

*Questions for Reflection*  
*Talk 2, Series 9*

Here are some points for reflection during the week:

- 1) First: Some things are difficult for everyone, like what Huike accomplished and some things are difficult for some but not that difficult for others. What are YOUR difficult things?
- 2) Second: Choosing one of your difficult things, how have you handled that throughout the time that it has been difficult? Have you just given into it? Have you thought about it and changed your tactic? Sometimes a difficult thing looked at from another perspective either becomes less difficult or actually become an intriguing challenge, helpful for growth. Can you give a specific example of an experience of the latter?
- 3) Third: Describe a time when you've faced a difficulty and caved.
- 4) Fourth: Describe a time when you've faced a difficulty and seen it all the way through to the end.
- 5) Fifth: It is clear from the talk that without continuous practice we would have very little if any of true Zen spirit left for us today. Please talk about your continuous practice. Say what it is (it may not be zazen), say how you hold it in your mind (you do or do not even think of it as a practice) and say if you "dedicate"--give away the merit of this focused energy to all beings. Whatever your practice, you should be sure to give away its merit even before you do it. You can say something like, "May the merit of this practice, that I dedicate to the three jewels (Buddha, Dharma, Sangha) ripen on the cause of great enlightenment."