

# A Study of Frederick Lenz's 27 Talks on Tantric Buddhism

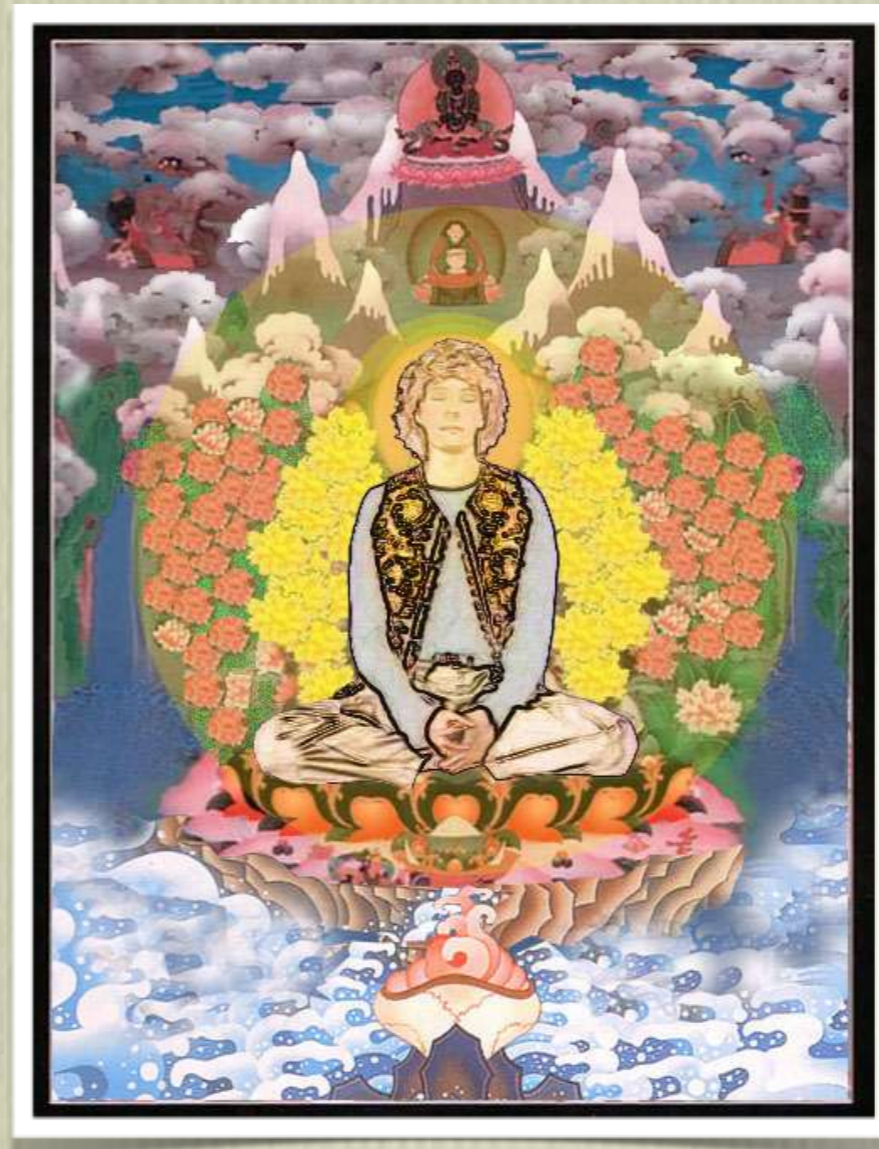
Troy Omafray

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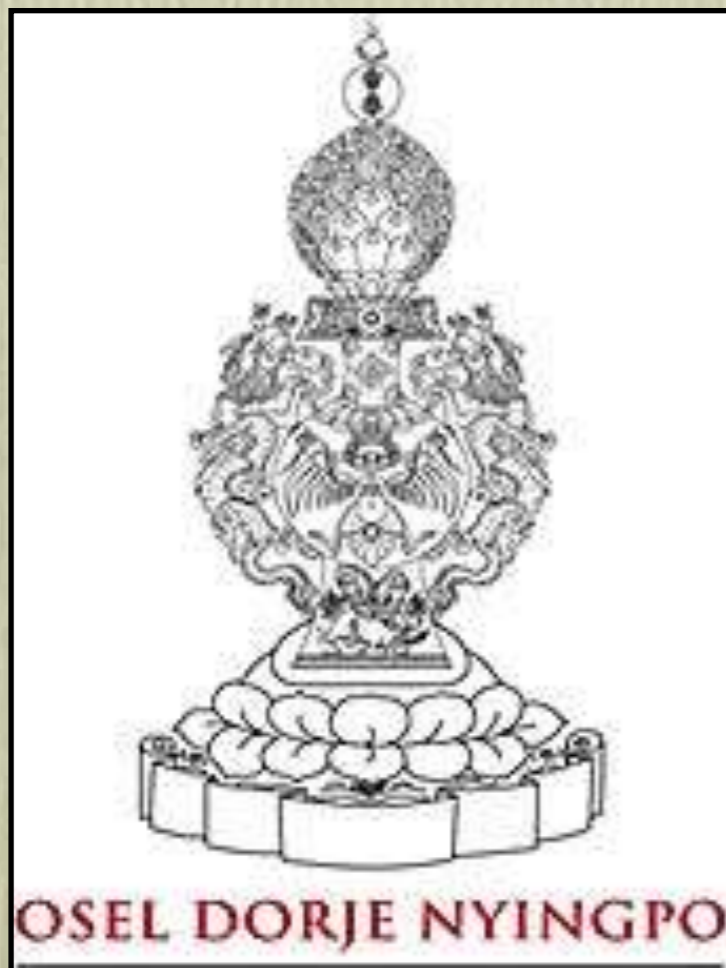
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# Overview

- མཁན་པོ་རྒྱུར་མེད་ཕྱིན་ལས་ (mkhan po' 'gyur med phrin las) Khenpo Gyurme Trinly Rinpoche
- “Khenpo” was the founder of Osel Dorje Nyingpo



*H. E. Khenpo Gyurmed Tinly Rinpoche  
1950-2005*

*Founder & Chairman of ODN*

# Overview

- **Khempo's vision of the Lenz project**



# Overview

- **About Khempo**



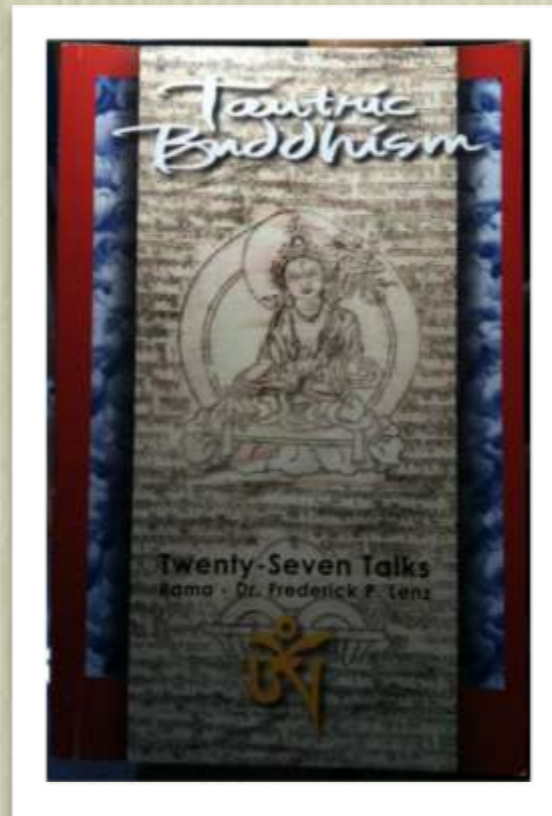
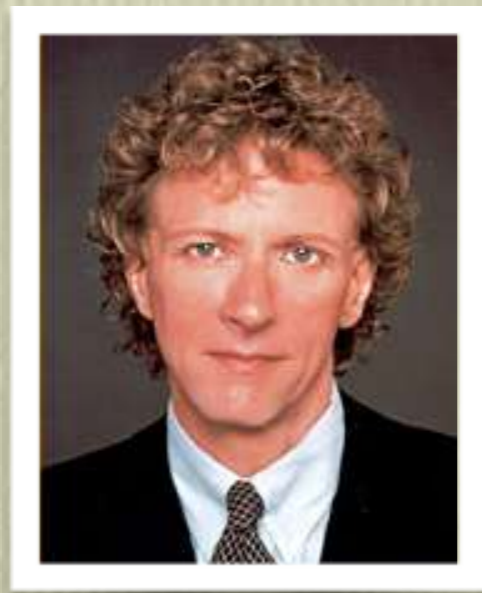
# Overview

- me



# Overview

- An explanation of the project



Twenty-Seven Talks on Tantric Buddhism

Commentary





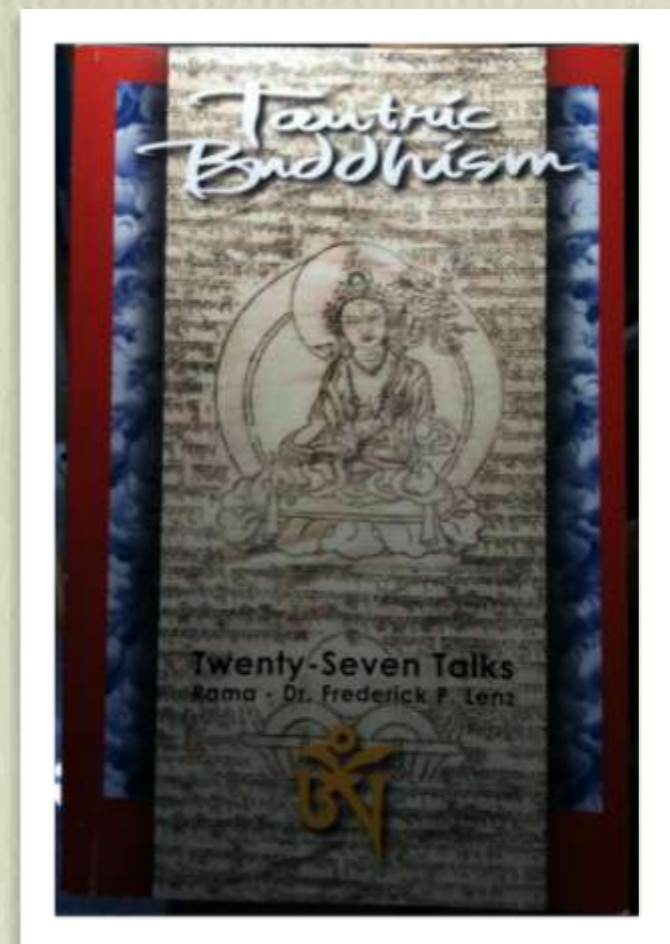
## **Khempo's commentary:**

- Written in “Khemplish” (Khempo-English).
- A blend of normative Tibetan Buddhist notions.
- Terse



# Contents of Lenz's "27 Talks on Tantric Buddhism"

- 1) Tantric Buddhism I
- 2) Six Worlds
- 3) The Mature Monk
- 4) The Natural State
- 5) Freedom
- 6) Enlightenment
- 7) Self Effort
- 8) Possibilities
- 9) The Nexus of all Pathways
- 10) The Path of Affirmation
- 11) Tantric Buddhism II
- 12) Computer Science
- 13) The Awareness of Meditation
- 14) Focus and Meditation
- 15) Professional Meditation
- 16) The Best Meditation I Ever Had
- 17) Metaphysics
- 18) A Clean Room
- 19) The Bhagavad Gita
- 20) Buddhist Enlightenment
- 21) The Path of Negation
- 22) Transience
- 23) Peak Experiences
- 24) Solstices and Equinoxes
- 25) Tenacity
- 26) Buddhist Yoga
- 27) Light



**Mind**



**Emptiness**

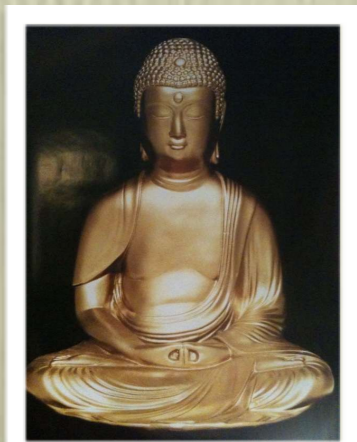


**Path**

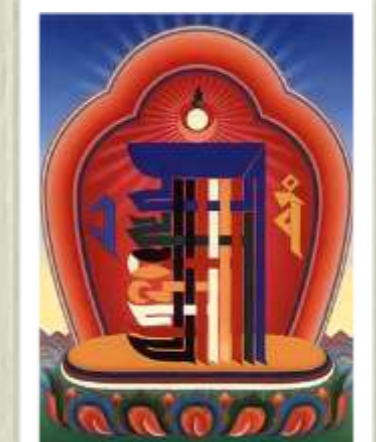


# The 5 Themes

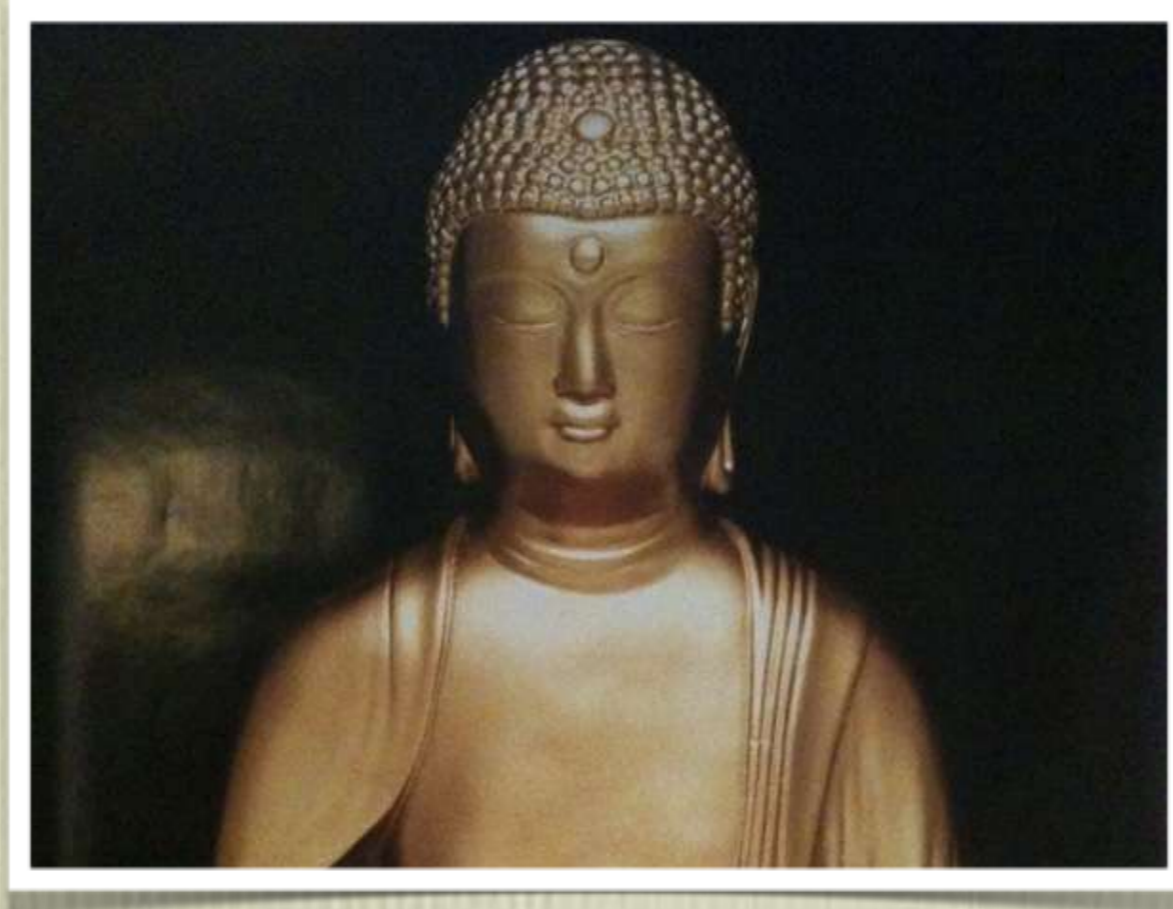
**Meditation**



**Tantra**



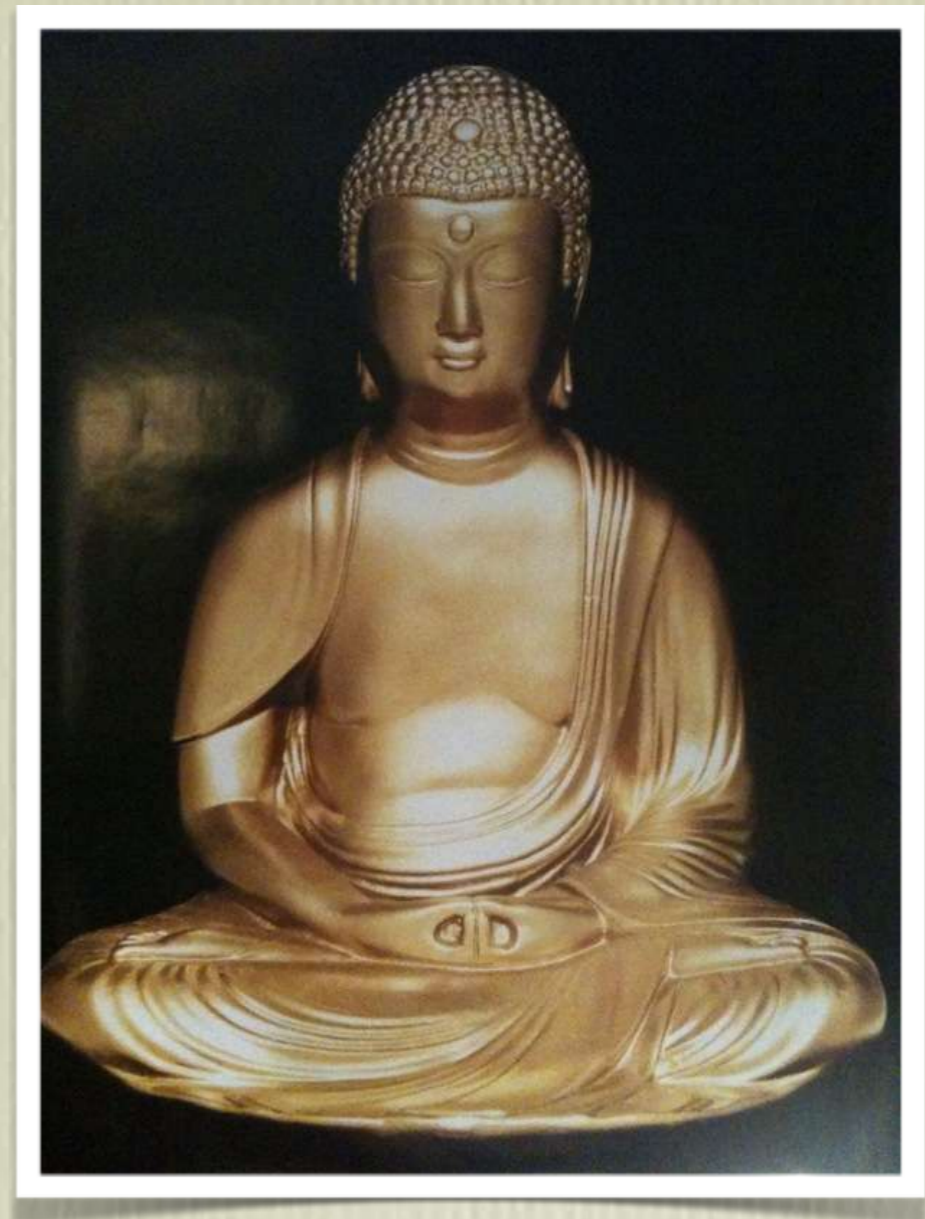
# Theme #1



# Meditation

# Meditation

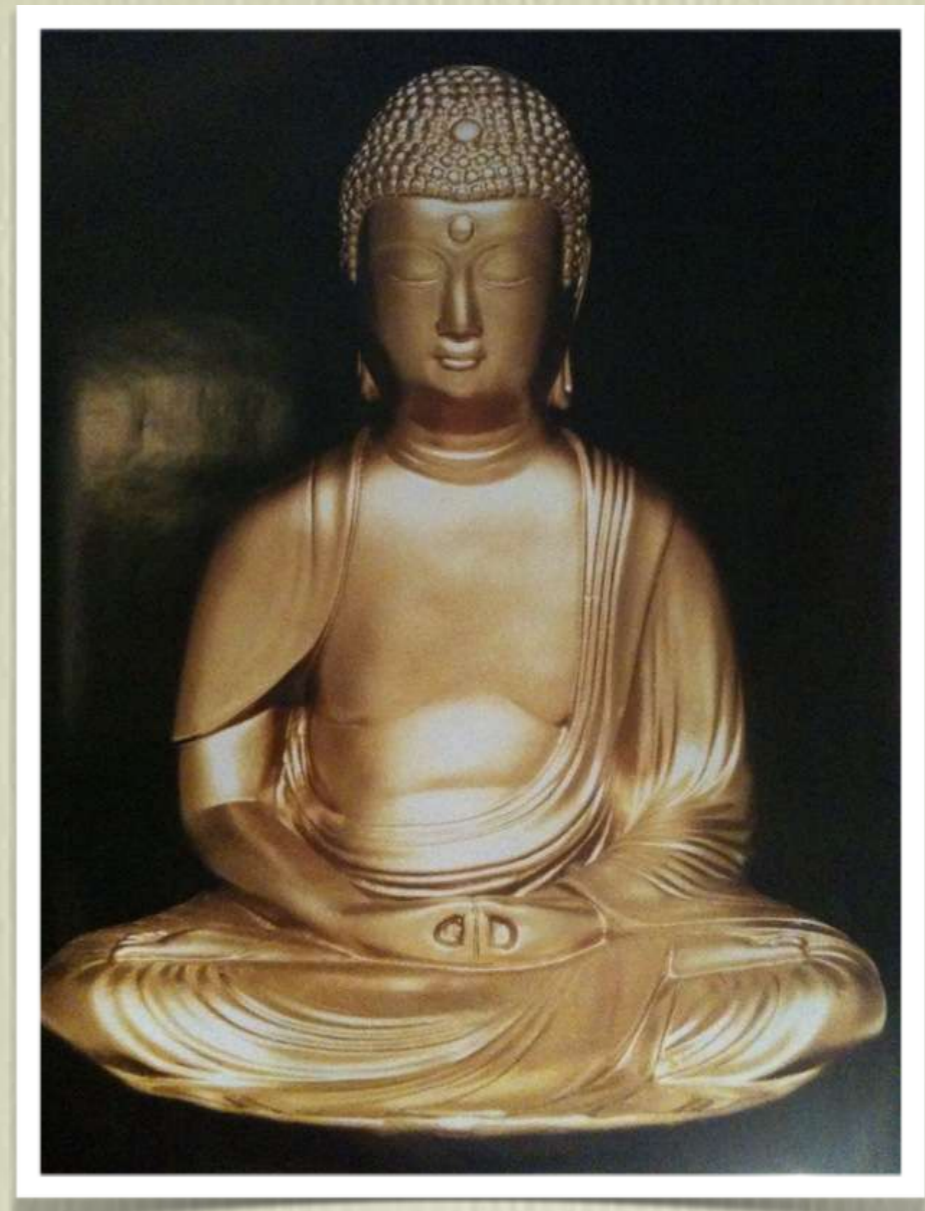
- Reason was not emphasized
- Meditative goal: to “*stop thought*”
- “*Stopping thought*” also suggests relaxing into the true nature of the mind
- Lenz’s path is markedly experience based
- Rest mind in itself



# Meditation

Khempo's commentary:

*“The senses are not thought. Only the conceptual mind thinks. But when you look directly without obscuration toward the luminous mind, our true nature is uncovered.”*

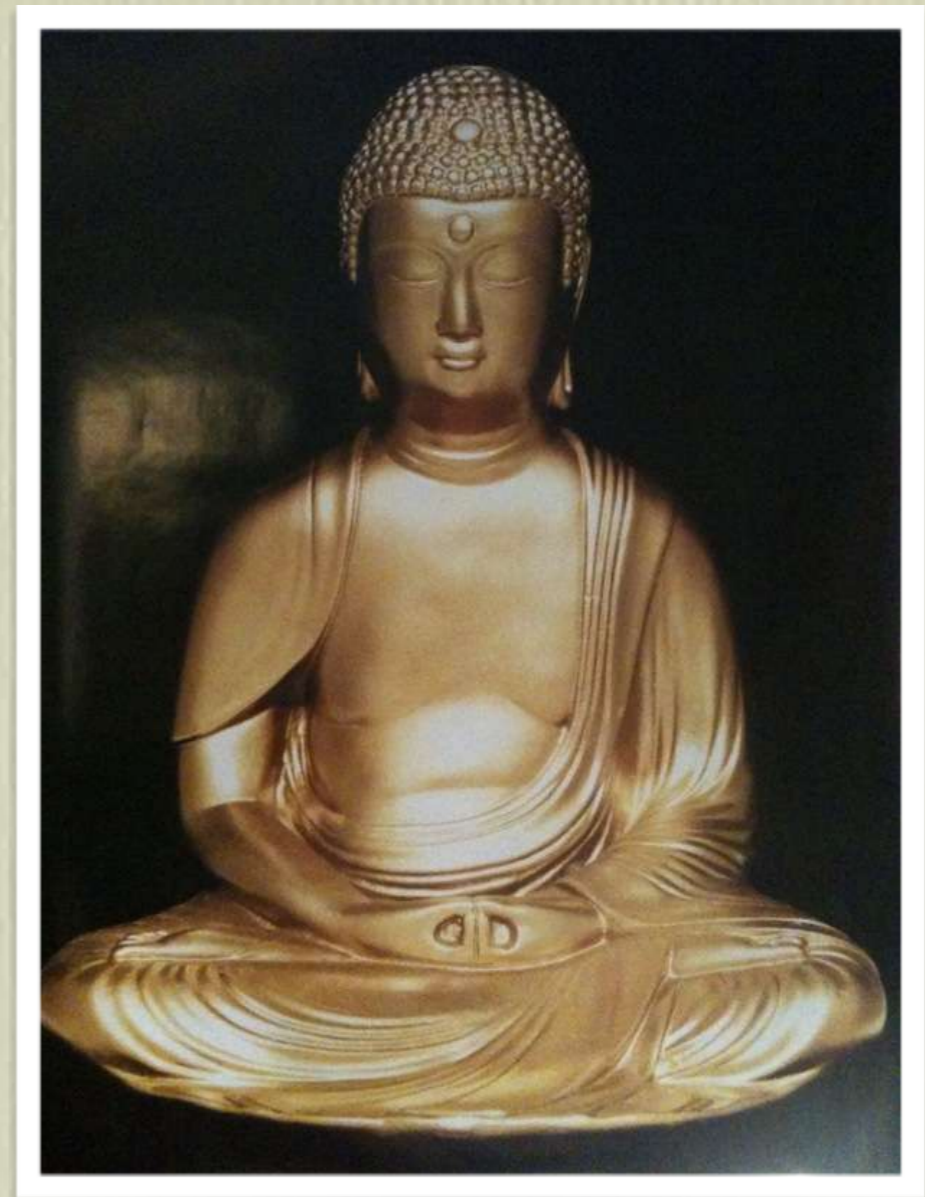


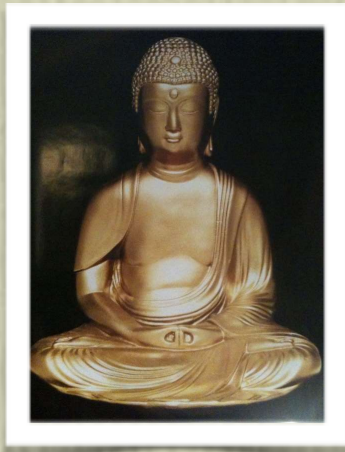
# Meditation

Meditation is the key to non-conceptual concentration.

Meditative insight is the basis for the Lenz's theory of mind.

“Uncovering Buddha-nature”  
echoes Maitreya's *Uttaratantra-shastra*





# Meditation



## Commentary

Pali Canon →

*“...this mind, O monks, is luminous and it is freed from adventitious defilements...”*

- Buddha (Anguttara Nikaya I,X)

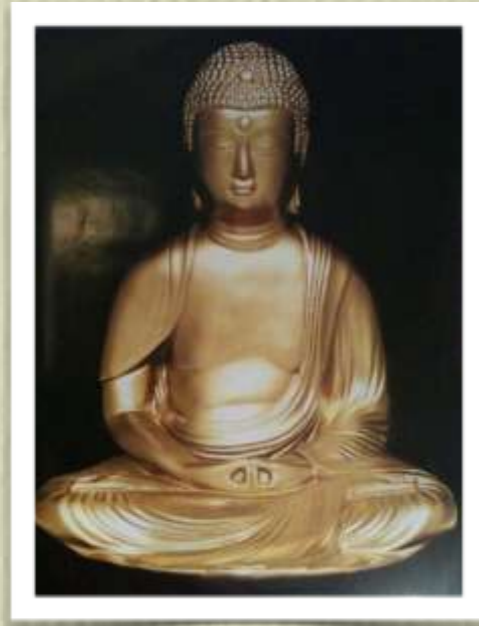
Tibetan  
Commentary →

*“...remove delusion to realize the luminous essence of mind...”*

- Rangjang Dorje (*Consciousness, Wisdom, and Buddha Nature*)

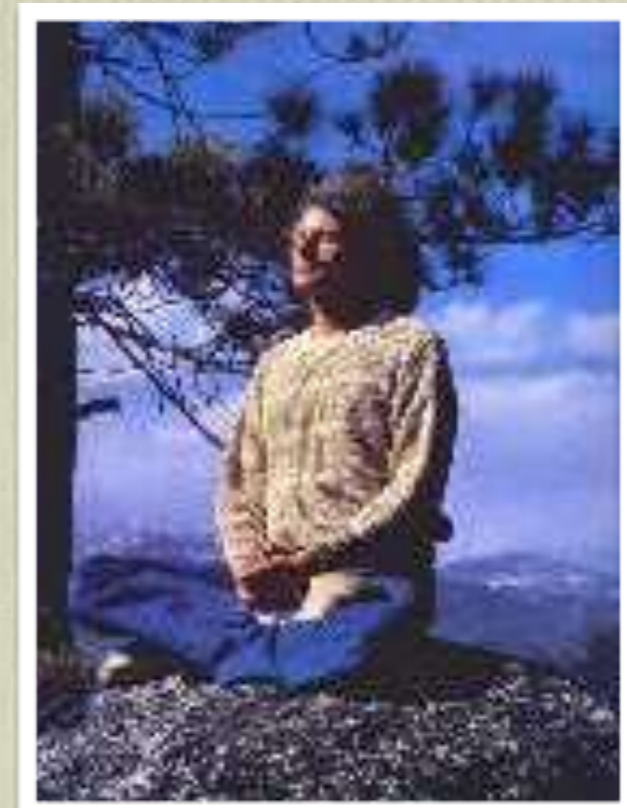


# Meditation

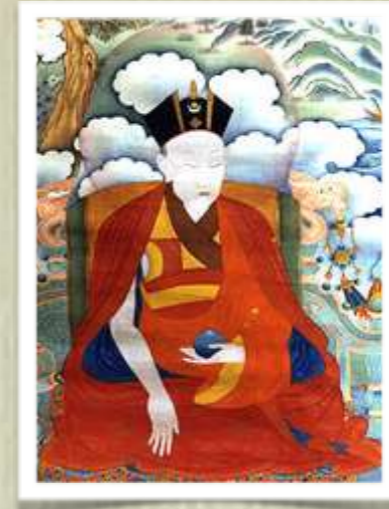
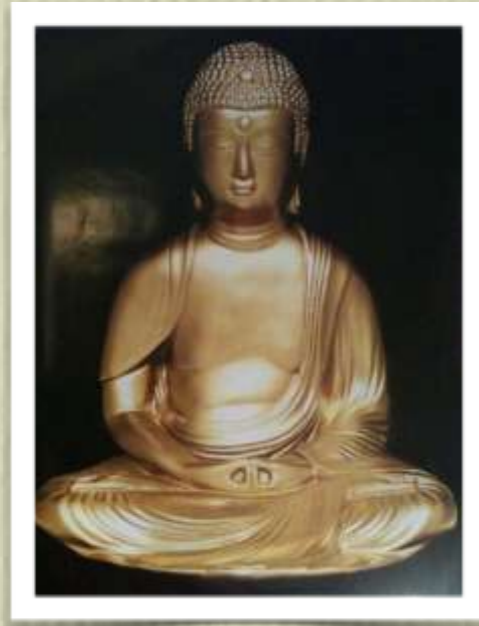


Lenz said:

*“Self-recognition of basic mind is the final path.”*



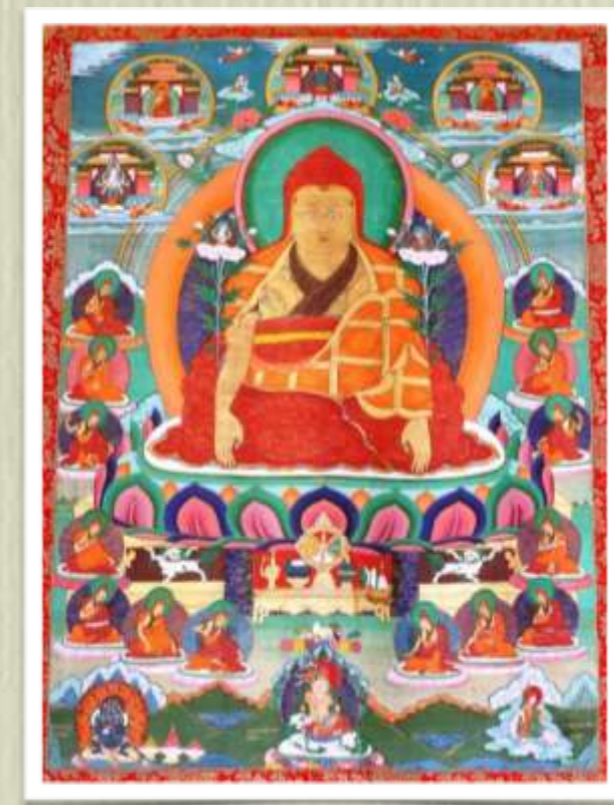
# Meditation



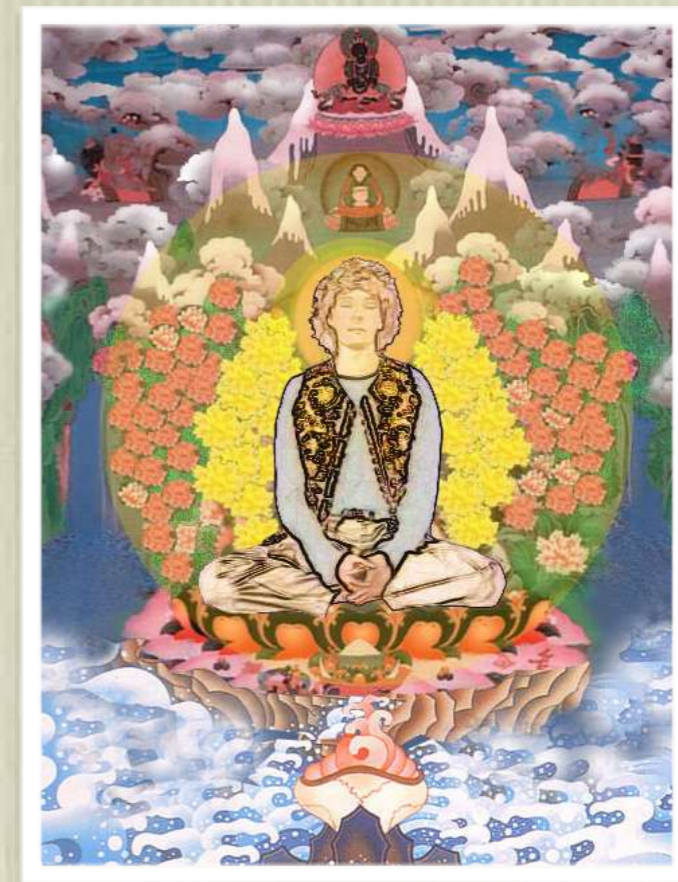
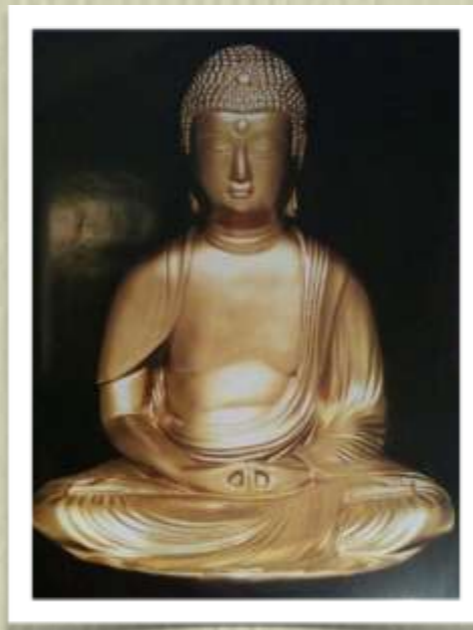
Lenz's approach is similar to  
Rangjung Dorje and  
Dolpopa

Dolpopa said:

*“Reaching the wisdom-mind is  
facilitated only by pristine meditative  
absorption.”*



# Meditation





## **Theme #2**



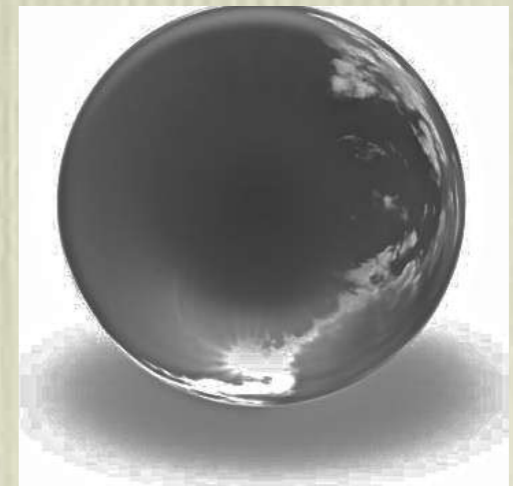
# **Mind**

# Mind(s)

**Lenz said:**

*“The mind is luminous,  
infinite, permanent and at the  
same time there’s an ordinary  
thinking mind.”*

- This suggests two separate minds



# Mind(s)

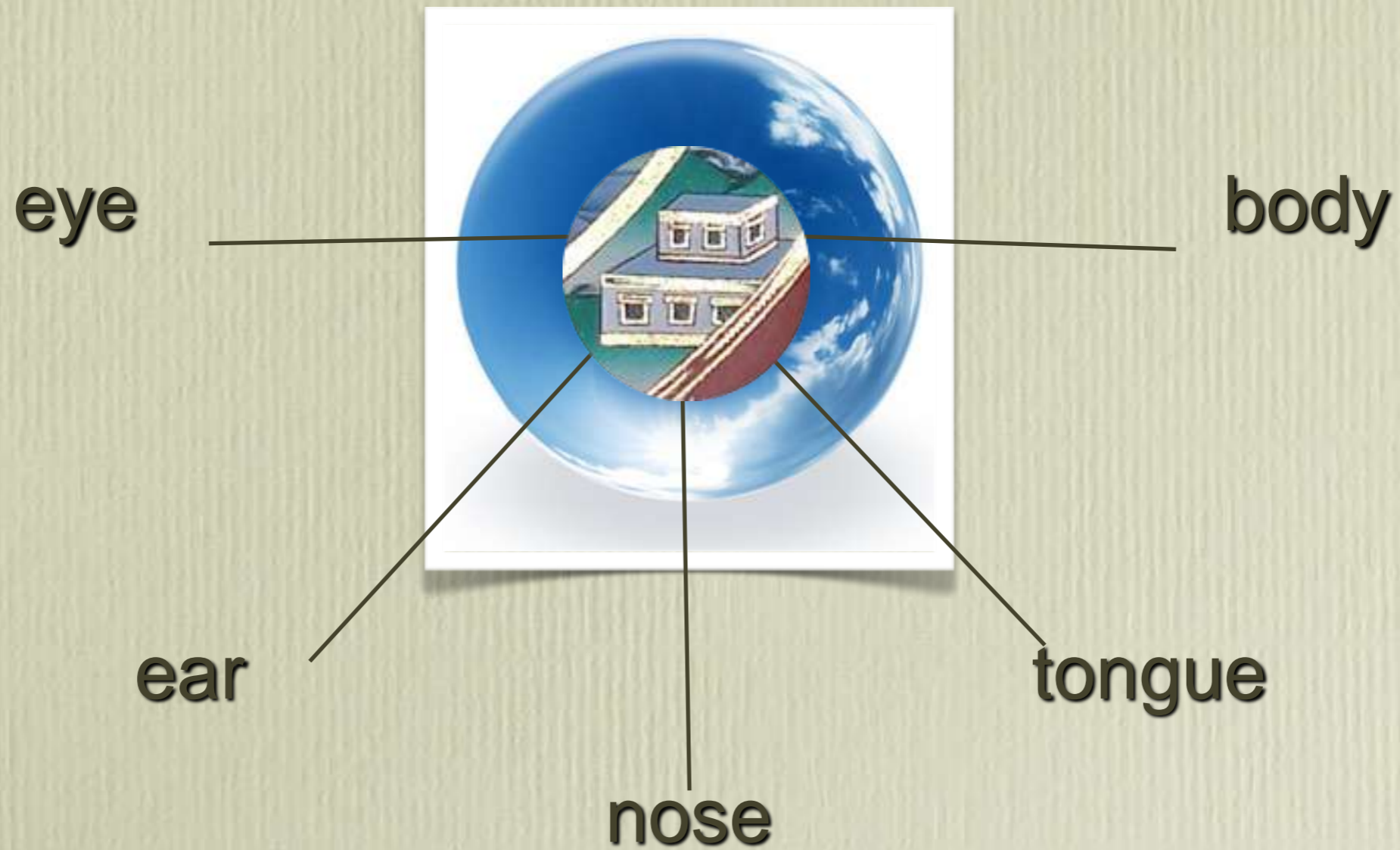
**Rama said:**

*“We must peel back the layers,  
know the mind, this is what brings  
us beyond.”*



# Mind

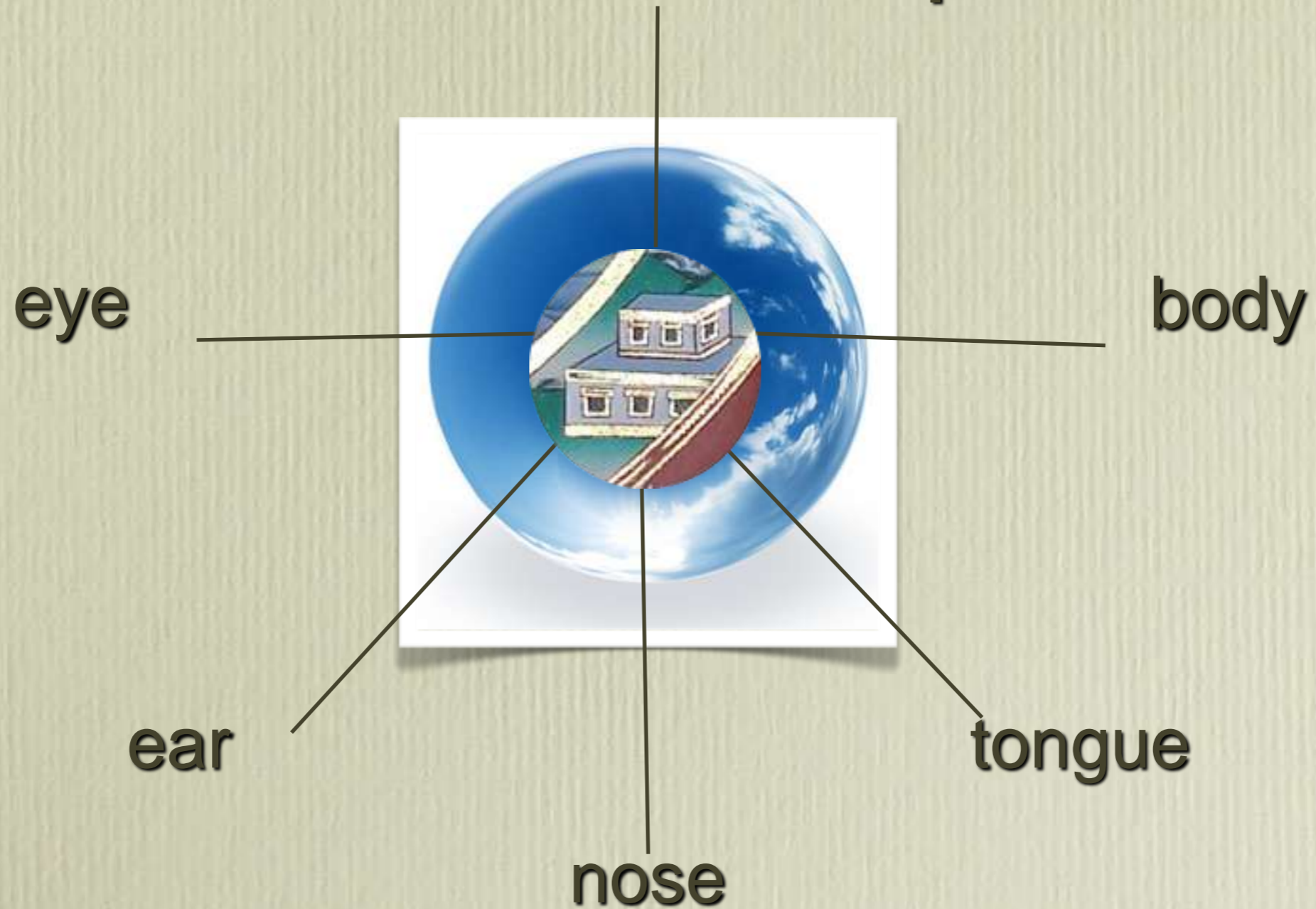
## Five Sense Consciousnesses





# Mind

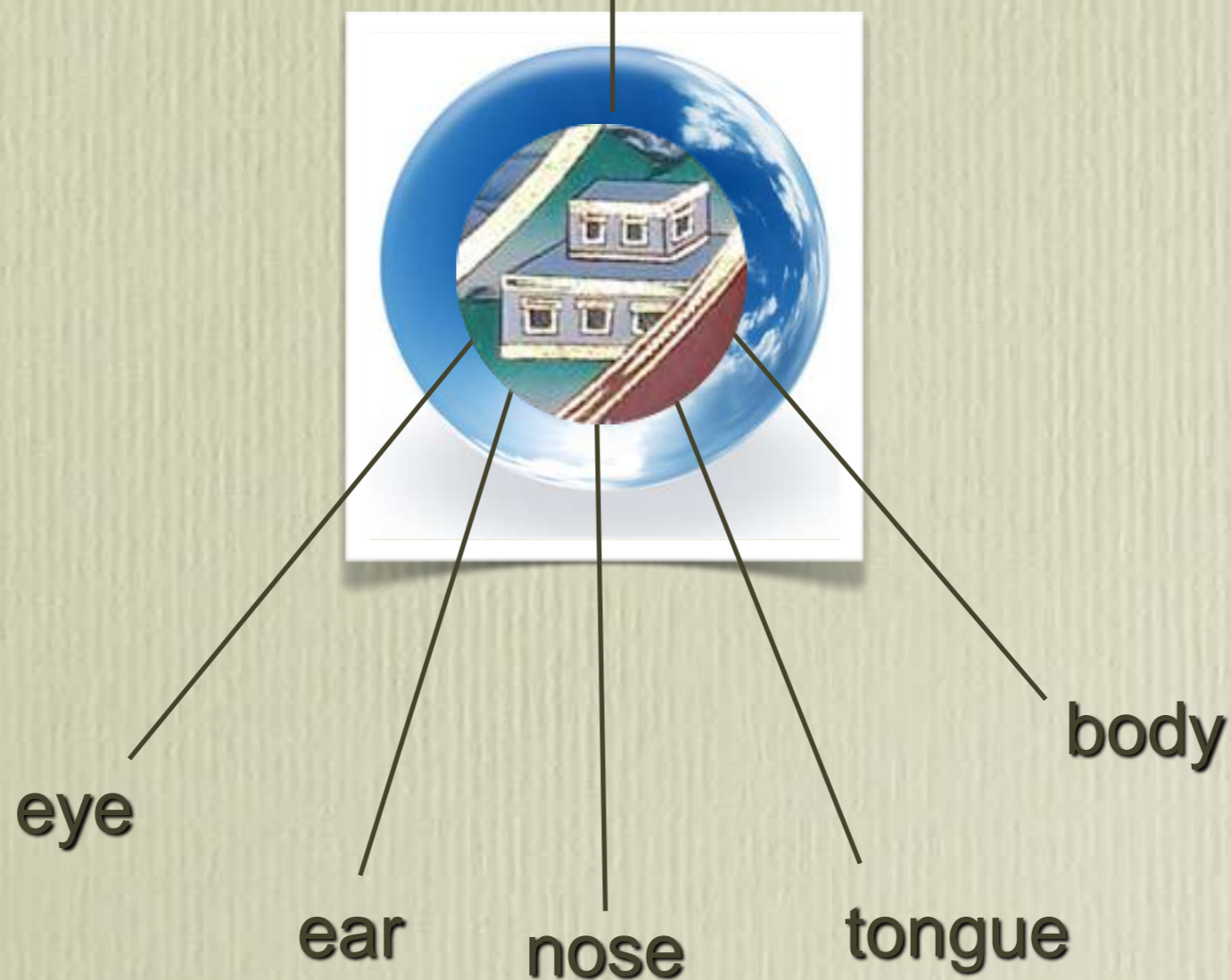
## 6th consciousness - conceptual mind



**8th consciousness (all-base / Buddha-nature)**

**7th consciousness (intermediate mind / afflicted mind)**

**6th consciousness - conceptual mind**



# Mind



**Khempo said:**

***“In term of the six consciounesses, you don’t see the absolute; when one does see the absolute, then the fabricated is eliminated.”***

# Mind

## 7th Consciousness

- Rangjung Dorje's notion of the 7th consciousness
- Two Aspects



# Mind



**Rangjung Dorje said:**

*“This is Mahamudra free from conceptual artifice.*

*This is the Great Madhyamaka free from positions,*

*this is the Great Completion that includes all...”*



# Mahayana Eight Consciousnesses



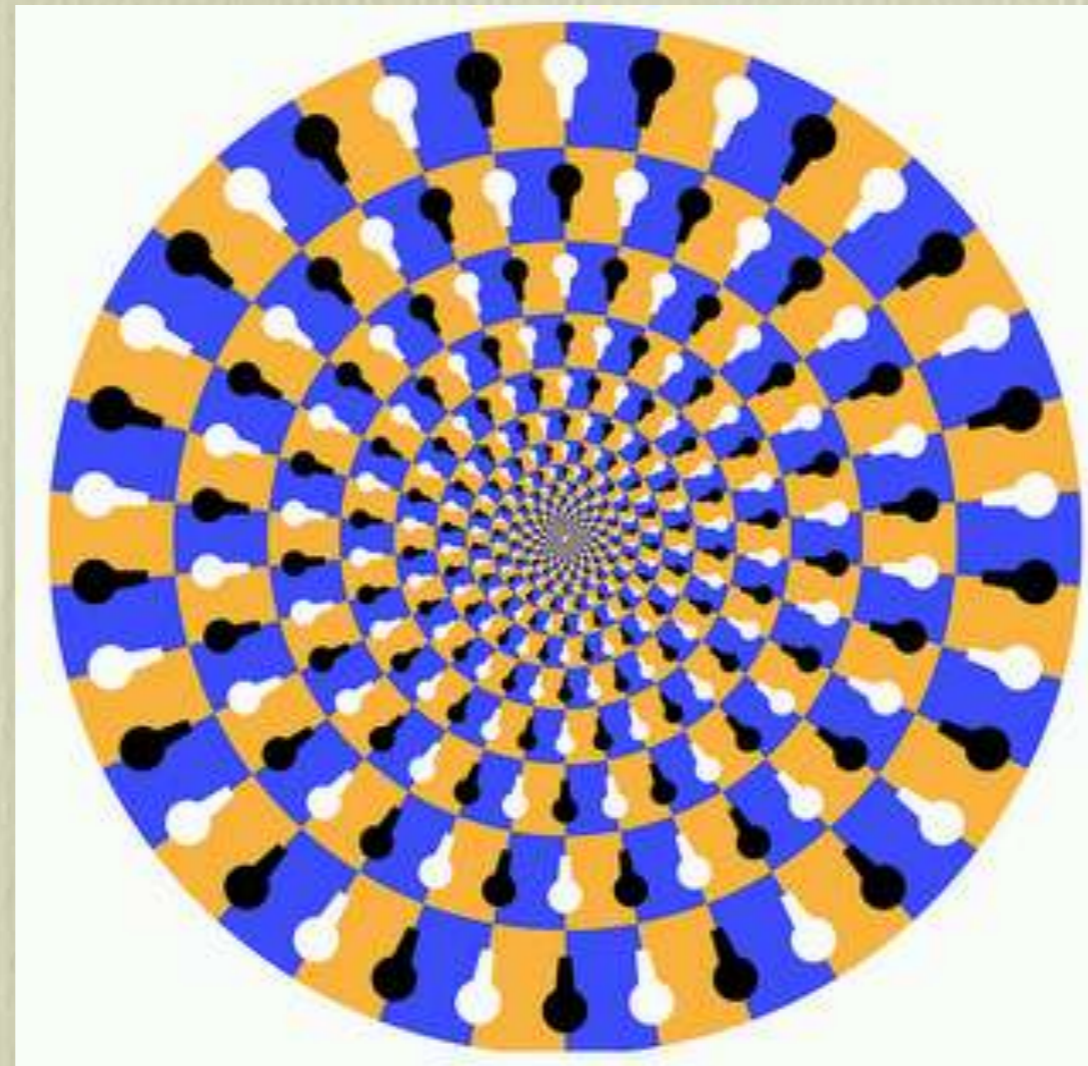
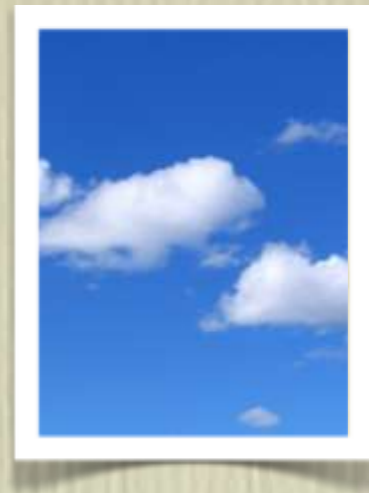
## **Theme #3**



# **Emptiness**

# Emptiness

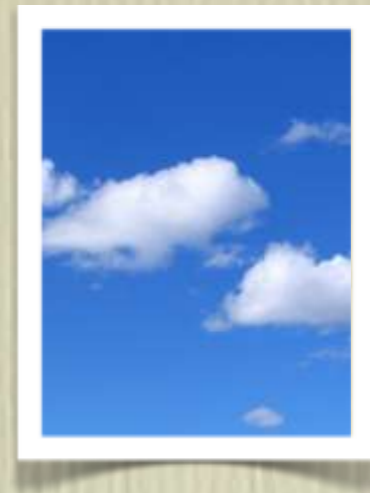
Illusion and Correct View





# Emptiness

Illusion and Correct View



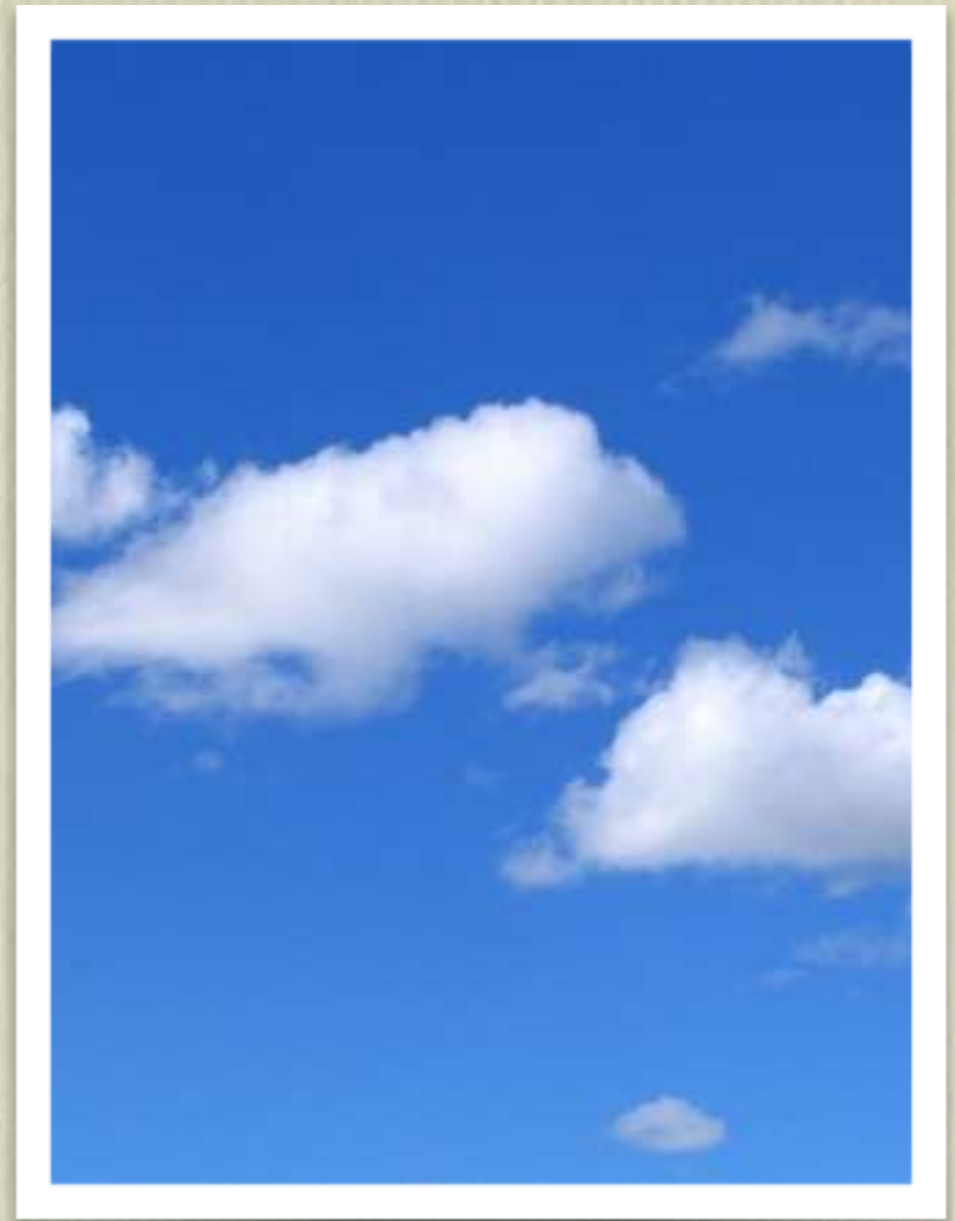
# Emptiness

How to overcome the illusion?



# Emptiness

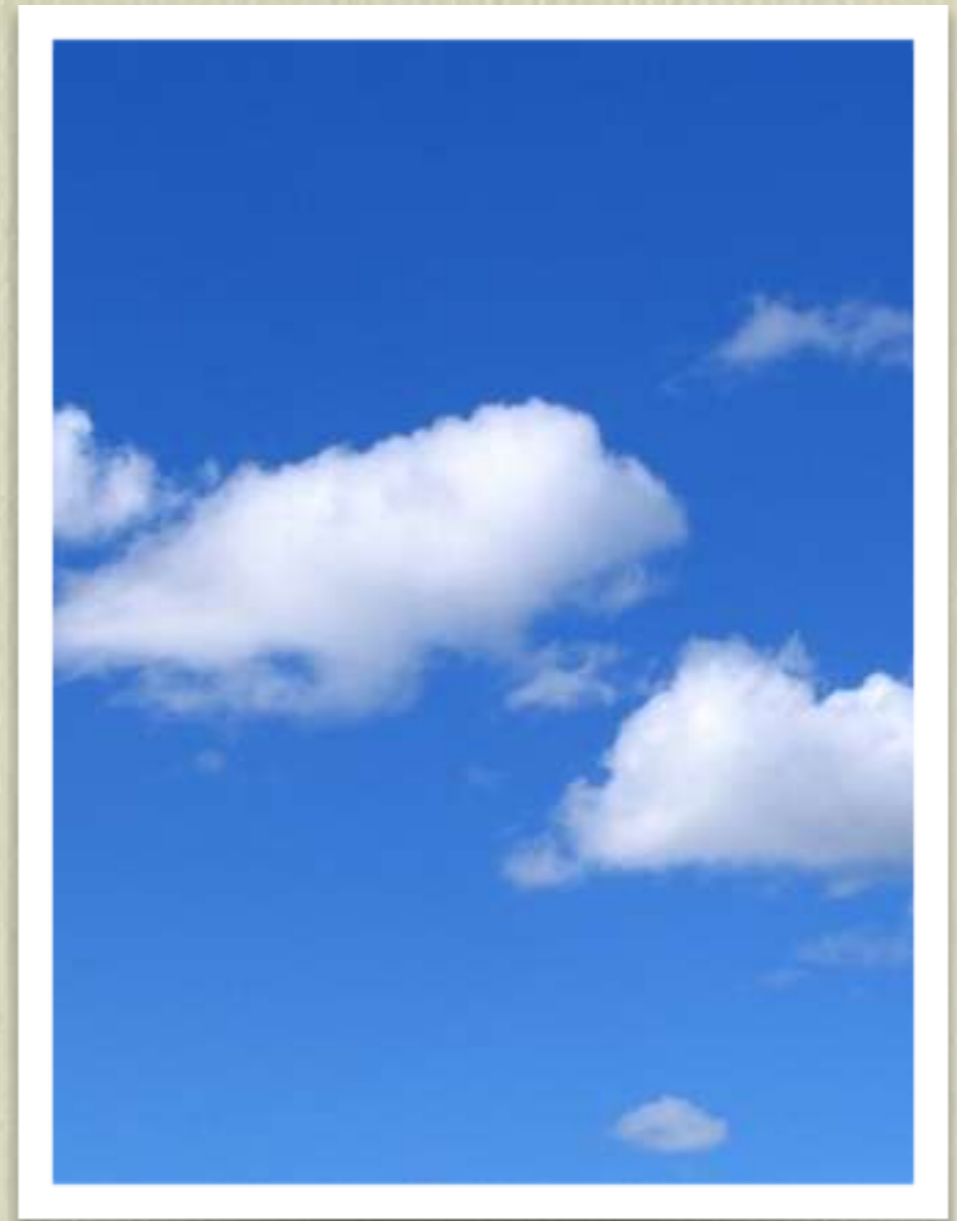
- Lenz suggest two types of emptiness:
- self-empty (*rangtong*)
- **empty of other** (*shentong*)



# Emptiness

## Emptiness of Other

- Buddha-nature is permanent
- Buddha-nature is empty of everything that is not Buddha-nature.
- Khempo shored up Buddha-nature



# Emptiness

## *Tantric Emptiness of Other*

- Lenz's approach was *tantric shentong*
- *Tantras* make no attempt to establish emptiness through reasoning.



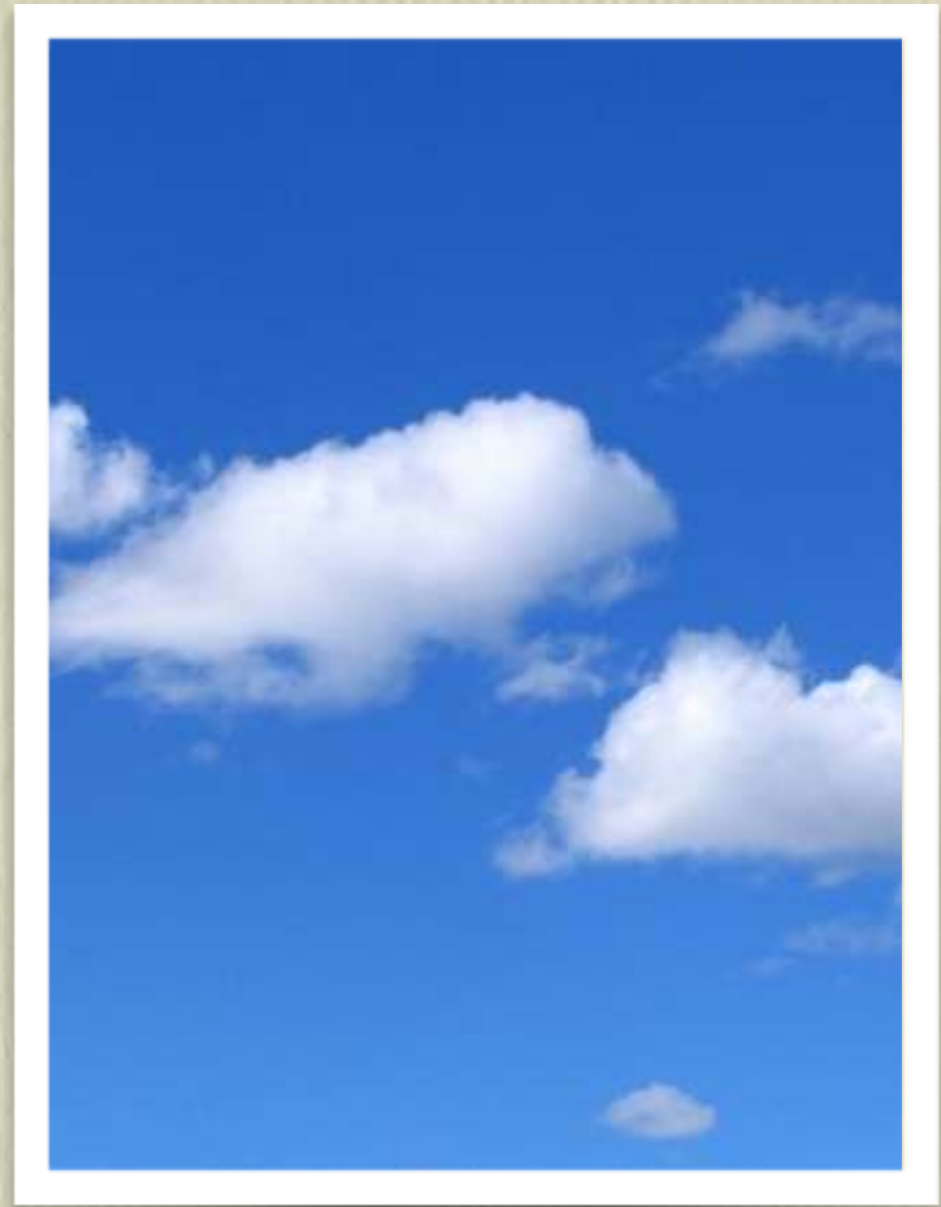
# Emptiness

## Emptiness of Other

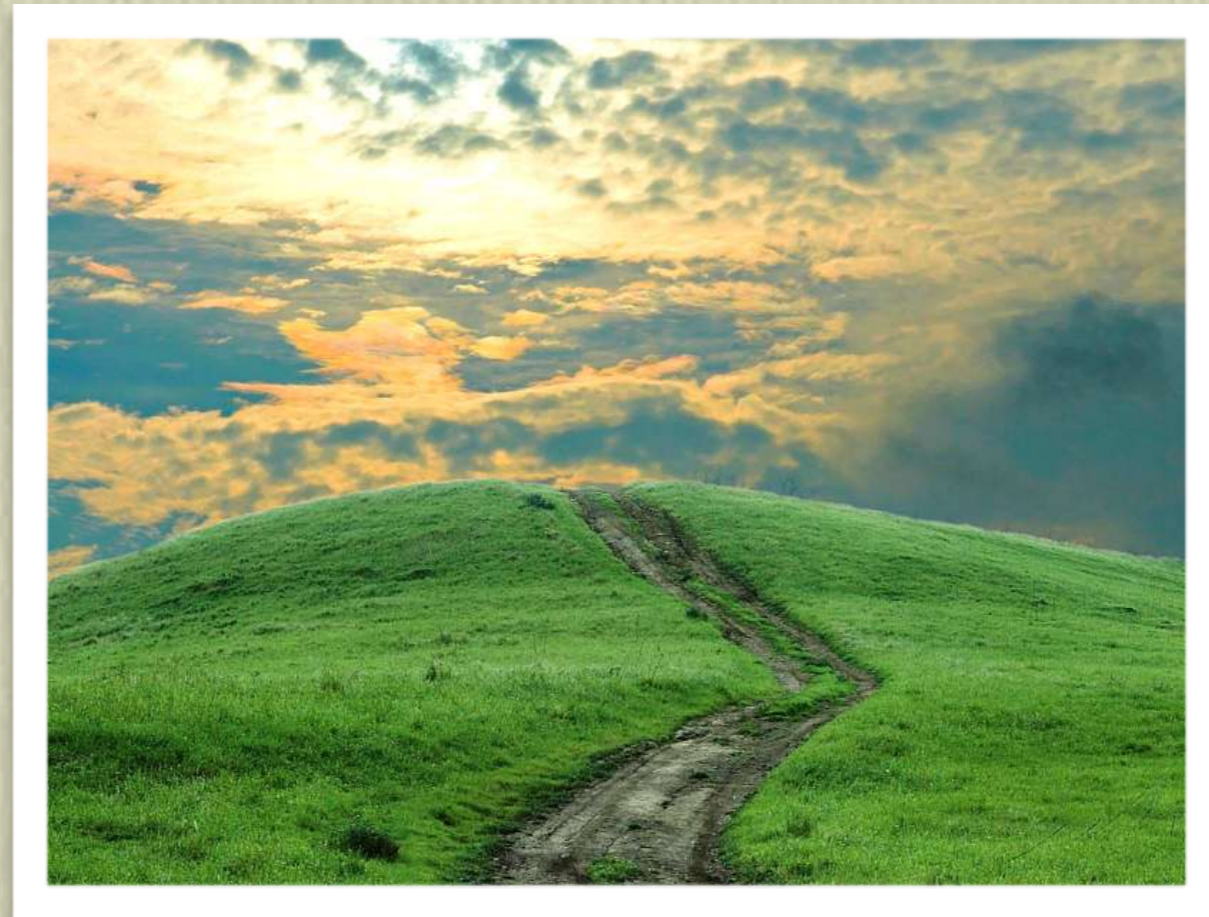


Khempo said:

*“Rama’s [Lenz’s] tantra is Kalacakra where every kaya [form] is empty but clear light nature is other...”*



# Theme #4



# Path



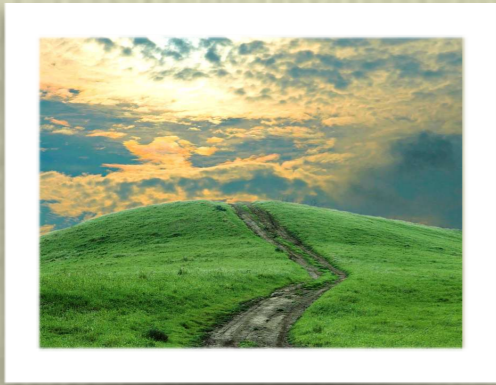
# Path

## Soteriology

- Lenz gave a general sense of the path to enlightenment
- Khempo outlined Asanga and Maitreya's *Abhisamayalamkara*
- Khempo also spoke extensively about Maitreya







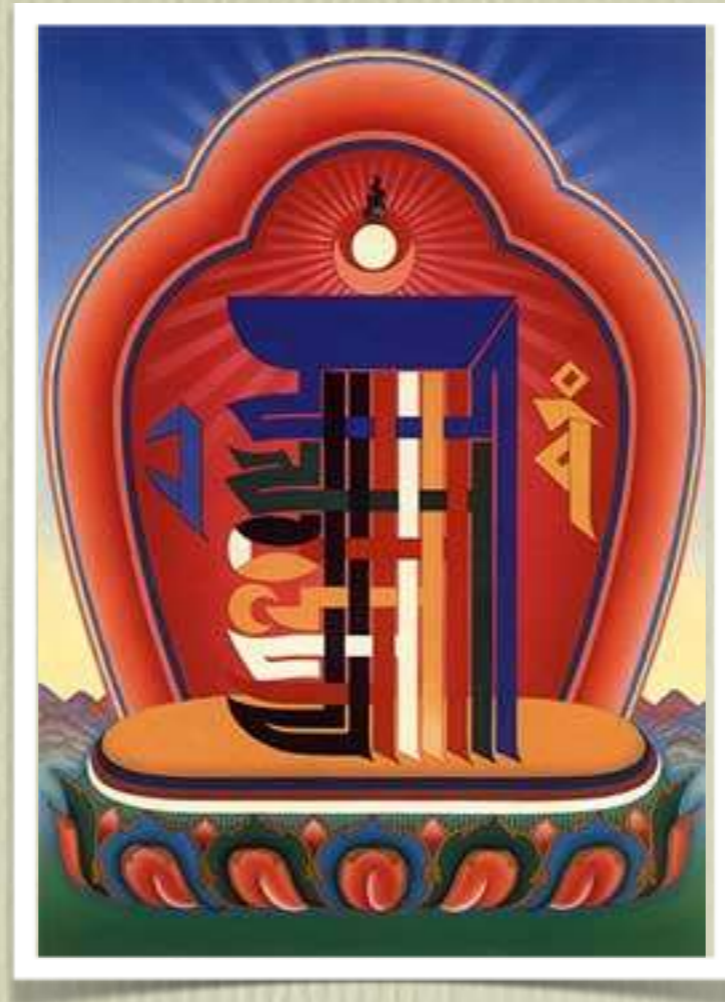
# Path

-Path of Shamatha

-Repeated practice stressed.  
This is the path of generating  
merit and wisdom.



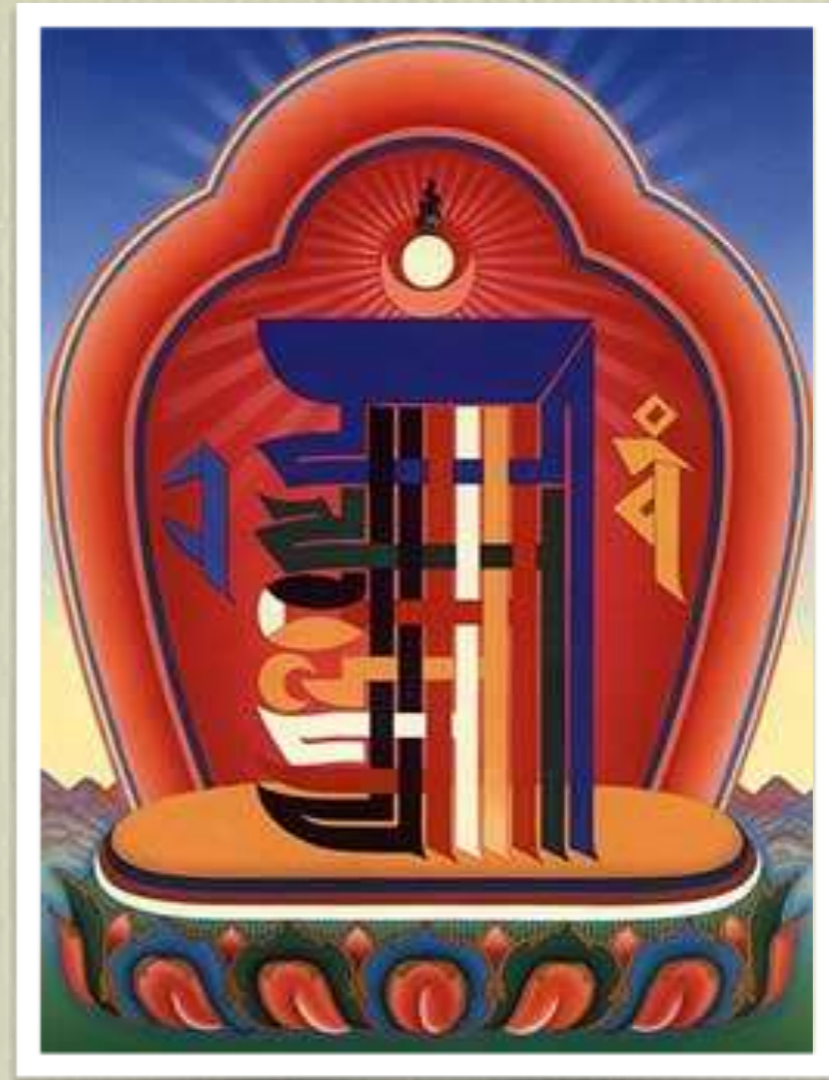
# Theme #5



# Tantra

# Tantra

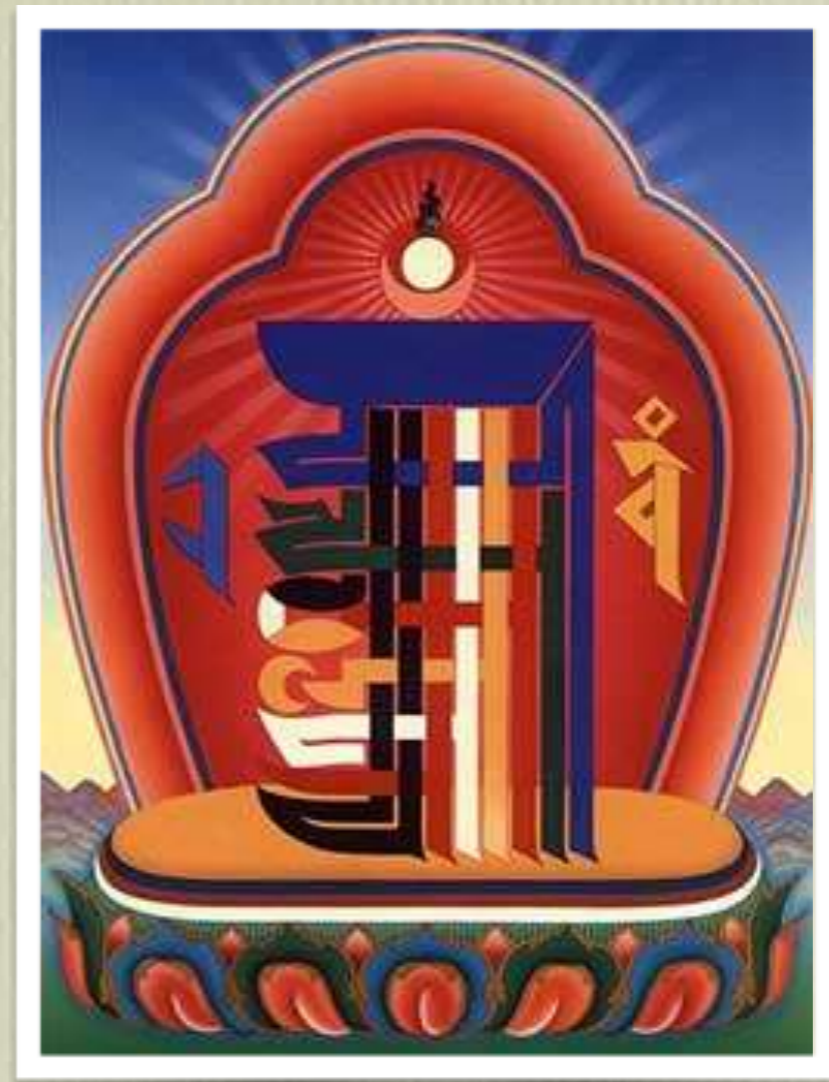
- Tantra is the practice of transmuting desire



Kalacakra mantra

# Tantra

- Astrology and the connection with Kalacakra-tantra



Kalacakra mantra



## Kalachakra-tantra

Kalacakra is referred to as  
the *'Wheel of Time'*

*'Time'*

*'Wheel'*





**Wheel of Time**

# Tantra

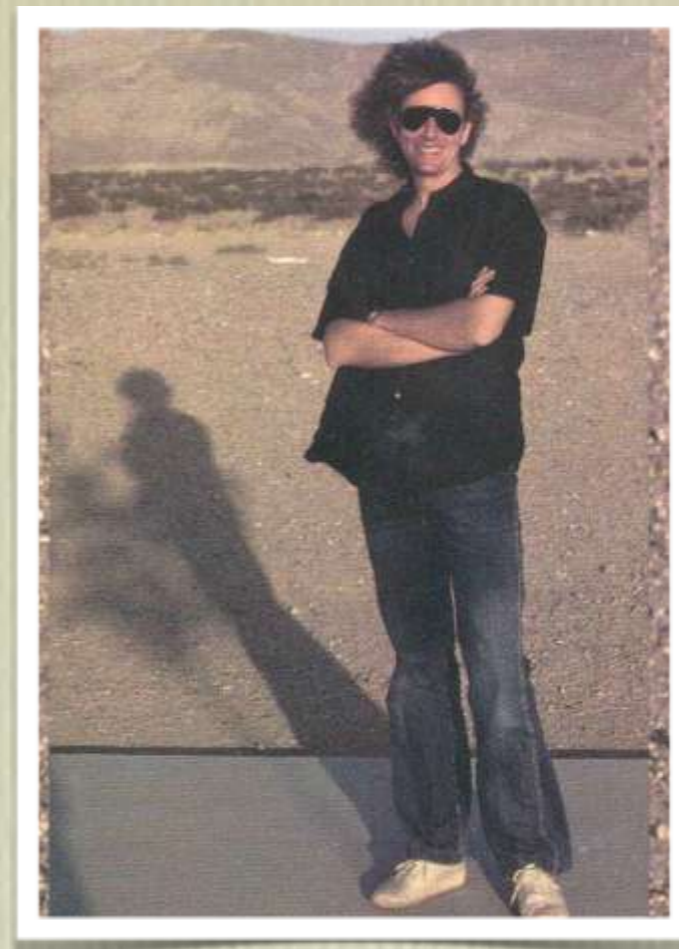
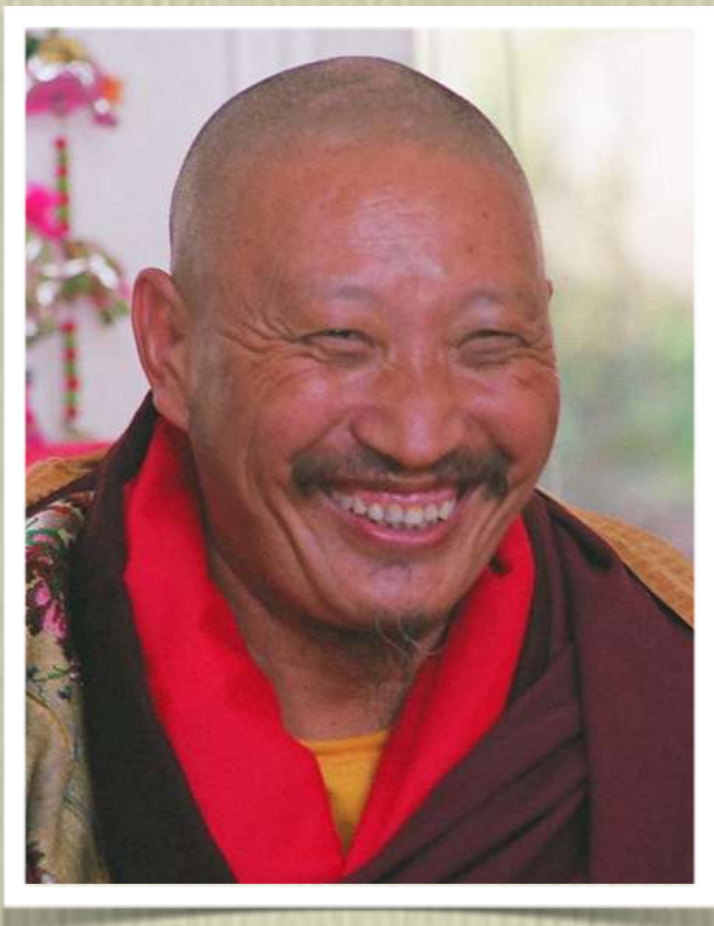
In outlook I think Lenz was a *Tantric Shentongpa*.



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thank you