

Rebel Buddha by Dzogchen Ponlop

TOPICS, TALKING POINTS

Culture

1. In *Rebel Buddha*, you talk about not being bound by fixed cultural notions or religious rules. Are you anti-religious? Do you think it's possible to let go of our cultural roots without losing our heart connection to spiritual life?
2. What aspects of modern culture do you feel have the greatest potential for communicating wakefulness and the desire for genuine freedom?
3. You speak about how cultural forms, especially in our religious life, can become obstacles. What do you mean by that, and how do we recognize when a cultural or religious form has outlived its usefulness?
4. You say that wisdom is not the property of any single person or tradition. You say that real wisdom transcends culture, language, and even time. But culture is our "home." How can we begin to connect our cultural selves with a wisdom that transcends all forms?