

Questions for Reflection
Talk 6, Series 10

Here are some ideas for reflection during the week:

- 1) First: Kobun Chino Otagawa says that even if we make our best effort not to lie, not to speak untruth, still we feel we have many times spoken illusory words and that the "invisible realm" surrounding words, the realm that makes our words illusory, must be continually held in our awareness. What are your thoughts about the "invisible realm" of words?
- 2) Second: If you were Wanda who was Jewish, when it was clear Hitler would take over, what would you have done?
- 3) Third: Do you consider her choice to become a Communist and work for their party lying? Why and/or why not?
- 4) Fourth: In the end, an option, which given her skepticism of religion probably wouldn't have occurred to her, was regret and repentance. Had she simply looked at her life with its huge imperatives with gentleness and compassion, regretted her actions and asked for forgiveness, many things might have been different. Please give your thoughts.
- 5) Fifth: My words-- To me a word, in and of itself, as an object is sacred. To me, the mind of the word, though expressed, still lives in the heart of the Buddha--what are your thoughts about this statement?
- 6) Sixth: When we are caught in self-protection and self-promotion, we cannot speak the truth. All speech based on self-concern is false or harmful speech and speaking the truth naturally arises from selflessness. These words of Reb's are strong. Do you believe them? Could you give an example from your own life supporting your opinion?
- 7) Seventh: Lacking self-respect almost breeds lying. Do you believe this?