

# ~ *What Would the Buddha Teach Today?* ~

## Mingyur Rinpoche

Recently somebody asked me a question, a very interesting question: if the Buddha were born now, in this modern time, how would he be? I do not know, either! [Mingyur Rinpoche laughs.] But, I was thinking, the Buddha really emphasized his discovery, all these enlightened qualities, according to students' mentalities, personalities, cultures, etc. If the Buddha were born at this time, I think his teaching would become like nectar, really directly connected with many people's lives. And maybe millions of people, from what I see, would get direct realization. They would attain enlightenment instantly.

When the Buddha was in India, he taught teachings according to students' mentalities, capacities, and cultures, and many people achieved arhathood. Millions of people. So if the Buddha was alive or born now, I think many problems in this world could be solved. And maybe it would become one the most illuminating teachings and solutions for the world.

For example, the Buddha taught these teachings 2,600 years ago, but the teachings are still relevant! Even in this modern world, the Buddha's teachings still work. They worked then, but also they work now.

This is amazing, from my personal perspective. I was born in a remote area in the middle of a Himalayan village, and these teachings really help there. They speak to the people, relating to their lives, their minds, their emotions. And now I am teaching these teachings to the most developed countries of the world. I teach them, and everybody says, "Oh, you know our minds. You know our messiness." And sometimes I teach in the corporate world, and they think that I am talking to them [directly]. Or sometimes I go to hospitals, schools, prisons, or different professional settings, and most of the time

everybody thinks, “Oh, you are talking about us, directly to us.” So there are a lot of universal teachings.

And imagine — the Buddha taught this 2,600 years before. So as for the form, the style, and the culture, I do not know what the Buddha would be, but the teachings from the Buddha’s wisdom, I think, could really illuminate the darkness of our times.