

Series 8 Talk 1
Questions for Reflection

Here are some points for your reflection during the week:

1) First: Regarding the formula:

*If we live only for the sake of this person, when we die we lose everything.

*If we don't live only for the sake of this person, then our life is a kind of offering and our life continues even when the five skandhas disappear.

*It is not about quantity of time, it is about quality of life.

*This is the difference of living the Bodhisattva Way (Living by Vow) and the ego-centered way of life.

How does Dogen's view on the two ways of living out our life affect you personally?

2) Second: Regarding the passage from the Lotus Sutra and commentary by Chinese Zen Master Hua telling his students 1) to appreciate the fact that they are listening to the Dharma 2) that not everyone has the good fortune (or good karma) to arrive as such a fortuitous place and 3) that it means that they have in the past sewn good seeds which are the causes and conditions of this opportunity, can you describe what you feel when you hear this auspicious truth about YOU who are the same as his students?

3) Third: To hear that "Sakyamuni Buddha is still speaking the Wonderful Dharma Lotus Sutra on Vulture Peak at this very moment!" is a little shocking. But it simply shows the truth, that there is no such thing as time. The nun translating experienced this directly. Have you? Please speak on this subject.

4) Fourth: Do you agree with Dogen that studying literature is meaningless and should cease immediately?

5) Fifth: How CAN we perceive and express the oneness of everything within the myriad things we encounter?