



DZOGCHEN AND  
THE ART OF POETRY

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*For Clayton Bohnet*

**Dzogchen** (Wylie: *rdzogs chen*, “Great Perfection” or “Great Completion”), also known as *atiyoga* (utmost yoga), is a tradition of teachings in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism aimed at discovering and continuing in the ultimate ground of existence. The primordial ground (*ghzi*, “basis”) is said to have the qualities of purity (i.e. emptiness), spontaneity (*lhun grub*, associated with luminous clarity) and compassion (*thugs rje*). The goal of Dzogchen is knowledge of this basis, this knowledge is called *rigpa* (Skt. *vidyā*). —Wikipedia

## **DZOGCHEN AND THE ART OF POETRY**

Writing equals path  
view of what is—vision, action, meditation

The conduct, being a poet 24/7  
view, vision

Winning out against the poem, outside, view of what is, poem as a box, “follow the lineaments of desire,” book as measure

Base of poetry, poetry is everything  
Said Jung, “Try and buy the well  
and it springs up somewhere else.”

Poetry as experienced

*Rigpa*

Action equals writing, eye-mind-hand conceive, mind-lungs-voice, sing speak, dick-gut-heart,  
compose, mind series

Space series, form/content

logopoeia, melopoeia, phanopoeia

Pithy series,

Said Pound, "After all's said and done,  
it's the feelings remain."

How we look at the world

illusion

material

both

Williams: *No ideas*

*but in things*

BASE

The Source

From whence comes the poem?

"inspiration"

need to fulfill promise

result of a prayer, or possibly

habit

Inspiration

flooding feeling, bliss

the zone

vision-external-vision

Apocalyptic need

to write like crazy

PATH

Make the poem

"We've come to bring you metaphors for your poems."

mind treasure is a Ter

Chaucer as Garab Dorje

Shakespeare as

Guru Rinpoche

Build like a box

a Grail for Gail—a poem

for her birthday, an occasion

inside out

Subconscious or nature

first word

best word

beauty

outside in channel

ghosts, Martians

The Muse

Demons/Angels

Mind Ter

the Unconscious

hypnotic intoxicants, both

“Just starts to happen”

Visualization – mind

Breath/rhythm – energy

Word – body

Tulku Sangnak, beaten in prison, dances

The Dance of King Gesar

FRUIT

Somehow things come  
together

Brought its own solution  
which was very poetic

Taught me how to draw  
a bunny

Saying something

is more appropriate  
than you could dream of

Saying something

more profound  
even if you don't get it

Crow story—

how he got a drink

In the poem I was

able to cry

To name it kills it

“My cat died the other day.”

Confessional poem, in the 50s  
like a sheep sheared in a pen,  
and then you stamp it  
Don't want you to miss  
the point

“Capture  
phrases  
that  
come to  
mind”

The occasion arises  
by the occurrence  
then, you somehow write it:  
“I met a traveler from an antique land.”

Stuff coming into life  
that haunts you of  
things I said  
I shouldn't have  
things said  
I could have said better  
things other people said

“It was a beautiful day,  
and I want to remember it.”

“Misery comes from every direction.”

“Whatever are we going to do about it?  
we can't always be watching TV.”

Inner story  
a séance  
a poem  
a book review  
a skit  
the voice of the Supreme Source

“I feel like a

blind man who  
doesn't know  
where he is"

"Did you think  
the Kaliyuga Age was going to be easy?"

Poetry of the mind  
poetry of the voice  
poetry of the body

Internet, reality tv

Am I forgetting anything?

My tale

## **ON IRWIN ROAD AND ABROAD**

near Emerisa Gardens, I  
found an amethyst, fractured, peered in  
saw Arya Tara  
and Coyote

I know just enough to know  
I know enough to know  
I just don't know

So, I'll say  
"I'll let this go without comment."

Heideggerian questions:  
how to breathe? how to fuck? how to know?

The question is not how there's something  
rather than nothing, but how  
there's something that IS nothing.

On the Pine Ridge Rez  
moving to the Sun Dance  
moving to drum and wind  
midnight visages under a Shinto moon  
zephyr rustling the buffalo grass  
my tent covered  
with tarantulas

Medicine Man says, “This I’ve never seen.”

.

Jesus Tantra—  
purification  
then, refuge  
raise Bodhi

100 syllable prayer  
mandala offering  
guru yoga, manifest as Mary Magdalene

Where in this mandala are you?  
Can you see the glory? the temple  
not built with human hands?

Tantra wants all your stuff, your baggage,  
your neurosis, your psychosis, your passion  
to transform into virtue

Sutra like Newton’s physics  
Tantra like Einstein’s theory of relativity  
Dzogchen like quantum mechanics  
You = U

.

as above, so below

2 values  
3 values  
5 values

create unrest in the “self”  
a carousel of bumper cars

.

Sane, seine, saints  
lots of holes in my mental net

Juice for neuro-anatomical re-programming

**HOW WE GOT HERE**

Lifetimes to find a Human form  
to find the Dharma  
to find my Guru

Tantra is all about stuff  
uses everything to polish the buddha belly

Boiling it down to  
virtue and purification  
    Use every sense  
common sense and nonsense

Turn your crap into compassion fertilizer  
    Spread it on the floor of samsara  
dry it, cool it off, plow it into  
    That Garden of Earthly Delights  
    That Garden of Horrors Untold

*grandure [sic] of grey dawn in transparent gold,  
Myramids [sic] of restless weary wanderers  
to play the harp strings of youth*

Occult—  
Finding knowledge  
hidden in gambling games  
roulette, craps, blackjack  
auguries

Art—  
Apollo + mask  
Muse = Spirit = Subconscious  
                                    sung by Someone  
to close in on the ineffable Source

CLOSE (A.C.D.)—  
*to stop, obstruct*  
*to shut, surround*  
*to bring together, join*  
*to get rid of at a reduced price*  
*to bring an end to*  
*to come near*  
*to grapple, engage in*  
*to agree*  
*to come to an end, terminate*  
*to be worth at the end of trading*

*lacking freshness*  
*confined, narrowly confined*  
*heavy, oppressed*  
*secretive, reticent*  
*stingy, parsimonious*  
*scarce, as with money*  
*not an open season*  
*near, near together*  
*intimate, confidential*  
*compact*  
*a juncture, a union*  
*not deviating from the subject*  
*short, near the surface*  
*not deviating from the model or original*  
*strictly logical*  
*strict, searching, minute*  
*end or conclusion*  
*enclosure*  
*narrow entry, alleyway*  
*(British) a piece of property w/o buildings*

Power of the triad—

Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva,  
Creator, Sustainer, Destroyer  
Father, Son, Holy Ghost  
Dharmakaya, Sambhogakaya, Nirmanakaya  
View, Path, Fruit  
Body, Voice, Mind  
Truth, Beauty, Goodness  
Id, Ego, Superego  
Imaginary, Symbolic, Real  
Inner, Outer, Secret, Inner Secret Secret

I'm a trust-fund Buddha in voluntary house arrest  
"Voluntary house arrest has the stink of liberty."

Adhere to the samadhi of equanimity  
when it comes to Beauty  
BUT retain the option to weigh in  
on any kind of

ontological/cognitive/evolutionary dualisms

*It's easier to box than to throw rocks.*

“box” means to categorize  
aesthetic  
vision \_\_\_\_\_

Allegory of quinine seed  
as a path to samadhi

Sky walking with the dakinis  
they help give shape to my world

“You need to have an ego  
if you’re going to get rid of it.”

Get rid of something  
that doesn’t exist

Point of it—  
Point to it  
To come to the point  
and integrate the personae

How deconstruct it?  
Take a chop at it  
cut through  
leap over

Re-evaluations  
Realizations  
Visualizations  
And mantras binges

Leibniz, monadology of self-reflecting selves  
Spinoza, geometrical values of God as substance  
Orpheus, orphic creation

Out of the tip of the branch, making buds  
moon spheres, mind spheres  
cyclic, samsaric  
just say, “I’m sorry.”

Help others, so all may rest

Going to do that  
so that  
all my rest  
helps others

find the four boundless states

One man's search for something enduring  
by making some  
thing out of the ordinary  
    making something out  
of the  
ordinary  
to keep love alive

“Elegant portrait of y'all  
wrapped in myrtle,  
leading us into this tale of  
a relationship's travails  
and triumphs! A pure  
pleasure to move through.”

Flatworm as a proof of God—  
we inherited a predator's intelligence on the food chain  
or we would have remained a sponge or coral

Arrive, May 19, in Newark  
Return, May 28, to San Francisco

explore  
    leaving tracks on the moon  
    and on the ocean's floor

“Like moons in water”

when I was 10, I  
saw an angel in a hollow redwood tree

Blindsided with baptism at 14  
in basement of High Street Presbyterian Church in Oakland  
at 16  
I bought *Why I'm Not a Christian* in a Sausalito bookstore  
Atheism leading me to Mysticism

“Like moons in water”

Like moons in water=adverbial phrase  
Sights=subject, deceive=verb  
Us=direct object

We of second clause=subject

forever roam=verb and adverb  
in cyclic chains= prepositional phrase  
modifying “we”

So=conditional clause  
all may rest in their clear mindstreams  
I/Raise/Bodhi  
in 4 boundless states

“Like moons in water”

Base  
Path  
Fruit

two needs complete

Three views

*Terminator*  
*Matrix*  
*Bladerunner*

Dzogchen Presbyterianism  
Passion as a Chöd Feast  
Immortals, rainbow body, ascension  
empty/exists

“Like moons in water”

Alchemy, chemical, elemental  
Divination, intuitive mind  
Yoga, union of mind-body

Karma cleared up with prajna  
via dharma

slows the wheel  
enough to step off  
but not enough to be detached

“Like moons in water”

Monk stand-up routine  
Monk can joke about death  
Monk can deny existential dilemma  
Monk can deny existence of creator  
Monk can use dirty language

Form is an extension of content  
Content is an extension of form

There is a war  
There is not a war

Emptiness is form  
Form is emptiness

“Why not fly off to Madagascar and pose for tsunami relief?”  
Shutter speed 1/32 second, wisdom moment

## REVEALED CORRESPONDENCES

Revealed correspondences  
to understand the world

Divination  
understand the world in Time

Act on both world and mind, 5-Dimensional  
realm of Emptiness  
realm of Imagination  
realm of Ideas & Impressions

Mind's 3 ways to interpret  
truth, goodness, beauty

Truth, to think either/or  
both/and  
relative truth  
logical truth  
Truth, meaning of U

Good acts  
on/off

Beauty of graven images, *mimesis*—  
invention, to rival nature  
representation, praise nature  
feeling the sap in the vine

Zab-lam sputterings on a spring day

