



## san do kai

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Before I begin, I would like to say a little bit about Maha Ghosananda. He is an absent guest, but still very present. I was fortunate enough to be his attendant one time. He is a very small man—very gentle, soft. Yellows, reds, orange socks. As I was taking him to the airport, he was always ahead of me. That really impressed me: he knew exactly where he was going. After he met the Pope, I asked him what it was like meeting the Pope. He said, “The Pope is very heavy!” At the Vatican stairs, with maybe a few thousand people watching, the Pope embraced Maha Ghosananda—and almost knocked his glasses off! After that, Maha Ghosananda proceeded to pick the Pope up. This surprised everyone, but in Cambodia they venerate things by picking them up. So that was the reason why Maha Ghosananda said the Pope was heavy.

I feel most honored to come here. It feels like coming home for me, because I haven't been here for a long time. My indebtedness to this sangha and to Zen Master Seung Sahn are beyond measure. It helped shape my fragile character to become a little bit more experienced in life. “The whole world is a single flower” is just another way of saying *san do kai*. It is written by Sekito Kisen, a Chinese ancestor. San means “many.” “Do” means “same” or “together,” as one. When I was doing the transmission ceremony with Suzuki Roshi, he said, “Let's write the character “do” together. We're the same, you know; we're the same!” I failed to understand what he meant. I was stuck there. Kai is a word that means “intimacy.” Kai is also translated as the “Identity of the Relative and Absolute.” There is an intimacy that is beyond measure, between the one and the many. This is the big theme in Zen of course. “The whole world is a single flower” is the same conclusion: it is one.

But how do you get to one? We must remember that the river within us longs to return to the ocean. And not just once, but many hundreds, thousands, even millions of times. When you arrive there, the whole world is a single flower. *San do kai*. Thank you very much.