### Making the Impossible Possible

Part 9 of *The Devil Debates an Angel,* A Book of Wisdom written by His Holiness the First Panchen Lama, Four Centuries Ago

This is an argument which occurred one time between Wisdom and her opponent, whose name was The Tendency to Think that Things are Real. It all started when Wisdom was identifying what the word "Mahamudra" meant, at three different stages in a person's life: in the way things normally are for them; in the way they are as this person practices the spiritual path; and as they are when the person reaches the fruit of their practice.

I bow down to my Lama, Angel of Angels.

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|त्यःत्यसःम्बद्धमःद्वःद्वःस्त्रुस्य |द्युद्दःयसःसःह्वेदःयःभःदुस्य |क्षेदःचहम्मसःर्द्धसःयःह्वाःयःभ्रस्य |त्यःत्वस्यस्यःह्वाःयःभ्रस्य |त्यःत्वस्यस्यस्य

# বিষ্ক্রীর্যান্যান্ট্রীর্যান্ত্রীর্যান্ত্রীর্যান্ত্রীর্যান্ত্রীর্যান্ত্রীর্যান্তর্যান্

121
Some do an analysis
On the fact that things
Are neither one nor many,
And again find nothing's there.

But what they think
To themselves then
Is that there is no I,
Because it is nothing more
Than something labeled with a name;
And then they meditate on that.

This though is a meditation
On what a thing is not;
It is not a meditation
Upon its very absence—
And it's not therefore a thing
Which directly contradicts
The way that I see things.

विश्वास्त्राचर्स्स्यायस्यात्यात्व्यास्या | द्वार्यात्र्र्तायस्यात्यस्या | द्वार्यात्र्र्तायस्यात्यस्या | द्वार्यात्रस्यात्यस्या

> 122 How on earth can you imagine That you could expel me from this mind

Unless you found a viewpoint Which stands in direct opposition To the way that I see things?

How could you ever meditate Upon wisdom so long as you Had yet to inflict any damage on me?

विश्वायात्रियाः निर्मात्रियः स्वीयाः स्वीयाः स्वीयः स्वीयः स्वीयः स्वीयः स्वीयः स्वीयः स्वीयः स्वीयः स्वीयः स् इति स्वीयः स इति स्वीयः स

123
Some again do an analysis
On the fact that things
Are neither one nor many,
And find that nothing's there.

They say that then they're meditating On the fact that the me Is simply gone; But even in that moment, They are living in this me.

१८ चि महित् सं विश्व स्वादी १९ मा स्ट पु मार सेंट से दी १महित्व से से दिन के से से समर्वेता १८ के सेंट साथ संस्थेत

#### 124

People like this are wandering Further and further from emptiness; They fail to grasp that emptiness Is the fact that they themselves Have no nature of their own.

Emptiness is standing there Right in front of their eyes, But they can't comprehend Why it is it's empty; And in that very moment The wisdom which could serve As my antidote slips from sight.

If the antidote is missing, How could I ever be hurt? The only choice I'd have then Would be to remain right here!

|यायायाद्यमान्दरन्द्वयाद्य|
|प्रदायायाद्यमान्दर्ग्वयाद्यमान्द्रमान्द्रम्यः विद्यम्य प्रदायाय्यः विद्यम्य प्रदाय प

125

Some others do a much more careful Analysis of the fact that things Are neither one nor many.

First you analyze, they say, And then you meditate, they say, In a way where you simply suspend Your mind from any opinion of things:

Focus your thoughts on nothing at all; And then, they claim, You have reached some deep meditation.

चित्रः यद्वेत् क्रुं स्रेत्यः यात् । । त्यः वर्षेत् स्रेत्यः यात् व्याः स्रा । त्यः वर्षेत् स्रेत्यः स्रेत्यः व्याव्यः यात्रः स्रा । त्यः वर्षेत् स्रेत्यः स्रेत्यः व्याव्यः व्याव्यः । । त्यः वर्षेत् स्रेत्यः स्रेत्यः व्याव्यः स्रोतः । । विश्यः स्यावर्षेत्रः स्रायः व्याव्यः स्रोतः । । विश्यः स्यावर्षेत्रः स्रायः व्याव्यः स्रोतः व्याव्यः ।

What a strange idea it is
To think that if you managed
To think of nothing at all,
It could somehow contradict the way
That I conceive of things.

If a meditation can't be considered The kind where you discover That there's no I at all, Then sure then you can give it

Some deep and fancy name, But the fact's that it doesn't even Approach a view that could hurt me;

This thing that you believe To be a meditation on wisdom Is nothing more than a joke!

बिष्यायात्रियान्दरः तुःस्वयः स्त्री । निस्तनः स्वयः स्त्रः स्वरः स्वयः स्त्री । निस्तनः स्वयः स्त्रः स्वरः स्वयः स्वरः । निस्तायः स्वरः स्वयः स्वरः स्व

127
Still others do an analysis
Of the fact that things
Are neither one nor many,
And manage to come up
With nothing at all.

They thus conclude that the I
Is nothing that is real,
And then they stay in meditation
As long as they possibly can
On the flow of the logical
State of mind
They used to make this conclusion.

चित्रः यात्रसः स्वाधानः सङ्ग्रीसः यः बेरा वित्रः यात्रसः स्वाधानः सङ्ग्रीसः यः बेरा

## |गुर्दाक्ष्म्यायः यात्रसः स्वासः वर्दि। |५:५:वेसः स्वासः सक्ष्यः त्या |८:वेदः पक्ष्म्यः सः स्वासः स्वासः वर्दि।

And this, they claim,
Is what it is
To do a meditation
On the way things really are.

Now everbody knows
That the mind is something that belongs
To the deceptive side of reality;
So what they're really saying
Is that meditating on the deceptive side
Is meditating on the absolute side.

Ho ho! It's a weird sort of wisdom When you're meditating on me, And making me your best friend!

129
Others do an analysis
Of the fact that things
Are neither one nor many,
And based on this reasoning

Come to an understanding That the I is nothing real.

They believe that staying in meditation On the flow of these kinds of thoughts Is a meditation upon The way things really are.

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But there isn't any difference Between this and the position We just described above; And it really is absurd To say that it contradicts The way that I see things.

In fact it's really nothing else
Than a meditation on me;
How on earth could you ever call it
A meditation on wisdom?

|यःयशःमाडेमान्दःनुःस्यःम्डेश| |पदेत्रःपयःह्माशःयशःदःहिनःते। |पदेतःपयःभेदःपयःदेशःपयःके| |प्राप्तःस्येदःपयःदेशःपयःके|

## । বুম: বৃষ্ণ নর্ম্ব্র ম: ক্রুর: ক্র্রিম: দেম: ন্রীর। । বুম: বৃষ্ণ নর্ম ক্রুর: ক্র্রিম: দম: ন্রীর।

Now others do an analysis
Of the fact that things
Are neither one nor many,
And based on this reasoning
Perceive that the I
Is nothing that is real.

They fail to understand
The simple absence of things
Where they themselves are gone,
And for their meditation
They seek some other emptiness
That they can focus on.

|गडिगानुःक्षेंदःक्षेत्रःक्ष्यःक्षत्रः।
|क्षेंद्रःयः यदेवःव्हेंवःक्षेंद्रः व्यापः यदेवःव्हेंवःक्षेंद्रः यद्यायः यदेवः।
|दः द्रदः व्हेंद्रः क्षेद्रयः वयायः वयः।
|दः द्रदः व्हेंद्रः क्षेद्रयः वयायः वयः।
|यक्षेद्रः व्यापः व्हेंद्रः द्रदः व्यापः वयः।
|यक्षेद्रः व्यापः व्यापः वयः।

132

People like this are uniquely Far from emptiness; They possess a state of mind Which holds emptiness itself To be a thing that's real.

Thus their meditation is In fact meditating on me.

Now perhaps you can give it some thought And decide whether or not this practice Is an antidote which contradicts The way that I see things!

133

The reason why this is the case
Is that they fail to understand,
And are seeking some kind of emptiness
Which exists in some other place
Than the fact that they don't exist.

There may be lots of people around Talking all kinds of big talk,
But the fact is that they are very few
Who know how to meditate
On the fact that the I's not there.

विश्वात्रम्य विश्वात्त्रम्य स्थात्रम्य स्यात्रम्य स्थात्रम्य स्यात्य स्यात्य स्यात्य स्थात्रम्य स्थात्रम्य स्थात्रम्य स्थात्रम्य स्थात्रम्य स्थात्रम्य स्

## । ক্রুর অ: ই: ব্রব: মর্রম: মম: এইর। । ই: অ: বার্রম: ঝুবাঝ: বর্ম্মুর: মম: এইর।

And there are others
Who do an analysis
On the fact that things
Are neither one nor many,
And based on this reasoning
Come to an understanding
That the I is nothing real.

Then they meditate
For as long as they possibly can
On the flow of how these thoughts
Consider things to be.
This they claim is to meditate
On the way things really are.

## |स्वाबार्यस्यार्वेद्यस्याः व्यक्ताः । |दःव्यवदः दुदः चदः यार्वेदः स्रेदः ग्रादः । |संवाबार्यस्यार्वेदः यस्याः व्यक्ताः ।

135

These folks are a little bit better Than all those other ones. They do, I admit, manage to inflict Some little damage on me, But how in the world could they ever Smash me totally?

## १ने भी कु अर्जन के हो न।

And why is that the case?
The state of mind that thinks
"That's me" comes up in us
Based on nothing more
Than the collection of our parts.
And when it looks at this "me,"
It believes it exists in truth.

निस्त्रः यदेवः यदेवः व्यद्धः स्थेव। ।देः स्त्रः स्वेदः यः यदेवः ब्वेदः स्थेव। ।देः स्त्रः स्त्रः यः यदेवः स्त्रूरः स्थेव। ।देः स्त्रः स्त्रः यः यदेवः स्त्रूरः स्थेव। ।देः स्त्रः स्त्रः यः यदेवः स्त्रूरः स्थेव। ।देशः सः स्वेदः यदेः स्त्रदः स्त्रदः स्त्रिक्षः स्तिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्तिकः स्त्रिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्तिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्त्रिक्षः स्तिक्षः स्तिक्षः स्तिकः स्तिक

This kind of real
Is to believe things are real
This kind of grasping
Is to grasp things as real
This way of appearing
Is to appear as though real—

And it follows us all the way on up To the tenth bodhisattva level.

It goes as well by the name Of "an obstacle to omniscience."