

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

On December 8, 1990, two teachers received "inka" (certification) from Zen Master Seung Sahn at a ceremony at Providence Zen Center. Below are introductory remarks from the inka ceremony; on the following four pages are talks by and dharma combat with the two new Ji Do Poep Sa Nims, Do An Sunim and Mark Houghton.

To Cause Fruit

George Bowman, Ji Do Poep Sa Nim

Zen Master Seung Sahn traditionally explains that the word "inka" means "public seal." In the case of Mark Houghton and Do An Sunim, it signifies our teacher's insight that his mind and their minds have met. He recognizes that each of them has a fundamental understanding of our teaching and of the dharma. There has been an authentic meeting. We are here today to certify that, to acknowledge it with a "public seal."

This is also an opportunity for us as a sangha to test our practice. Each one of us will be able to step forward and ask questions, engaging Mark and Do An Sunim in "dharma combat." Can we present ourselves in a sincere way and ask a sincere question? They will manifest their dharma by answering in the most authentic way they can. And we will see our own minds as we come forward to ask.

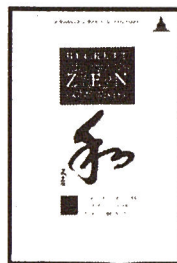
Another meaning of the word inka is "to cause fruit," inka being the fruit of practice. The fruit of practice is not something that comes about because of some linear reason, as cause and effect. The fruit of practice appears spontaneously, right now. Thus, inka is fruit that appears just now, that can be eaten right now, in the spirit of cause and effect becoming one. And in that sense it's really a time for each of us to test our practice.

Because Mark and Do An Sunim sit *here*, we sit *there*. And because we sit *here*, they are able to sit *there*. You couldn't have this without that, you couldn't have that without this. This ceremony is our appreciation of this moment. And it is appearing right now. It is our opportunity to appreciate that, to look in the mirror of our minds and see the depth and integrity of our own practice.

I want to express my deep appreciation to Mark and Do An Sunim for their continued practice. When I think back on the the ceremony that I went through some years ago, I recall it more as a beginning of practice than anything else. Sometimes an awkward or rough beginning, but a beginning of practice in a way that is truly endless, that goes on and on for each one of us, in whatever form it takes. □

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