

Series 6, Talk 8
Questions for Reflection

Here are some ideas for your reflection during the week:

- 1) First: : Now I'm aware that I alone am in the vast openness
of the sea
And cause the sea to be the sea.

During contemplation practice hold these words of Katagiri Roshi in your mind.

- 2) Second: Why do you think that after all those years of serving Suzuki Roshi at the San Francisco Zen Center, Katagiri Roshi said "I have done nothing for you at all." "I have taught nothing to you at all" ?

- 3) Third: Reflect on Katagiri Roshi's words:

How thick are the layers of cultural clothes I have already put on?
How would it be possible to tell a story without them?
How would it be possible to peel off the thick wallpaper
in my old house?
How would it be possible to ease my pain
whenever the paper is torn off?

In what way do these words pertain to yourself?

- 4) Fourth:

Next day, an old man from the neighborhood visits my grass hut, and asks me why the book is wet.

Although I try to say something, struggling in my mind, I cannot explain to him.
Despite my efforts, I cannot explain.

I lower my head and pause, then say only one thing:

"Last night, the rain came in and drenched my book container."

What would Ryokan have said to his visitor had he been able?

- 5) How would you describe your own "bamboo stick?" How would you describe yourself both before it and after?