

~ *Bardo and Nature of Mind* ~

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The main purpose of all these bardo teachings, the ultimate purpose, is to recognize our true nature. What we sometimes call, “buddha nature,” or “nature of mind,” or “dharmakaya,” or “enlightened nature.” All these are great names, but the experiential level is that we have this mind – our true nature, the fundamental nature of our mind – and how we can eventually “get there” and recognize that.

For example, let us say there is a bright sun. The sun is always radiating light, but there are clouds covering it. Maybe there are two layers – the first layer and the second layer. The second layer of the cover is very thick, and the first layer of the cover is less thick. But, even though the second layer of clouds is thick, there is still some light you can see coming through.

Our true nature – the buddha nature – is like the sun. Even if we have this fixed mind – the conceptual and dualistic mind – that covers our true nature, but still we are manifesting our buddha nature. The light of buddha nature – wisdom, love, and compassion – is manifesting in our everyday lives.

The particular moment in-between – the bardo – is like when the clouds have a bit of a gap or crack. Through this crack, the sunlight manifests. If you recognize that, then through that light, you can reach the sun. Then you will achieve enlightenment. You will recognize your true nature more quickly; it becomes a shortcut.

This kind of moment – the gap, the in-between – happens in our everyday lives many times.