

Some Approaches to Buddha Nature (very roughly)

Buddha Nature is a seed potential to become Buddha

- In some of us (except *icchantikas*)
- In all of us (universal capacity)

Buddha Nature is already *fully* present in all beings

- Not mere potential or seed
- All beings are already awake
(only they don't know it, so they suffer)
- Nothing to achieve; seed doesn't need to grow
- Implies "sudden" teaching over gradual

Buddha Nature is *jo raku ga jo* (eternal, bliss, self, pure)
but it is covered by obscurations / defilements.

- The Buddha Nature is not-empty
- The obscurations are empty

Insentient beings also have this Buddha Nature

*Lush groves of emerald bamboos,
Are wholly the dharma-body.
Luxuriant clusters of chrysanthemums,
Nothing is not prajna.*

Everyone & everything is a completely fulfilled Buddha

- Japanese *hongaku* (original enlightenment)
- "Grasses, trees, mountains, and rivers have all attained Buddhahood; sentient and non-sentient beings are all endowed with the way of the Buddha."
- "Obscurations" / "defilements" are not just empty, they *are* Buddha Nature itself

