



Mipham Rinpoche was the Leonardo da Vinci of Tibet, as well as a great Dzogchen masters—a realised being. He was also a great astrologer, and very particular about it. If he made new clothes he would actually check the astrological charts first. He would determine at what exact minute the needle needed to go through the cloth and begin to sew.

One day one of his disciples challenged him, saying, 'Supposedly you are a mahasiddha, why do you care about all this? It makes my life so miserable!'

Mipham Rinpoche replied, 'You would never believe me if I gave you my explanation. So come with me!' So they both went to a nearby river, where they fetched some water. Then Mipham Rinpoche told him, 'Now, go and pick up two pebbles.' So the disciple brought them. Mipham Rinpoche said, 'Sit down!' Mipham Rinpoche had this slate. In Tibet there was no paper, so they used slates. He was looking at the sun, looking at the moon and the stars. He was calculating, drawing charts. Then he told his disciple, 'Now go and fetch a very weak twig, and hold it, and be ready.' He had the student hold the stone in the left hand and the twig in his right. Now Mipham Rinpoche said, 'When I tell you, insert the twig in the stone without any thinking, Just insert!' Mipham Rinpoche was checking his calculations, and then suddenly exclaimed, 'OK, now insert!' So the disciple inserted this very weak twig into the pebble and it went through! Again Mipham Rinpoche said, 'I think the time is about to finish. Quick, make it go through!' Then he said, 'Finished. Now you can't do it!' So the twig got stuck. Mipham Rinpoche then said, 'Everything in this world, every moment, every second, everything is dependent on the five elements.' A great astrologer can see a certain imbalance. If you can grab that moment, you can do anything. A hard stone can be made soft, softness can be made hard.

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