

The 5 elements/ Buddha-wisdom in relation to their expressions of love and compassion

Buddha - Space

A person who expresses this quality of love and compassion gives us a feeling of being completely at ease, everything is welcome, we feel free and accepted, just as we are at the moment.

Vajra - Water

This aspect of compassion sees the situation in a comprehensive way, can clearly discern what is really going on and can give really good advice. We feel that there is intelligence at work here that can also cut through our confusion, quite decisively and powerfully.

Ratna - Earth

This aspect of compassion radiates abundance, richness, all feelings of deprivation dissolve, we feel that we have everything we need when we are with a person who radiates this quality.

But we must not lose sight of the fact that this quality can only be there because of the other two. It needs the space in which this fullness can manifest and the clarity and structuredness of vajra wisdom so that the ratna quality doesn't just flood everything.

Padma - Fire

Intimacy, really being in touch with each other, a strong emotional feedback, warmth. This is what we usually associate with love, there is also the fiery, the sparky and this may also move in a rather difficult direction.

Karma air/movement

This expression of love and compassion goes directly into action: you need something to eat? Here it is! Seeing what needs to be done and just doing it. There may not be much sweet talk but instead a lot of hands-on action. We feel that we are getting direct support here.

Now, one could say to such a person: I am missing the cordiality, the Heart, be more Padma, please! However, we could also understand that what we have here is an expression of love and compassion.

Of course, it is nice when all 5 wisdoms are there in a very balanced way. Sometimes this happens quite intuitively. Then we have the feeling that we are really completely enveloped by love and compassion or that we radiate it all over.

Often we criticise people for not living up to our expectation of Padma and don't see that they are also acting out of love and compassion.

If you look at these aspects, it can be a great deal of fun to explore how they manifest when our neuroses are active.

The 5 wisdoms can thus help us to understand ourselves and others better, and also the Dharma. Because as Dharma practitioners we are very interested in how we can develop love and compassion in all kinds of ways. By doing so, we may surprise ourselves. And the same is true for other qualities, such as wisdom, patience, action and clarity.

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