

Module 18 Talk 2  
Buddha Nature – How the Sun Sees the Clouds  
Reading: *The Heart Attack Sutra*, Karl Brunnhölzl, pages 57-66

**Overview: How the Sun Sees the Clouds**

Metaphorically speaking, we have been told that the reason we do not see the sun is because of the clouds which are our own obscurations. Today, we turn this metaphor upside down and ask how the sun sees the clouds. Since the sun here is the Buddha, what we are contemplating is how the Buddha, or any enlightened being for that matter – he is not the only one – sees the world which appears to us to be crowded with confused, suffering beings.

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**Review: The Three Turnings of the Wheel of Dharma**

- 1 Hinayana: Suffering – The Four Noble Truths
2. Mahayana: Compassion and Emptiness
3. Mahayana: Buddha Nature – The Expedient vs. the Ultimate Meaning

**Questions**

Are the Three Turnings the same as the Three Yanas?  
What is the Flaming Sword of Prajñā?  
What is Buddha Nature?

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**The Stage and the Main Actors**

Vulture Flock or Vulture Peak Mountain

The Buddha: Radiating like the Sun –

The Samadhi of the Perception of the Profound or The Samadhi that Expresses the Dharma

Avalokiteshvara: Bodhisattva of Compassion – Saw Skandas to be Empty of Nature

Shariputra: Through the Power of the Buddha had the Courage to Question

**Questions:**

What is an arhat? What is a bodhisattva?  
What are the roles of the Buddha, Avalokiteshvara and Shariputra in the Heart Sutra?

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**The Title: Bhagavatiprajñāparamitahridayasutra**

The Sutra of the Heart of the Glorious Lady Prajñāparamita

The Sutra of the Heart of Transcendent Knowledge

**Questions:**

Why is Prajñāparamita depicted as feminine? Why is she the *mother* of all Buddhas?  
If the sun symbolizes wisdom and is feminine, what does the moon symbolize?  
What is dharmadhatu wisdom? Is the Buddha's mind blank or fuzzy?  
What is mirror-like wisdom? Does the Buddha notice the suffering of sentient beings?  
What is the wisdom of equality? Does the Buddha have any favorites among beings?  
What is discriminating awareness wisdom?  
What is all-accomplishing wisdom?