

DHARMA -- NATURES MUDRAS

I love the concept of the mudra, that we shall know by the signs the nature of our own mind. Of course, over the years I have learned a lot of the Tibetan mudras through dharma-practice, some of which make intuitive sense to me and some don't. They are lovely and significant. And I am not saying that the Tibetan mudras are not natural. I imagine they are too.

However, I am more naturally familiar (and have been since a child) with the signs that exist all around me. I don't know if I am reading them right but, read them I do and I take these natural-mudras seriously to heart. I follow these various external signs for the most part as best I can.

The world is alive with directionality. Everything means something or points somewhere. There are far more pointers than destinations, "destinations" being what is pointed at. In other words, our eyes are bigger than our stomach. There is even a case, at least philosophically, that there are no destinations and that the means (the way we travel) is the only meaningful destination. In other words, we travel to "travel well," but I digress.

Following an individual sign (or mudra) in modern life, at least for me, is difficult. There are too many. Rather I look for groups or schools of signs that like schools-of-fish can appear as random, but also can suddenly all point in the same direction. Maybe that defines a school, when several signs point out the same thing or in the same direction. That is clearest for me.

Mostly, it is THIS type of directionality, when signs school, that I can pick up on and perhaps learn from or at least follow them out or along for a way. If throughout my day, the same kind of sign keeps popping up or groups of them appear as flags, I slow down and consider whatever they appear to be pointing at or out to me.

Of course, this can approach what is probably wild-goose-chase proportions (too many signs) and sometimes I just have just turn my signing-radar off or at least the volume down. How sensitive I am to subtle signs varies, but I believe I am more sensitive than the average bear in this because I have practiced it since a child when looking for natural life like insects and frogs. And as far as emotions, my intuition is like reading braille; I have been reading the signs of the times since a young kid. I can't always see clearly, but I can feel my way along using my natural sensitivities.

There seems to be a whole other world in which seeing is not the sense we use, but rather feeling is. We feel or intuit our way along like a blind person might feel their way along a corridor. We could almost call it a "second sight," another very useful way to negotiate time and this world.

Is this what psychics do? I have no idea, since I have never thought of myself as a psychic or able to see the future other than logically, like the old song goes where "The head bone is connected to the neck bone," and so on. Nevertheless, I have come to depend on what I call "second sight," my ability to intuit or sense directionality or trends.

And I try to cultivate this sensitivity too. Like the old movies where the safe-cracker lightly sands their finger-pads to feel the tumblers click, I do my best to keep my mind open and not just my eyes. This approach helps me to make decisions that are so deep-down that I can't just think them out logically. However, if I wait and let the answers arise naturally from within myself, and then wait so more, the right move or answer will surface and be readable by me. I then trust that and do it.

Yes, I know some of the Asian mudras and find they are elegant and meaningful, but on a day-to-day basis I I

am more skilled at reading my own mind and thus feeling farther into the future than I otherwise could.

Just my two cents.

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“As Bodhicitta is so precious,
May those without it now create it,
May those who have it not destroy it,
And may it ever grow and flourish.”