

Questions for Reflection
Talk 1 Series 13

Even though we will spend the rest of this series deepening our understanding of Dogen's four embracing actions, it is useful to consider what YOU think he means before you receive any formal teachings on them. Here are some selections of potent phrases or passages. What is your own initial "take" on each one? If you write out your answers you can refine them over the six weeks.

- 1) Offering means not being greedy.
- 2) Whether we give or receive, we connect ourselves with all beings throughout the world.
- 3) Trusting flowers to the wind and trusting birds to the season may also be the meritorious action of dana.
- 4) To speak with a mind that "compassionately cares for living beings as if they were our own babies" is loving-speech.
- 5) We should study how loving speech has the power to transform the world. It's not merely praising someone's ability.
- 6) In an ancient era, a man, who tied up his hair three times while he took a bath and who stopped eating three times in the space of one meal, solely intended to benefit others.
- 7) Because beneficial actions never regress, if we attain such a mind we can perform beneficial action even for grass, trees, wind, and water.
- 8) That the ocean does not refuse water is identity action. We should also know that the virtue of water does not refuse the ocean.