

Questions for Reflection

Series 6, Talk 5

Here are some points for reflection during the coming week:

- 1) First: Dogen's stirring words on Arousing the Vow of Practice--what did they do for you? WERE they moving? Might you use them to make your own Vow of Practice?
- 2) Second: What were your thoughts as you heard the story of Lady Gotami shaving her head, giving away her possessions and walking barefoot for fifteen days to appeal to the Buddha for entrance into his monastery? Don't forget. Lady Gotami was in essence the Buddha's mother.
- 3) Third: What were your thoughts about the eight rules the first women monastics had to agree to? Do you agree with Lady Gotami's assessment?
- 4) Fourth: Could you relate to the two passages from my memoir about starting practice and then monastic practice? What affect, if any, did they have on your own Right Intentions?
- 5) Fifth: What ARE your Intentions in terms of Buddhist practice? Try to be clear. Spell them out. Spell out your obstacles while you are at it. Can you name the causes and conditions, and then the deeper causes and conditions, of these obstacles?