

Buddha-Nature

Buddha-nature is the innate capacity to look upon all beings with great compassion. Every human being possesses this potentiality. Buddha-nature is the very basis of human dignity and the spiritual foundation of enlightened human relationships. The spirituality of man is greater than his physical or intellectual being and it is this spirituality, his Buddha-nature, which, when cultivated to its highest state, makes man a Buddha — perfect in Wisdom and perfect in Compassion. The ultimate message of the Buddha was, “Awaken the Buddha-nature in yourself.” It is this message that we must clearly hear.

Buddha-nature is not restricted solely to human beings. The fundamental Dharma teaches us that even “the mountains, rivers, trees, grass and all possess Buddha-nature.” This means not only human beings but all sentient beings, all things in the universe, possess the capacity to become a Buddha. Once a scientist asked me, “How can a rock become a Buddha?” I replied, “When you have become a Buddha.”