

Hi Friend,

I found the quote from my teacher, Kalu Rinpoche, that I was trying to share with you. I did not paraphrase it very well. The actual quote is much more skillful :

You live in an illusion and in the appearance of things. There is a reality. You are the reality. If you wake up to that reality, you will know that you are nothing, and being nothing, you are everything

Kalu Rinpoche

An important semantic point is that the Rinpoche does not mean nonexistent when he uses the word "nothing". He means "no thing", no insubstantial conditioned phenomena that has the appearance of being solid and permanent. The Buddha Shakyamuni is pretty clear on this matter "all phenomena are devoid of self and ultimately empty". Because, when you are no-thing, this is not a statement of nihilism. Pure awareness is, suchness is, and always has been. It's like Krishna on the cliff above the battlefield addressing Arjuna "thou art that". You are no-thing. You are infinite, eternal pure awareness. As such you are one with a Buddha field of pure awareness that is the true ground of this collection of universes we inhabit. Something I read somewhere in Lion's Roar (I think) said it's not that your mind stream contains Buddha nature, your mind stream is Buddha nature. That is its essence exactly. Nothing/everything - what a great Zen koan to stop one's mind in its tracks and let the light of essential nature shine in.

My little commentary needs polish. Kalu Rinpoche's quote cuts to the essence.