

INKA DHARMA COMBAT

Kwang Myong Sunim, JDPS

Student: Kwang Myong Sunim, congratulations. I'm so happy to see another nun doing this. I've waited a long time to meet you. But, what I came to ask was: I heard you were a healer. In the Jewish tradition they have this phrase *tikkun olam*, which means mending the world. So, how will you mend the world?

KMSN: You already understand.

Student: So I ask you.

KMSN: How can I help you?

Student: Thank you very much.

KMSN: You're welcome.

Student: Already healed.

Student: So, you used to be a dancer, but now you're a nun, and nuns don't dance. So, what kind of dance will you do now?

KMSN: You already understand.

Student: So I ask you.

KMSN: *(Gets up and does dance.)*

Student: Thank you.

Student: Congratulations. Good to see you.

KMSN: Thank you. Good to see you.

Student: So, they say that April showers bring May flowers. What's the meaning of this?

KMSN: You already understand.

Student: I ask you.

KMSN: *(Takes a flower from the altar and hands it to questioner.)*

Student: Thank you very much.

Ken Kessel, JDPSN

Student: A long time ago in New York, there was a great controversy among the monks of the Lower East Side and the monks of the Upper West Side. The monks of the Lower East Side said they had the old dharma, the dharma of Ken. And the monks of the Upper West Side said they had the new dharma, the dharma of Jan. This controversy still rages today. The monks of the Lower East Side say that the truth is—the dharma truth is—that Jan is Ken's cousin. Whereas the monks of the Upper West Side say, no, no, no, the new dharma is that Ken is Jan's cousin. So now that I have the horse's mouth in front of me, so to speak... what's the truth?

Kessel PSN: You already understand.

Student: No, I don't.

Kessel PSN: Jan's father and my mother are brother and sister.

Student: Oh, that clears it all up.

Kessel PSN: Hello.

Student: Knock, knock.

Kessel PSN: *(Hits the floor twice.)*

Student: A long time ago Dong Shan addressed the assembly saying: "Regarding going beyond the Buddha, I would like to talk a little." Then a monk said, "What kind of talk is this?" Dong Shan said, "When I talk you cannot hear it" So the monk said, "How about you, Master, can you hear it?" And Dong Shan said, "Wait 'till I don't talk, then you can hear it." Can you hear it?

Kessel PSN: *(says student's name)*

Student: Yes.

Kessel PSN: Thank you very much.

William Brown, JDPSN

Student: During his opening speech, Dae Gak Sunim said that dharma combat really isn't really dharma combat; it means exposing the dharma. That's a very serious matter. What is exposing the dharma?

Brown PSN: You already understand.

Student: So, I'm asking you.

Brown PSN: You asking, me answering.

Student: Good, thank you.

Student: A few weeks ago I was talking to JW on the phone and he said, "It's been quite a day here at Providence Zen Center. We had to pull down the gate out in front." Now that gate was there for many years; why did it fall down when it did?

Brown PSN: You already understand.

Student: I'm asking you.

Brown PSN: *(makes a crashing noise and gate falling motion with arms)*

Student: That's not the gate, that's you.

Brown PSN: Not enough?

Student: Not enough.

Brown PSN: Dog chasing bone.

Student: Oh, thank you very much.

Student: We went to see "Dead Man Walking" together, and that was about capital punishment. I'm wondering what is the original punishment?

Brown PSN: You already understand.

Student: Please teach me.

Brown PSN: Sitting here talking to you.

Heila Downey, JDPSN

Student: Hi, Heila, congratulations. You're from South Africa and I've never been in the southern hemisphere. I guess things are reversed there, they're opposite, right—winter is summer and summer is winter? The South Pole is your North Pole and, you know, stuff like that. So does that mean that sugar is salty, and salt is sweet, and black is white, and white is black, and all that kind of stuff? What is it like there?

Downey PSN: What is your question?

Student: South and North, North and South, are they the same or different?

Downey PSN: You already understand.

Student: I'm asking you.

Downey PSN: South Africa down south, America up north.

Student: On a visit to the Cambridge Zen Center, I think we were actually at the Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, you said that you were growing older. I asked you, well, aren't you growing wiser, and you said "no." That sort of bothered me, I don't like the sound of that. If you don't get wiser when you get older, what do you get?

Downey PSN: Please, you tell me.

Student: I don't know.

Downey PSN: *(Makes achey, groaning noises)*

Student: I'm madly in love with you.

Downey PSN: I love you too.

Student: But you are married and I'm a monk. How can you help me?

Downey PSN: You already understand.

Student: So, I ask you.

Downey PSN: *(hugs him)* It's wonderful to have you here.

Student: Oh my goodness, thank you.