

Dharma Combat

Zen Master Wu Bong (Jacob Perl)

Question: The Heart Sutra says form is emptiness, emptiness is form. Then why do you practice so hard, Providence Zen Center style?

Zen Master Wu Bong: For you.

Q: I don't understand.

ZMWB: Not enough?

Q: So please teach me.

ZMWB: Go drink some tea.

Q: Thank you for your teaching.

ZMWB: You're welcome.

Q: Our teachers said that all Buddhas are the true masters in front of your nose. So already all true masters appeared without any ceremony. What are you doing up there?

ZMWB: You already understand.

Q: I ask you.

ZMWB: Sitting here talking with you.

Q: Thank you very much.

ZMWB: You're very welcome.

Q: I'm so happy that you will soon become a Zen Master — I'm so nervous, for you... I would like to know, who are you?

ZMWB: You already know that.

Q: Maybe... how about you?

ZMWB: My name is Jacob Perl...

Q: I didn't ask about your name!

ZMWB: That's not enough?

Q: Uh, mmmmmh.

ZMWB: Dog is chasing a bone...

Q: Okay.

ZMWB: Okay.

Q: I have a question. Many years ago, Minister Lee, in China, visited Lin-chi Zen Master and he asked him, "What are these monks doing here? This is not common." And Lin-chi said, "They are meditating, they are becoming Buddha." So, he said that sometimes golden sand in the eyes makes seeing difficult. What does this mean?

ZMWB: Ouch... (*covering his eyes*)

Q: Mm hmm, thank you.

ZMWB: You're welcome. ☸

Zen Master Wu Kwang (Richard Shrobe)

Question: You now become Buddha but, Zen Master Seung Sahn says, "In the end of the world, not so many people believe Buddha's speech." So, if nobody listens to you, what can you do?

Zen Master Wu Kwang: You already understand.

Q: So I ask you.

ZMWK: Soon, lunch is coming. Don't worry... Your stomach is already full?

Q: I'm not asking about stomach...

ZMWK: Not enough?

Q: Not enough.

ZMWK: Did you get enough sleep last night?

Q: Yes, thank you. Thank you for your teaching.

Q: So, our teaching appears to be to take away this opposites world and attain this don't know world. So what is taking away this opposites world and attaining don't know world?

ZMWK: You already understand.

Q: I'm asking you.

ZMWK: Your face is brown. My face is red.

Q: Two thousand five hundred years ago, Buddha got enlightenment and decided to leave his family to meditate and to teach. You have a family and from what I know, a happy family. So it doesn't look like you're leaving. Two different ways, which one is correct?

ZMWK: You already understand.

Q: I ask you.

ZMWK: When this ceremony is over, my family and I will get in my car and return to New York.

Q: Have a safe trip.

ZMWK: Thank you.

Q: Two old friends. I have this dilemma: there are two of you and I only have one question. I'll have to just try. So, I'm sitting back there looking at my two friends for the last ten years and thinking, "Hmm. Richard has hair and a beard and a little nose. Jacob has no hair, no beard and a big nose." And I'm thinking, which one is the correct Zen Master? Can you help me?

ZMWK: Yeah, you already understand.

Q: No, I'm very confused.

ZMWK: It's wonderful to see you again, old friend.

Q: Oh, same here. It's wonderful to see you, too. ☸