

Questions for Reflection
Series 8 Talk 2

1) First: What is your favorite teaching so far? You've had many. Which one is your favorite?

2) Second: Why DO you do zazen? Think carefully. Your motives might be subtle.

3) Third: Make a list of say ten of the things that you do regularly in your life and the reason that you do them. Are any of them not for your personal benefit? What percentage of your time right now is spent on anything not for your personal benefit? Consider what we said last week: 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 SKANDAS DISAPPEAR.

4) Fourth: Kodo Sawaki Roshi says that we have both buddha-nature and thief-nature. What does your personal "thief-nature" look like?

5) Fifth: When Roshi tells the student that he is involved in "selfish practice" he is referencing the student's attachment to "getting something," even if it's understanding. By doing so he separates himself from his existence. This is why Roshi says this person has no confidence in his actions (because he is always divided and unsure--e.g. he lacks "faith" in his buddha nature and therefore lacks a solid stance). How would you assess your current "stance"? Is it stable enough for you to have confidence that you will be able to carry through your choices for your life? Please give an example.

6) Sixth: What is your feeling when you hear Suzuki Roshi's words, " That we hear Buddha's teaching is because of our previous study. (We've laid down good roots.) ?