन्य'मक्कन'नन'बुब'र्केन'ग्री'स'तन्य'मक्कन'डेब'वुदें।

Those eight are know by the name of "eight channel petals which are seasons of the eight channel petals of the heart."

ने स्वर्भात स्वर्भात प्राप्त स्वर्भात क्षेत्र प्राप्त स्वर्भाव स्वर्भात स्वर्भाव स्वर्भात स्वर्भाव स्वर्भात स्वर्य स्वर्भात स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्वर्य स्

Given this fact, what we call the "eight channel petals at the heart" and what we call the "eight channel petals which form first, at the heart" are not the same thing. This is because the trio of the channel of taste, the solitary channel, and the central channel—along with the Obstructing Demoness—are included into group of eight which form first, at the heart, but are not part of the group called the "eight channel petals of the heart."

यरःगायः स्त्रींयायः ग्रीः सः यर्वा प्रवेशः य्यवा प्रया प्रवितः स्त्रा सः विष्णः प्रवितः प्रवेशः य्यवः प्रवेशः य स्राप्तिः प्रवेशः या च्यायः प्रवेशः य्यवः प्रवेशः प्रवेशः प्रवेशः प्रवेशः प्रवेशः प्रवेशः य्यवः या व्यवः या वि स्रोतः या वेशः यो च्यायः स्त्रा प्रवेशः य्यवः प्रवेशः या विष्णः य

Now because the winds of the four elements flow through the four channel petals of the heart that correspond to the cardinal directions, these channels themselves are also spoken of as the "channels of the elements." And because the four of visible, smellable,

tastable, and tangible objects flow through the four channels of the ordinal directions, these are also known as the "channels of offering." It is also said that feces, urine, semen, blood, and phlegm—the five nectars—flow through these channels.

स्यायम्बर्धित्रः स्वित्तात्त्रः स्वायाः स्वित्तः विद्याः स्वित्तः स्वत्तः स्वत्तः स्वत्तः स्वत्तः स्वत्तः स्वित्तः स्वत्तः स्वतः स

Each of these eight channels just mentioned branches off into three further channels, distinguished by the fact that they primarily carry either wind, blood, or semen. This is how we get what are called the "Channels of the 24 Holy Places": those channels which are situated at 24 places in the body such as the center tip of the head. These 24 are listed as they appear in the secret teachings of the Highest Bliss, ranging from the hairline to the knees.

ययय.ययु.स्. (ब्रेश.चे.क्री. यो म. ह्या. शम्य प्रथम शायप्र स्. यक्षियं त्यक्षेत्र त्या क्षेत्र स्. यो हेश स्. यो हिता श्री मा स्. यो स. यो

Now if we take these 24 channels and add to them the eight channels which form first, at the heart, we come to a separate group of 32 channels which are collectively known as the "channels which carry the element of enlightenment." This is found in the scripture called *Joined Together* where it says,

The 32 channels Whose nature it is that Of the element of enlightenment Are the highest of all.

त्र्वःश्वरः द्वेर।

ब्राह्म स्वरः द्वेरः व्यवस्य स्वरः द्वेरः व्यवस्य स्वरः विषय स्वरः स्वरः

We should note however that when it is stated that the element of enlightenment is carried in the Obstructing Demoness, what's meant is that it runs through this channel only at the time of death or during spiritual practice. In the natural state of things, neither inner wind nor the element of enlightenment ever passes through this channel.

Not only do these two not flow through this channel; the channel itself prevents the flow of wind or the element of enlightenment through other channels. And this is in fact why it is variously know either as the "Obstructing Demoness," or the "Channel that Yoginis Must Seek to Stop."

It is also the case that—in the natural state of things, and with the exception of the time of death—no inner wind flows up and down inside the central channel either. This is due to the fact that this channel is so tightly constricted by the knot formed by the channel of taste and the solitary channel.

The fact that winds do flow in this channel at the time of death is due only to the knots in the channel opening at this point, which happens only through the power of our ordinary karma.

There is a system on the division of these channels which is a point made in the *String of Diamonds*, an explanatory tantra which is shared by the secret teachings of both Highest Bliss (Dechok) and the Secret Collection (Guhyasamaja). This system is clarified in the works such as the *Wish-Giving Cow*. These say that the 24 channels branch out into three more each, according to whether these branch channels primarily carry semen, blood, or wind. This brings us then to a total of 72 channels.

योशीट शियोश की से दिन विद्या की योशीस की सामिश्वा की सामिश्व की सामिश्वा की सामिश्व की

Each of the 72 channels then branches off into a thousand each, bringing us to a grand total of 72, 000 channels. If we take these 72, 000 then we can divide them into three

groups of 24, 000 channels each: one group of channels which primarily carries semen; a second group which primarily carries blood; and a third group which primarily carries inner wind.

These three great groups of channels are given the respective names of the "channels enlightened form," of "enlightened speech," and of "enlightened mind." These are also simply referred to as the "three circles of channels."

र्र.इ.पस्ट.य.जमा

|देशक्रीक्षः भ्रुवक्षेत्रः विक्षः मुद्रा स्थाः स्थाः

This is described in the *String of Diamonds* with the following lines:

We have then those three With the names of Lalana, Rasana, and Avadhuti.

These then radiate forth, In stages, until they become The eight channels of the seasons.

|सःद्वे:पक्तुं:शु:सु:स्वेस्यवें। |दे:व्य:वर्षिंस:व्यं:मुख्य:सु:प्रथा| |सःदे:पक्तुं:सु:स्वःप्रवें|

|मुसुसासु: पत्राक्षः सः याद्रेशः यात्राक्षः यात्राक्षः यात्राक्षः यात्राक्षः यात्राक्षः यात्राक्षः यात्राक्षः य

The three become then
Twenty-four, and when these
Are split into three circles,
The division into eight channels
Split into the three
Of sacred sounds of enlightened
Body, speech, and mind
Results in a total
Of two and seventy channels.

विश्वासुर्यात्वे सुर्व भिर्म्यात्वित्यः चित्राक्षेत्रः भिर्म्यात्वित्यः चित्राक्षेत्रः भिर्म्यात्वित्यः चित्राक्षेत्रः भिर्म्यात्वित्यः चित्राक्षेत्रः भिर्मेत्यः स्वात्वित्यः भिर्मेत्यः स्वात्वित्यः भिर्मेत्यः स्वात्वित्यः भिर्मेत्यः स्वात्वित्यः भिर्मेत्वात्वित्यः स्वात्वित्यः

There is a great division then Of each of these Into another thousand.

And so we say that The entire whole, With all its individual branches,

Amounts to 72, 000 Different channels in number.

ल्लट्र चार्श्वराची क्षेट्र क्ष्र्यराचितास्य स्थान्त क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्येट्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्र क्ष्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्रेट्र क्ष्येट्र क्ष्येट्र क्ष्येट्र क्ष्य

Alternately, the channels at the 24 sacred places can be divided up into three groups of eight each. The first group consists of those channels which carry courage, body, and semen. The second consists of the channels that carry particle, speech, and blood. The third then consists of the eight channels which carry darkness, mind, and the carrier winds.

These three groups, respectively, are thus referred to as the "channels of enlightened body, speech, and mind," or simply the "channels of body speech, and mind," or else the "channels of courage, particle, and darkness."

As the text called Samputa (The Kiss) puts it,

Courage and particle Are of the nature Of body and speech; While darkness Is that of mind.

देव:बद:ब्रथ:इं:श्रॅग्विया यदे:अर्क्रेयाची:क्षु:श्रॅम्यवेवेवे:इ:इ्स्रथ:ब्रेंट्वेय:र्थ्याश्रुस:ब्रींट:द्वेंय:वेवेवेव:व्रेंच्य:ब्रींट:द्वेंय:व्रेंच्य:ब्रींट:द्वेंय:व्रेंच्य:ब्रींट:द्वेंय:व्रेंच्य:ब्रींट:द्वेंय:व्रेंच्य:ब्रींट:द्वेंय:व्रेंच्य:ब्रींट:द्वेंय:व्रेंच्य:ब्रींट:द्वेंय:व्रेंच्य:व्रेंच:व्रे

Now there is a way of relating 31 of the channels we're talked about here to the goddesses of the secret system of Highest Bliss. The trio of the channel of taste, the solitary channel, and the central channel relate to the Sow.

The channels of the 24 places then relate to the goddesses of the three circles. And the channels of four directions correspond to the Four Holy Women.

योष्ट्राच्छीयात्राज्ञीः अतुः स्टाची। विश्वसार्थस्य स्वास्त्राच्छीयात्रच्छीयात्रच्याच्यात्रच्छीयात्रच्छीयात्रच्छीयात्रच्याच्यात्रच्याच्य

Now it has been taught that there are not any channels among those of enlightened body, speech, and mind which relate to the eight guardian goddesses at the gates of the cardinal and ordinal directions. Nonetheless, it seems to me perfectly appropriate, in general, to relate these goddesses to the channels. This is because they do relate to the channels in the sense, for example, of springing forth from the channel at the root of the tongue. Our point is further established by the fact that it is stated in scripture that the elements contained in the channels of the 24 places relate to the various warriors.

देशः दः याद्रशः देनः यहे त्राक्षेत्रः द्वा भूत्रात् व्यव्यात्रः यहे । व्यव्यात् व्यव्यात् व्यव्यात् व्यव्यात् व देशः दः याद्रश्यादे । यहे त्राक्षेत्रः द्वा भूत्रः व्यव्यात् व्यव्यात् व्यव्यात् व्यव्यात् व्यव्यात् व्यव्यात्

As such, we can say that calling these groups the "channels of the 24 holy places" or the "channels of enlightened body, speech, and mind" or the "channels of the three circles" bears a significant relation to the teachings of Highest Bliss.

Now there are certain synonyms for that trio of channels—the channel of taste, the solitary channel, and the central channel. The central channel is also known as the *avadhuti*; Rahula; the channel free of the two; the channel of darkness; the channel of the mind; the channel of enlightened mind; and the channel of the dissolution.

The channel of taste is also called the *rasana*; the channel of what grasps; the channel of the sun; the channel of particle; the channel of speech, or of enlightened speech; the channel of wisdom; the channel of the experienced; and the right-hand channel.

The solitary channel is further know as the *lalana*; the channel of what is grasped; the channel of the moon; the channel of courage; the channel of enlightened body; the channel of method; the channel of the owner of the experience; and the left-hand channel.

* * * * * * * * *

र्शेट तर्वेट तह्या हो टे. टा.ला विटे. तरा शुरा तरहा हो रा शिया या तत्त्र प्राप्त हो यो यो या तत्त्र प्राप्त राष्ट्र राष्ट्

Now there is a reason why they say that the channel of taste faces upwards, while the solitary channel faces downwards. In a male, the channel of taste performs the function of releasing and retaining the flow of the blood element from the throat on up. The solitary channel then performs the same function for the flow of the semen element, from the navel on down.

And although this is the case, there is in general no difference between these two channels insofar as the exit and entrance of inner wind through their upper and lower openings.

यिश्वात्रात्रात्रे के तस्त्रात्रे के विद्यात्र के कि त्यात्र के कि त्यात्र के त्यात्य के त्यात्र के त्यात्र के त्यात्य के त्यात्य के त्यात्र के त्यात्य के त्यात्य के त्यात्य क

Now when we say that the trio of the channel of taste, the solitary channel, and the central channel are situated on the inside or right or left of the body, this is with reference to how they are laid out when they first form in the body.

As the body though goes through its various stages of development, these three channels start to curve right or left in the area below the navel. That is—below the navel—the solitary channel curves in towards the center and extends to the tip of the sexual organ. Here, in both males and females, it performs the function of releasing or retaining urine. And in males in particular, it also performs this function for the semen.

यत्र या त्येत्र त्येत् चीत्। यु न स्रो न त्या त्येत्र त्येत् ची ची या त्येत्र स्रो त्येत् स्रा स्रो त्येत् स्रो स्रो त्येत् स्रो त्येत् स्र यु न स्रो न त्या त्येत्र त्येत् स्रो त्येत्येत् स्रो त्येत् स्रो त्येत् स्रो त्येत् स्रो त्येत्य स्रो त्येत् स्रो त्येत् स्रो त्य

Also below the navel, the channel of taste curves to the left, where below the secret place it splits into two sections. One section extends then to the tip of the sexual organ, where in women it provides the function of releasing or retaining blood. The other section extends to the very end of the anus, where it performs the function of the release and retention of feces, in both men women.

द्वाः याप्यस्य स्वाद्विताः स्वे म्हण्या ग्रीः स्वे सः स्वेदः स्वयः स्वेत्रे सः याद्यः याद्यस्य दिवः यहितः य

Below the navel as well, the central channel curves to the right, continuing to the tip of the sexual organ. Here, for males, it performs the function of release and retention of semen.

र्श्चित्रः विश्वास्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स् स्वर्धः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त् स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्त्रः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रात्तः स्त्रात्त

Now the scriptures state that the red element flows through the channel of taste, and that the white element flows through the solitary channel. This only means though that these are what primarily flow through these channels. This is because, in addition, both the semen and blood elements flow through both channels: it is stated that a certain amount of the white element comes in the blood element, and that for a person practicing the path the element of enlightenment flows through all 72, 000 channels.

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Meet Your Chakras

The following selection again comes from Je Tsongkapa's commentary upon the diamond recitation—

यर्वर विक्रा के त्रिक्त के त्र के त्

The chakras are six in number. At the naval is the chakra of emanation, with 64 channel petals. At the heart is the chakra of all things, with eight channel petals. Above this chakra, but below that of the throat, is the chakra of fire, with three channel petals.

त्रुण'नरः। श्रुव्याने क्रेन् श्रुव्याने क्रेन् श्रुव्याने स्वाने स्वाने स्वाने स्वाने स्वाने स्वाने स्वाने स्व त्रुव्याने स्वाने स

At the throat itself is the chakra of experience, and it has 16 channel petals. At the point between the eyebrows is the chakra of wind, with six channel petals; and at the tip of the head is the chakra of great bliss, possessed of 32 channel petals. The total number of channel petals then is 129.

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Why We Name Them So

ने प्यर में मुर वाहिश ग्रीश नृतु स्राया यहिन स्रवे सर्थ स्राया निर्मा के स्रोत स्राया स्राया स्रोत स्राया स्राया स्रोत स्राया स्रोत स्राया स्राया स्राया स्रोत स्राया स्राया स्राया स्रोत स्राया स

Now in each place where the two side channels—the channel of taste and the solitary channel—twist around the central channel and form a knot, there is a chakra there. At the heart there are three knots, and at the other locations one knot each.

योष्ट्रा श्रीत्र श्रीत्र त्या विष्ट्र त्या स्थान स्था

There are five chakras that formed at these junctures where there are knots. These are the chakra of great bliss at the tip of the head; the chakra of experience at the throat; the

chakra of all things, at the heart; the chakra of emanation, at the navel; and the chakra of sustained bliss, at the secret place.

योश्चाक्ष्मश्चर्याः स्वाप्त्राच्याः स्वाप्त्याः स्वाप्त्राच्याः स्वाप्त्राच्याः स्वाप्त्राच्याः स्वाप्त्राच्याः स्वाप्त्राच्याः स्वाप्त्राच्याः स्वाप्त्राच्याः स्वाप्त्राच्य

As for the number of channel petals at each of these chakras, this has been covered elsewhere for all but one. The chakra at the secret place has 32 channel petals.

There are an additional three, minor chakras. At the point between the eyebrows is the chakra of wind, with six channel petals. Between the throat and the heart is the chakra of fire; it has three petals. And in the middle of the jewel is a chakra with eight petals.

ने प्यतः श्ची वित्रः स्वाविक्तः या यने क्रिक् या विक्तः यो लिका या हेन् या विक्तः यो स्वाविक्तः या विक्तः या व न प्रमाणका विक्ता विक्ता या विक्ता या विक्ता या विकास वि

Now there is a specific reason why we refer to the chakra at the tip of the head as the "chakra of great bliss": it's because the foundation of bliss, the element of enlightenment which is similar to the *kunda*, is located at the head's center tip.

अम्बिन्यवे मान्यक्ष्य अम्बिन्य विक्राय विक्राय के स्विन्य के स्विन्य विक्राय के स्विन्य के स

There is also a reason why we call the chakra of the throat "chakra of experience": it's because the throat is where we experience the six divisions of flavor.

The chakra at the heart then is spoken of as the "chakra of all things" because the very root of all existing things—the indestructible drop, which serves as the foundation for the extremely subtle forms of inner wind and mind—is located here at the heart.

The chakra at the navel next is called the "chakra of emanation" because the navel is the primary place where the flame of the inner fire resides; and it is this inner fire which provides the foundation for the arisal or "emanation" of the great bliss.

Finally, the chakra at the secret place is referred to as the "chakra of sustained bliss" because the secret place is the primary location at which we sustain the experience of simultaneous bliss in both the forward and reverse orders.

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The Most Crucial Knot to Loosen

The following is excerpted from Master Chone Drakpa Shedrup's Book to Please Those with the Core of Goodness.

When we describe the chakras within our presentation of the three major channels—the channel of taste, the solitary channel, and the central channel—you shouldn't think that it's because the chakras are considered these channels. Rather, we present the chakras within these channels because the chakras too are major components of the inner body.

Of these three major channels, by the way, the central channel is further considered primary. This is because experiences such as where simultaneous wisdom makes its appearance in our mind are founded upon the way in which the inner winds of the two side channels—the channel of taste and the solitary channel—enter, stay, and dissolve into the central channel.

Along the entire length of this central channel—up and down it—the chakra of the central channel at the heart is the main one. This is first of all because—in the natural condition of things—the heart is where the consciousness at the very beginning first enters; and where it resides during the interim of our life; and from where, in the end, the consciousness moves on.

Secondly, this chakra is primary because—in the condition of things as they are for a person engaged in spiritual practice—it is within the central channel at the heart where both the approximate and actual forms of the clear light make their appearance.

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The Way at the Heart is Blocked

More from Je Rinpoche's book on the diamond recitation:

युःश्रीत्।

विकासुःस्युत्तान्यक्ष्यः स्थान्त्रात् । श्रीत्वान्त्रात् । श्रीत्वान्त्रात्वान्त्वान्त्रात्वान्त्रात्वान्त्रात्वान्त्रात्वान्त्रात्वान्त्रात्वान्त्वान्त्रात्वान्त्रात्वान्त्रात्वान्त्रात्वान्त्रात्वान्त्रात्वान्त्वान्त्रात्वान्वान्

Of all the different knots on the central channel, the one which is extremely difficult to release is the one at the heart. As the secret text called the *String of Diamonds* puts it,

The Diamond of Wisdom
Stays forever
In the sky of that tiny space
Within the lotus of the heart.

The wind of life
And the downward-clearing wind
Run their courses
Based entirely upon those
Which are above and below.

There as well, at the center, Is it enwrapped By three knots,

Opened only with difficulty.

These destroy
The downward-clearing one,
And make it impossible
For the other to succeed
In its upward journey.

So too it says,

Those above would travel down,
But this one by the life
Is utterly destroyed.

These are already positioned In the channel of life, And down they look.

But they cannot travel down, For they are fettered

By the knot of ignorance.

The first two lines here [four in the English] will be covered later on in our presentation. The words "these which are above and below" refer to the channels above the heart chakra—those upon which the life-holding wind is based for its flow; and to the channels below this chakra—those upon which the downward—clearing wind is based for its flow.

यः वाशुअः श्रीशः नृत्ये व्यवसः विष्यः विष्यः विश्वः शुः सः नृत्यः यः विष्यः श्रीः विष्यः श्रीः विषयः विषयः

"There as well"—meaning at the lotus of the heart, "at the center" of this chakra—is the central channel "enwrapped by the three knots" of the two side channels, the channel of taste and the solitary channel, coming in from the right and the left. The knots thus created are "opened only with difficulty."

में न्यायात्त्रभार्त्ते स्त्रभार्ययात्रभाष्ट्रम् स्त्रेर्याक्षेर्ययात्रे स्वयं स्त्रेर्यात्रभाष्ट्रम् स्त्रेर भेरत्यायात्मभा सुराने त्यायमाने स्त्रास्त्रेराम् स्त्रेराम् स्त्रेराम् स्त्रेराम् स्त्रेराम् स्त्रेराम् स्त्रे

These tight knots "destroy"—that is prevent—the capacity of "the downward-clearing" wind to travel, from its position below, upwards through the central channel at the heart. Which is to say, this particular wind is then unable to move upwards inside the central channel.

ही मही। हो मही महिन्द्र क्ष्मी क्ष्म क्ष्मी क्ष्म क्ष्मी क्ष्मी

In this same way, the life-holding wind and other winds located "above" the heart chakra are ready, "positioned already in the channel of life" and looking "downwards," for they "would travel" this way. "But" even though they have entered this same path that was mentioned before, "they cannot travel downwards" within it.

And this is because "this one" journey downwards "by the life"—meaning by the life wind—is utterly destroyed, for this wind is tightly "fettered by the knot" formed by the channel of taste and the solitary channel.

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Aham

देशक्षक्ष्यक्षित्रः द्वादेशक्ष्यः स्था । यत्वाक्ष्यः युः यदेः क्षुः प्ये हेत्। । यातः वीक्षः प्यतः द्वाद्येश्वः प्यत्येशः । यातः वीक्षः प्यतः द्वादेशः स्था । योतः प्यतः दक्षेतः यदेशः स्था

1रे है भेर्म अन्यं विषय

This same tantra, *The String of Diamonds*, says—

Any person who truly grasps
The basis that lies below
The word that stands for "me",

Aham, the very thing that chains us to This life of pain,

Will free themselves
From the fetters
Of this suffering wheel.

विश्वाक्षः के विश्वासः द्वसः यद्याः यो विश्वासदेः सूत्रे देवः भेट्याः शुः विश्वादः दिवः यदे दिवः या यो विश्वास विश्वासः विश्वासः द्वसः यद्याः यो विश्वासदेः सूत्रे देवः भेट्याः शुः विश्वादः दिवः यदे दिवः या यो विश्वासः य

What this is saying is that if we comprehend, completely, the true meaning of the word *aham*—the word for "me" or "myself"—then we will be able to free ourselves from the chains of this cycle of pain.

The same text says—

A person who lacks *aham* Is like a tree that has lost

Its roots,

meaning that a person who lacks any understanding of what this term means is like a tree whose roots have rotted away.

ण ने र्श्वेया यो सुर पुरायति। । ने प्रतिष्ठ सुर स्थेय के पुरायहिन। । ने प्रतिश्वेय प्रतिस्था । ने प्रतिश्वेय प

And then it says—

A is explained
As meaning the wind of life,
While ham refers to
The downward-clearing wind.

And when these two Have become as one, Well then we say *Aham*.

केंद्री विश्वार्श्वयाश्चरः याष्ठ्रेश्वरः याद्रेश्वरः याद्रेश्वरः याद्वेदः यद्वेदः यद्वेदः याद्वरः याद्वरः याद्वरः यद्वेशः यद्वेदः याद्वरः याद

What this is saying is that we seek to mix the life-holding wind and the downward-clearing wind together. The place where this has to happen though, in this particular system, is the very spot at the heart where we are trying to open the knot. As this heart

knot is particularly "difficult to open," it prevents these two winds from mixing together.

It is critically important that we learn how the two winds mix with each other when they are allowed to do so and that we obtain the crucial points of the instruction on how to release this particular knot.

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Work Then with the Winds

An excerpt from the first Changkya Rinpoche's A Presentation of the Channels, Winds and Drops:

क्ष्मकाराष्ट्र क्ष्मकाराष्ट्रके विकास सिक्ष क्ष्मकाराष्ट्र क्षमकाराष्ट्र क्ष्मकाराष्ट्र क्ष

Suppose we do learn about the inner winds. How then shall we actually practice with them? Here there are a few crucial points you need to know.

As the Lamp of Illumination puts it,

You need to learn to reach that
Dividing line, the place between
Where the misperceptions of reality
Are stirring and stopped.
This is where the four forms of emptiness
Make their appearance.
Once you grasp this fact, you want

To actually do something to bring These stages on.

What you must understand here is that it is essential that you enter practices like the recitation of diamond: practices where you are working with the life-winds. This single understanding of how to proceed is an unsurpassed grasp of the crucial points of actual practice that we need to know, once we have learned about the structure of the inner winds.

[Note: The phrase "working with the life-winds" here is a translation of the Sanskrit word pranayama.]

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How the Winds First Form

Again from A Book to Please Those with the Core of Goodness:

Here then is the second part in our presentation, where we cover how the inner winds first form in the body. Just after the person makes the crossing into their mothers' womb, a subsequent continuation of the inborn wind is triggered. This in itself triggers a gross form of the life-holding wind.

At this point, the person's body resembles a fish. All this occurs during the first month in the womb.

In the second month, this gross form of the life-holding wind triggers the downward-clearing wind. At this point, five small protuberances have come forth from the body, so that it resembles a turtle.

In the third month, the downward-clearing wind triggers the equal wind. At this juncture, the person's body is slightly hunched over, resembling a wild boar.

In the fourth month, the equal wind triggers the upward-running wind. At this point, the upper part of the person's body is beginning to open out a bit, so that they resemble a lion shape.

In the fifth month, the upward-running wind triggers the pervasive wind. At this point the person looks like a midget.

From the sixth through the tenth months, the following parts of the body finish forming, respectively: the winds which runs to the gateway of the eyes, along with the earth element; the wind that runs to the gateway of the ears, along with the water element; the wind that runs to the gateway of the nostrils, along with the fire element; the wind that runs to the gateway of the tongue, along with wind as an element; and the

wind that runs to the gateway of the body, along with aperture of empty space, as an element.

These five are stated to be the same thing as the five secondary winds. These are also called by the names of the serpentine; the turtle; the lizard; the gift of the gods; and victory over the archer.

[Note: in the Tibetan texts on the practice of the completion stage, the last of these winds is also very commonly called NOR LAS RGYAL, or "conquerer of wealth."]

All About the Winds

From the same text:

त्तर्याश्वीरश्युट्यं स्ट्रायुर्यायर कुर्या स्वाप्तुः कुर्याय कुर्यायर कुर्याय कुर्याय

Here we begin our third major section: the division of the winds. Now there are certain ways of presenting the different names of the inner winds. The text known as the "Compendium of the Diamond of Wisdom" refers to the winds with metaphysical names, such as *kotakhya*.

The *Tantra of the Diamond Door* first mentions the five primary winds: the life-holding wind; the downward-clearing wind; the equal wind; the upward-running wind; and the pervasive wind. It then refers to the five secondary with their actual names: the flowing wind; the running wind; the coursing wind; the surging wind; and the racing wind.

हीर्-र्र्। देशःस्याःस्ट्राः प्रदेशः प्रदेशः प्रदेशः प्रदेशः स्यातः त्यातः स्यातः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्थाः स्यातः स्ट्राः प्रदेशः प्रदेशः प्रदेशः प्रदेशः प्रदेशः स्थाः स

Two other texts—the tantra known as the *String of Diamonds*, and the *Prophecy*—refer to the five primary winds by their actual names, and then describe the latter five winds in metaphorical names: the serpentine; the turtle; the lizard; gift of the gods; and victory over the archer.

चलर पर्या । प्रत्ये क्षुर मोर्नेषा अव विषय मानी क्रुर मोर्नेषा क्रुर मानेष्य हिन्दि । प्रत्ये क्रिया क्रुर मानेष्य

This brings us to our fourth section: the description of each separate wind. We'll cover this in three steps: an explanation of the primary winds; an explanation of the secondary winds; and then an explanation of how these two different types of winds work together. Here is the first.

द्रुयःवर्विरः। ट्र्यःबीय। द्र्यःयनवाश्चरी क्ष्यःक्षरःब्राःक्ष्यःवर्वेशःश्चरःब्रीःक्ष्यःल्र्यःक्षेत्र। क्षयःवर्विरःतःक्षरःक्षरःब्रुःक्षरःकिष्यःक्षयःश्चरः। क्ष्यःक्षरःब्रुःक्ष्यःवर्वेशःवर्वेशःवर्वेश्वरःवर्वेशःवर्वेश

Now there is a way of describing the five primary winds we mentioned above as the "protector winds," relating them respectively to the Angels named Unshakable; Source of Jewels; Attainment; Limitless Light; and Appearances.

This is also done according to the Goddesses: here the winds are named, respectively, Mamaki; the Lady of the Eyes; the Lady of Liberation; the Lady Robed in White; and the Lady of Power.

These winds also correspond to the elements; they are then the winds of, respectively—water, earth, wind, fire, and space.

There is further a way of relating these primary winds to colors; respectively, white, yellow, green, red, and blue.

There is a feature of location here as well; respectively, the heart; the secret place; the navel; the throat; and the various joints of the body.

श्चित्रप्तिः विश्वास्त्रप्ति विश्वास्त्रप्ति विश्वास्त्रप्ति । विश्वास्त्रप्ति । विश्वास्त्रप्ति । विश्वास्त्रपत्ति । विश्वास्ति । विश्वासि । विश्वसि । वि

There are two different forms of the life-holding wind: a more subtle and a more gross form. The very most subtle form is found within the channel of dance, at the heart. As the *Heart of Diamond* says,

At the center of the heart
Is the indestructible one,
Clear and shining
Like a flame.
This is the immutable,
And subtle in the highest;
The sound of *ah*,
And the ultimate.

ने बे कुर के से वाक्ष्य प्राप्त के कि स्वाप्त है के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त के स्वाप्त के स्व मालेके के स्वाप्त के स

What this text is referring to when it says "the indestructible" is the indestructible wind. For you should understand that "indestructible" can refer to a number of different things: the indestructible element of enlightenment; the clear light of the original condition of things; and the subtle form of the drop that holds the blood.

द्यान्य विद्यान्त स्थान्त स्थान स्थान्त स्थान स्थान

There is furthermore a distinction between these winds insofar as the way in which they flow. Here is a list for the primary winds:

- 1) Life-holding wind: flows gently through both nostrils
- 2) Downward-clearing wind: flows roughly through both nostrils
- 3) Equal wind: flows gently, but only through the left nostril
- 4) Upward-running wind: flows roughly, only through the right nostril
- 5) Pervasive wind: in the normal condition of things, doesn't flow at all, except during the death process.

The way we've just described how the five primary winds flow is a generalization for each one flowing in predominance; but where one wind is flowing in predominance, the other three are also flowing to some extent together with it.

Let's take just one of them—the upward-running wind, for example. Now we know that the upward-running wind is red in color; so due to its influence the admixed life-holding wind would run then as white with a red hue to it. The downward-clearing

wind would run yellow with a red tint; and the equal wind would run green with the same tint. And then the whole running together would look like a rainbow.

The idea is found in the sixth chapter of the root tantra, where it says, "It gives off a light distinguished by those in its company."

Now there are certain core locations in the body from which the winds proceed and retract in this way; as the *String of Diamond* puts it,

They exhibit their going and coming At the lotuses of the windpipe, The heart, the navel, And the secret place.

Now when any one of the four winds of the four protectors is running as we mentioned, in predominance, this goes on for 900 cycles of breath. Dividing this out to the four Goddess, we get 225 cycles for each Goddess.

योर्ड् त्र्यः चिश्वः वश्वः क्षें क्ष्यः लूट्ट्री ट्रेड्ड अर्योष्ट्रियः वी स्त्रः स्त्

Here's how the winds run, in this particular context. Depending on whatever Goddess it is which is the partner of the protector whose wind is predominate at a given point, the wind of that Goddess becomes the predominant Goddess wind, and then the winds of the four Goddess run in a cycle.

चः न् । ने त्रश्रक्षः चक्किः क्रियः व्यक्तिः व्यक्तिः व्यक्तिः व्यक्तिः व्यक्तिः व्यक्तिः व्यक्तिः व्यक्तिः व व्यक्तिः व्यक्तिः व्यक्तिः व्यक्तिः विश्वकः विश्वकः विश्वकः विश्वकः विश्वकः विश्वकः विश्वकः विश्वकः विश्वकः व

Let's say that the upward-running wind is predominant. For the first 225 cycles then, the wind of the Lady Robed in White runs alongside it, edging along the upper part of the nostril. During the next 225 cycles, the wind of the Lady of Liberation runs edging along each side of the nostril.

दः योष्ठयाः स्राप्ते वित्ते त्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्य दे वित्राः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः स्रोत्याः

For the following 225 cycles, the wind of the Lady of Eyes runs straight on along the center part of the nostril. For the final 225 cycles, the wind of the Goddess named Mamaki runs edging along the lower part of the nostril.

देल्य-उत्तर्भ विश्वास्त्रप्तिः । सेन्द्रम्य । सेन्द्रम्य

All this with the Goddesses by the way related to the lesser forms of the elements. As the *Prophecy* puts it,

The Lady Robed in White
And the rest relate respectively
To the upper part,
The sides, straight on,
And the bottom part—
As well as to the
Individual disks
Of fire, wind,
The lord [earth], and water.

होर्म्। चुर्यास्त्रे खुर्म्य त्वुद्व कुर्म्य प्रमान्त्र स्त्रे को विष्य क्षेत्र क्षेत्र स्त्रे क्षेत्र स्त्रे क्षेत्र क्षेत्र

Given all this, when we are speaking in the context of the greater forms of the elements, then the winds of the four protectors are all running at the same time. When we're in the context of the lesser forms of the elements, then the winds of the four Goddesses run only in succession: one after the other, as we have just explained it.

द्यायम् क्षुप्ताय्ये क्षुप्तायः क्षुप्तायः क्ष्यायः क्ष्यायः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप इस्रास्त्रम् इस्रायमः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप्तायः क्ष्यायायः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप्तायः विषेत्रस्य स्वर्थायः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप्तायः क्ष्यायः स्वर्थायः स्वर्थायः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप्तायः क्षुप

This brings us to the second part of our presentation: the part on the secondary winds. There is a way in which these secondary winds—the five that start with the one called the "flowing" wind—are as well said to the winds of the five protectors. The flowing

wind is the wind of the Angel named Appearances; the running wind is the wind of the Source of Jewels; the coursing wind is the wind of Limitless Light; the surging wind is the wind of Attainment; and the racing wind is the wind of Unshakable.

There is also a way in which these secondary winds move in relation to the five different Goddesses, in which case we call them the wind of the Diamond Lady of Forms; the wind of the Diamond Lady of Scents; the wind of the Diamond Lady of Touches.

In the context of elements, the secondary winds are winds, respectively, of earth, water, fire, wind, and space. As for the respective colors, they are red, blue, yellow, white, and green.

As for their locations, these winds are distributed, respectively, along the five channel petals of the heart; that is the Lady of the Triple and the rest. This is due to the fact that they run as components of the sense powers of the eye, ear, nose, tongue, and body.

योबीट.यदुः भ्रीट.र्थेयो.थे.उह्यो.तदुः स्त्रीटा त्या.पट्टा लीज.र्येयो.योशजायटा स्त्रीट.यदुः १ थतः । योज्ञा खेट.यदुः भ्रीट.र्थेयो.थे.उह्यो.तदुः स्त्रीट.र्येयो.र्यटा लीज.र्येयो.योशजायटा स्त्रीट.यदुः १ थतः ।

It is based upon six different winds—these five secondary winds, along with the grosser form of the life-holding wind—that our misperceptions of both objects and subjects arise. Looking at the winds from these two perspectives then we can say there are twelve different winds here.

Six of these are said to be subject or "holding" winds, so named because they move and hold to the six objects of the senses, carrying along the six different types of consciousness that are based upon these winds. And then the other six are object or "held" winds in that they illuminate the six objects, as something held by consciousness.

सर्भ्य । व्रमः मुस्याय । व्यव्याय । व्यव्यय । व्यव्यय । व्यव्यय । व्यव्यय । व्यव्यय । व्यव्यय । व्

As the Prayer puts it,

May we come to reach that point
Where the twelve different types of wind
That produce our misconceptions
Of the subjects that hold
And the objects that are held
Withdraw into the indestructible drop.

रमाङ्गीयहूर्जी, चीया चीराया विकास क्षेत्र चीराया चित्र प्राप्त क्षेत्र क्षेत्र प्राप्त क्षेत्र क्षेत्र प्राप्त क्षेत्र क्षेत्

This brings us then to our third section, which covers how these primary and secondary winds work together. Now generally speaking, it is taught that the ten different inner winds form while we are still inside the womb. Until we actually come out of the womb though, these winds do not function to proceed to or retreat from the gateways of the senses. Once we are born from the womb, they then begin to function as the foundation of that most basic sound, the short vowel *ah*, thus enabling us for the act of speech.

श्चैर-यदिःश्चे-तदेःश्च-तदेःश्च-त्रोशक्षःत्रावे त्यसः मुद्दन्याश्यः तक्ष्यः मुद्दन्य स्थः मुद्दन्य स्थः वित्रः य वह्या पदेः मुद्दः सुद्दः मुश्चे देः त्या वर्षे द्रम्य व्या वर्षे यो यो यो यो यो सुर्यः मुद्दे प्रया मित्रः यो स्थः वित्रः यो स्थः यो स्थ

In a more particular sense, the primary winds perform the function of enabling the body to move; while the secondary winds make the sense consciousness capable of engaging in their objects.

These winds further provide the foundation for the three sacred syllables, thus enabling yogis and yoginis to perform the practice of diamond recitation. And among still other functions, they make possible the appearance of the clear light (both in the natural state of things and for a person engaged in spiritual practice), by virtue of these winds' dissolving into the indestructible drop at the heart.

इस्र विश्व प्यापे प्राप्त विश्व प्राप्त द्वा प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्राप्त प्राप्त प्र प्राप्त प्र प्र

In that the winds act to move consciousness to its object, they are the conveyance for consciousness. As the *Five Steps* says it, "These are the conveyance for consciousness." The *Prophecy* too says that—

The function in living beings
That relates to objects
Is based then here upon these.

स्मानेसामुन्याम् वार्यायार्थान्यते देवाते स्मानेसाम्यार्था स्मानेसाम्यार्थी स्मानेसाम्यार्थी स्मानेसाम्यार्थी स्मानेसाम्यार्थी स्मानेसाम्यार्थी स्मानेसाम्यार्थी स्मानेसाम्यार्थी स्मानेसाम्यार्थी स्मानेसाम्यार्थी समानेसाम्यार्थी समानेसाम्यार्थ

Now when we say that the inner wind "moves" the consciousness, we only do so in that the consciousness engages in its object in the company of the wind. Consciousness itself is not something that would be moved or impelled in the way that physical objects are moved.

द्र-प्रतिश्वाम्यात्र्वेत् प्राप्ते प्रति द्वा प्रति प्रति प्रति । सुर-प्रति स्राप्ति स्रापति स्राप्ति स्राप्ति स्राप्ति स्राप्ति स्राप्ति स्राप्ति स्राप्ति स्राप्ति

And here too is what we mean when we say that the inner winds are the "conveyance" of consciousness. You shouldn't thing that it's meant here in a sense where the wind and the consciousness are intrinsically separate from each other, like the rider and their horse. Rather, they are intrinsically one thing which can be viewed in two different ways, as one thing providing the basis and the other thing resting upon it. They move in tandem to interact with their object, as the example of a lamp and its light would do.

| प्यतः वित्ते स्थानिक्षः त्रान्तः त्रक्षः स्थान्त्रे स्थान्त्रे स्थान्त्रे स्थान्त्रे स्थान्त्रे स्थान्त्रे स वितः । प्रयाम्ययः प्रकारक्षे स्थाने स्थान

You could also say that the inner wind and the consciousness travel towards an object of perception in a kind of mutual dependence—as in the metaphor of a cripple who can

see clearly holding onto a blind man with strong legs, to get somewhere together. Still though remember that they are not intrinsically separate; and that it could be the case that they bring up their object either clearly or not.

 $\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond$

From the same text:

चतुःर्भ्भवस्य विद्वात्त्रा क्षेत्र विद्वात्त्र विद्वात्त्व विद्वात्त्र विद्वात्त्य विद्वात्त्र विद्वात्त्य विद्वात्त्य विद्वात्त्य विद्वात्त्य विद्वात्त्य विद्वा

This brings us to the sixth overall section in our discussion: an explanation of the functions of the various winds. We'll proceed in two steps—a general description, followed by a more specific one. Here is the first.

There is a certain way in which the inner winds function, for people of the world, to keep them circling around the wheel of pain. This is due to the fact that the inner winds provide the causes for each step in the process of rebirth, death, and the state between death and the next rebirth. And this is true first of all because all the stages of death—from where the element of earth dissolves into the element of water, on up to the step of attainment—are brought on by the gradual diminishing of the energy of the winds' movement.

वर्ष्चित्त्वर्त्ता नेत्यश्चरत्त्वेष्ठत्त्रेष्ट्व्यम् वर्ष्वत्त्वेष्ठत्त्रेष्ट्वायाः स्थानः स्यानः स्थानः स्यानः स्थानः स

Moreover, the formation of the in-between state, and the subsequent step of attainment, both out of the clear light of death is also brought about by the winds. When this leads into the step of proliferation, and that into illumination, and that into the eighty different misperceptions of the nature of things, all this is furthermore brought about by the gradual increase in the energy of the winds movement.

And finally, the winds are responsible too for our crossing into a new life; for the stages in the dissolution of the illumination as we make the crossing; for the stages of the birth process; and for the stages of the gradual growth of the body.

Just so is it that our new mental afflictions are born from these misperceptions of reality, and from the winds they ride upon. These afflictions then induce us to collect both white and black karma. And then we set into motion another spin of the wheel of suffering: the whole process of starting again through this pain triggered by the inner winds.

|दे.बे.बे.बे.चे.चे.चे.त्यस.ले.बे.चा इ.से.व.चे.च.च्यस.लंद.दे। ब्रॅच.वहूय.चे.स.च्य.च.च.च.वहूय.चे.स.च्य.च.च.च.च.च व्युट.चालक.ट्यट.च्ये.चे.ट्यस.ले.चे.चा व्यवस्थात व्यवस्थात व्यवस्थात व्यवस्थात व्यवस्थात व्यवस्थात व्यवस्थात व्य

And so that is the function of the inner winds that they all share together; here then are their individual functions. The life-holding wind functions to maintain the power of life within us, and to draw the other winds to the gateways of the senses. The downward-clearing wind works to release and retain substances such as feces, urine, semen, and menstrual blood.

स्थान्यस्य मुक्तान्त्र विष्ट्र विष्ट्

The equal wind functions to enable is to digest food and drink; then to separate this out into nutritive and waste products; and finally to distribute the nutritive essence throughout the body.

The upward-running wind draws wind up into the upper part of the body; draws it in as breath as well; enables us to speak; and makes possible the acts of drinking and eating themselves. The pervasive wind enables the body to move, facilitating activities such as coming and going to and from places.

The five secondary winds, lastly, function respectively to allow us to see visible objects, hear sounds, smell smells, taste tastes, and feel touches.

चिर्-तर-रे.कुर्-रे.स.चयु-र्येट-अभभाजभाक्षीं-भयु-सी-तर्योच-तर-तर्योर-चयु-हीर-स्। विर्-तर-रे.कुर-रे.स.चयु-र्येट-अभभाजभाक्षीं-भयु-सी-तर्योच-तर-वर्योर-चयु-हीर-स्। योधुभान-रेज-प्रतिर-त्याची-यादी-र्येज-त्याची-प्रतिर-प्री

But with all these winds too there is secondly a function in which they allow the high spiritual deeds of yogis and yoginis. In a general way, they enable us to undertake the practice of dreamed recitation, and thus achieve all of both our worldly and spiritual goals. More especially, it is through the coupled winds and thoughts in their very most subtle form that we attain the body of illusion.

 $\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond$

Winds inside the Central Channel

विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्र विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत् विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत् विश्वायक्षेत्रः विश्वायक्षेत

In the natural state of things, no inner wind in its normal sense ever flows up and down the central channel, except for at the time of death. This is due to the fact that this channel is so tightly constricted by the knots formed by the channel of taste and the solitary channel.

We would though have to say that inner wind does simply *stay* inside the central channel—inside the pipe-like cavity formed by it. This is because there are present here both the wind upon which consciousness is riding, and also the pair of the life-holding wind and the downward-clearing wind.

The winds do *flow* within the central channel in the natural state of things at the time of death because at this juncture—due only to the natural power of our own karma and mental afflictions—the knots in the channels are completely opened.

There is incidentally a specific way in which the four winds run through the two channels. The wind of fire—that is, the upward-running wind—flows primarily through the channel of taste. The wind of wind—the equal wind—flows primarily through the solitary channel. The pair of the life-holding wind and the downward-clearing wind flow equally through both the channel of taste and the solitary channel.



No Longer Children

We return to Je Tsongkapa's text on diamond recitation:

त्रियः इयः ह्वाःश्चेतः विद्यायः क्षुतः क्षुत्वः क्षुत्वः क्ष्यः विद्यायः क्षुतः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष विद्यायः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्षुतः विद्यायः क्षुतः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्षयः क्ष्यः क्षयः क्ष्यः क्षयः क्ष्यः क्षयः क्ष्यः क्षयः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्षयः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्ष्यः क्षयः क्ष्यः क्षयः क्षयः क्ष्यः क्षयः क्

Now the main inner winds that are responsible for our misperceptions of things are the pair of the life-holding wind and the downward-clearing wind. These run through the channel of enlightened form (the solitary channel) and the channel of enlightened speech (the channel of taste).

The wind that flows in the central channel, when it flows, is a wind free of all misperceptions of reality. As such, says the text, the central channel is infinitely superior to these other two.

चक्रीट्रां देशस्यादेशस्य वर्षेत्रम् में स्वाप्त क्षेत्रम् स्वाप्त स्य

It further says that any yogini or yogi who reaches the point where they can—simply through the power of their yoga—push these winds into the central channel, they thereby become a person who is finally capable of doing something to help all suffering beings.

It moreover states that once these winds have been pushed into this channel and actually stay there, then the yogi or yogini has finally won the victory over the 108 different inner winds. This too, the text says, is something that "mere children"—a reference to those still at the stage of creation—have no idea of.

And the text is saying finally that this person who has managed to push the winds into the central channel will now attain the clear light: that thing which allows one to reach final enlightenment within a single instant. This, says the text, is what the tantra here is telling us.

Here then is the actual wording:

The life-holding wind
And the downward-clearing wind
Run their courses,
Based above and below.

And it is clearly stated
That it is these two winds,
And these two winds alone,
Which carry our misperceptions.

अः अर्क्षनानीः अर्क्षनानीः अर्थाः । व्याव्यान् निर्माने अर्थाः । विरमाने अर्थाः । विरमाने अर्थाः । विरमाने अर्थाः । विरमाने अर्थाः विरमाने अर्थाः । विरमाने अर्थाः विरम्भ विरमाने अर्थाः विरम्भ व

The channels which are the very essence
Of enlightened form and enlightened speech
Are the two of the *lalana*,
And the two of the *rasana*.

But the *avadhuti* is the channel supreme;

This one at the center

Is infinitely superior

To the other two.

> When the wind that is free Of misperceptions of reality Flows constantly here, Traveling as it will,

Then the yogi or yogini Who has made this happen Will now forever be able To accomplish all the needs Of every living being.

वित्यत्त्र्यः स्वात्रः स्वात्रः स्वात्त्रः विद्यात्त्रः विद्यात्त्यः विद्यात्त्रः विद्यात्ते विद्यात्त्रः विद्यात्त्रः विद्यात्तः विद्यात्ते विद्यात्ते विद्यात्ते विद्यात्तः विद्यात्त्रः विद्यात्त्रः विद्यात्ते विद्यात्तः विद्यात्यात्तः विद्यात्तः विद्यातः

And they have as well attained Victory over the 108 Different variations Of the inner wind.

This is the yoga
Where you can stay forever
In your victory,
And is something that children
Have no idea of.

ह्मित्रक्षणायाद्याः अस्त्रह्म्यायाद्याः स्त्रात्याः । वियायास्य स्त्रात्याः । वियायास्य स्त्रात्याः । वियायास्य विया । वित्रे स्त्रात्यक्ष्याः स्त्रात्याः । वियायास्य स्त्रात्याः । वियायास्य स्त्रात्याः । वियायास्य स्त्रा

In the tantra then here it is stated
That the yogi or yogini
Can now attain perfect enlightenment
Within a single lifetime.

When one comes to this single instant,
The tantra is telling us,
Then this is the highest instant of all.

सुर-द्वु-सर-वर्षुवा-स-दे-त्य-हे-सुर-हेव-सदे-रिवाय-सु-ह्ये-रिवाय-हे-ह्ये-रिवाय-सु-ह्ये-रिवाय-स

What line of reasoning does the text use to give this description of what someone who manages to push the winds into the central channel will be able to attain? The text goes on to explain,

We must first reach

The final completion Of our practice of The stage of creation.

After that, all it takes
Is six months practicing
The recitation of diamond.



How Drops are Born

And back to Chone Lama's Lamp that Illuminates:

श्लीट मिश्रुआय होता थे विकास होता स्थान मिश्रु स्थान स्थान मिश्रु स्थान स्थान

Here thirdly is our presentation of the inner drops. Now there is a certain essential distillation of the white and red elements which we receive from our father and mother together; and there is as well a certain continuation within us of the inner winds and thoughts that we had during the clear light of death, in the state between—in the *bardo*.

These two combine indivisibly as it were into a single tiny ball—a tiny drop. This single essential drop resides in the heart chakra, within a tiny space within the hollow tube of the channel of dance.

देव:श्रेट:मी:इस्र:म्द्रिस्प्यंद्रिस्। देव:श्रेट:मी:इस्र:म्द्राच्याद्रस्थःभेद:पवेद्राच्यायाः अत्राच्याः श्रेद्रःश्चेत्रःमी:इस्राच्याद्रःभेद्रःमी:इस्र

This drop goes by a number of different names: it is called the indestructible drop; the inborn drop; and the drop of wisdom.

This one drop is the primary drop found in every creature with a body. All the other drops are just aspects of this one.

त्यीं र.यपु. ही रा वियोग रात्त्रीय ही श्रात्ता श्रू श्रू र.ही व योष्ठिश त्यु ये प्राया श्रू योष्ठीयोग रात्त्र र योष्ठीयां श्रात्त वियोग रात्त्रीयोग से श्री रात्त्र श्रू रात्त्र श्रू र. योष्ठिश त्यु र योष्ठिश त्यु र योष्ठिश रात्त्र र योष्ठिश रात्त्र से स्थू र श्री योग रात्त्र र योष्ठिश रात्त्र से स्थू र श्री योग रात्त्र से स्थू र योष्ठिश र योष्

Now when we use the word "indestructible" in contexts like this, it can have one of two different meanings. The first would be that the object in question remains without ever being destroyed, for the duration of this life. And the second would be that the thing is never destroyed at all.

The first of these describes the drop which is indestructible, while the second describes the inner winds and thoughts which are indestructible.

The latter of these two can further be divided into two types: the inner winds which are indestructible, and the thoughts which are indestructible.

दुश्यव्याम्भितं देश्यां विवाश्यक्षया वे क्षुटा येयश्यक्षया वे देश देश देश विवाश विवाश विवाश विवाश विवाश विवाश व देश विवाश प्रिक्ष प्रतिवाश क्षेत्र प्रति क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत्र क्षेत् विवाश प्रविवाश क्षेत्र प्रति क्षेत्र विवाश क्षेत्र क्षेत्र

Now when we say that the very subtle forms of thought and inner wind are "never destroyed at all," what we really mean is that their continuation as discrete entities is something that will continue to flow on with out interruption. It is not though the case that they are somehow changeless objects, for they are such that they cannot remain even into the instant after they come into existence: they are objects of a moment.

विवात्ये नगर न्यर वाहित्य के व्यावित क्या विवाद्ये त्या प्रेन्त्र व्यावित व्याव व्यावित व्यावित व्यावित व्यावित व्यावित व्याव

Now there is a way in which the red and white drops gradually branch off. Once the inner channels have developed within the body, a segment of the white drop leaves the original white drop at the heart and migrates to the inside of the chakra at the tip of the head. Here then the white element of the tip of the head first begins to flourish. Gradually then, in other places of the body, white drops begin to flourish—either directly or indirectly from this first one.

चक्चिर्या के स्वाप्त के स्व

So too a segment of the red drop splits off from the original red drops at the heart and migrates to the inside of the navel chakra, upon which the red element of the navel first begins to flourish. Then too gradually in other parts of the body red drops begin to flourish—either directly or indirectly from this first one.

इति इति स्वाद्याय स्व इति स्वाद्याय स्वाद्याय

Now there are specific chakras which are the principal locations where the white and red elements flourish. The chakras at the tip of the head, the forehead, and in the center of the jewel at the lower opening of the channel of dance are the places where the white element flourishes. Of all these locations, the prime one for the flourishing of the white element is the chakra at the tip of the head.

द्यार-देशर-क्र-अक्षेत्र-दे, तसुजान्यद्याप्तकान्त्र-ताव्य-त

The chakras at the throat, the navel, and the secret place are the locations where the red element flourishes; and among these the chakra at the navel is the primary one where this element flourishes.

The chakra at the heart is a location where parts of both red element and white element flourish in equal measure.

तस्तर्यान्त्रः सुन्तर्वे स्थित्रः सुन्तर्वे सुन्द्रः । । । अक्षेत्रान्ते सुन्तर्वे सुन्तर्वे सुन्तर्वे सुन्तर्वे सुन्दर्वे स्थित् सुन्तर्वे सुन्त्वे सुन्तर्वे सुन्त्ये सुन्तर्वे सुन्तर्वे सुन्तर्वे सुन्तर्वे सुन्तर्वे सुन्त्य

Now the white element is something that grows on specific occasions when it happens to encounter the necessary conditions; as such, you shouldn't think of it as sitting there filling a place like water poured into a pot.

"But how," you may ask, "can it just come up all of a sudden?" There's no problem there. It's like the case where—when you encounter the necessary conditions—tears well up in your eyes, even though it's not like anyone has come up and poured the tears into your eyes.

१२४४४. हुया. ज्ञान्य क्षा हु. हु. व्याप्त क्षा क्षा क्षा क्षा व्याप्त क्षा व्यापत व्यापत क्षा व्यापत व्यापत व्यापत व्यापत व

As such then we can say that the drops can be divided into four different types, according to location: this is because there are a total of four different kinds of drops, according to whether they bring on the state of deep sleep; dreaming; waking; or what we call the "forth state."

Here is how it works. At the heart and in the center of the jewel lays the type of drop which brings on the state of deep sleep. At the throat and the secret place lays the type of drop which brings on the state of dreaming.

At the tip of the head and the navel lays the type of drop which brings on the waking state. And at the navel and the secret place lays the type of drop which brings on the so-called "forth state": the state of spiritual union.

How specifically do the drops bring on these different states? They bring on the four states of deep sleep and the rest when the inner winds gather at those particular locations.

$$\Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond \Diamond$$

The Absolute Absence of Breath

And again to Je Tsongkapa's commentary on diamond recitation:

This same text [Samputa—The Kiss] included the following lines:

In the very center
Of the lotus,
The chakra of all things,

Lies that which exists In name alone;

That beyond conception, That beyond appearances;

The thing beyond duality, The thing which is immaculate.

रटार्च्यामार्च्यायमाञ्चरका विकामासुरकार्स्रा

| इसे च्रिया चुः च स्थे देश हुन । । या बि स्थे देश हुन । । यो देश देश देश हुन । । यो देश देश हुन । यो बि स्थे स

It can be compared To no thing at all;

There is nothing That is does.

It rests on nothing, And nothing stands Atop it;

It is the absolute lord Of wisdom, The highest thing there is.

It is the absolute absence Of breathing out, Of breathing in.

There are a multitude of ways in which these lines are referring in metaphor to the indestructible one at the heart. To put it in terms of deceptive reality though, this indestructible one is spoken of in the commentary as the mind of consciousness of the thoughts; the two drops—white and red—which serve as the basis for the mind; and the "wind of the five rays of light"—the wind of the clear light.