

THE PERSON WHO ENLIGHTENS ME  
IS MY BUDDHA

THERE WAS A MONK who used to hate cleaning and kitchen duties, but after the abbot of his monastery made him do those chores during his one-hundred-day meditation retreat, those tasks became enjoyable to him. This was a result of cleansing his mind of the dislike for work.

How fortunate he is now that he has no aversion to his duties and is full of joy! Because there is that much less distaste in his mind, his body has become much more cheerful. For that monk, the abbot of the monastery who forced him to do the work and made him cultivate his mind by doing so is his Buddha.

People who enlighten me are all my Buddhas. Instead of trying to find Buddhas in high and precious places, shouldn't you be able to find your Buddhas in your town, in your marketplaces, and in your streets? Everyone has valuable and enlightening qualities. If you learned and practiced those qualities, it would be like meeting the Buddha and practicing his teachings. There are plenty of Buddhas around us all the time: Buddhas in our homes, Buddhas at our workplaces, Buddhas in our streets, and Buddhas in our buses...