

zen master bon haeng dharma combat

Zen Master Bon Haeng: Here comes my Kyol Che brother.

Student: You bet! Last week at an interview you said you needed my help today, so here I am.

ZMBH: Interesting how that got interpreted. *[laughter]*

Student: You also said at that same time that you wanted me sitting next to you, but that's not correct. As a Zen Master, are you going to give incorrect teaching?

ZMBH: Bring your mat and cushion and come on up here.

Student: Thank you very much.

ZMBH: Oh! Great woman!

Dyan Houghton (Zen Master Bon Haeng's spouse): Great man! An eminent teacher once said, "behind every great man is a great woman." *[laughter]* I have a question for you. Zen Master Seung Sahn taught you many things. He taught you correct meditation and correct dharma, but I taught you correct life. *[laughter]* So, I ask you: which one of us is your *true* teacher?

ZMBH: You already understand.

DH: So I ask you.

ZMBH: Thank you for your *continuous* teaching. *[laughter]*

DH: That's a stupid answer!

ZMBH: Not enough?

Student: Not enough!

ZMBH: The dog runs after the bone.

ZMBH: Great head dharma teacher!

Student: It's good to see you. I have a question for you. If you're going to help somebody, you have to be able to put it all down. How can you put it all down?

ZMBH: You already understand.

Student: So I ask you.

ZMBH: Put it down.

Student: Thank you for your teaching.



On April 8, 2000, Mark Houghton JDPSN received transmission from Zen Master Seung Sahn at Providence Zen Center and became Zen Master Bon Haeng.

Student: Congratulations, great teacher!

ZMBH: Thank you.

Student: A wise woman said, "Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be." My question to you is, in this suffering world, how can we let it be?

ZMBH: You already understand.

Student: Please teach me.

ZMBH: Let it be.

Student: Thank you very much.

Student: You're a family man; your wife is here so you can't deny that...

ZMBH: My daughter too...

Student: Also, I'm a family man. The other day I got an e-mail from a dharma teacher who was asked to become a bodhisattva teacher. He asked, "What is required of me to become a bodhisattva teacher?" So I said, "Zen Center first, family second." Then he replied, "Unless my wife divorces me and my kids go to an orphanage, I guess I cannot!" So now you're becoming a Zen Master...

ZMBH: This is a little long, you know... *[laughter]*

Student: Just listen, OK? *[laughter]* So once you become a Zen Master, will it be, "Sentient beings first, then Kwan Um School of Zen, then Cambridge Zen Center, then family?"

ZMBH: What can I do for you right now?

Student: I don't need any help.

HSPN: I think you need a lot, brother!

zen master bon haeng dharma talk

[Raises Zen stick over head, then hits table with stick.]

Ready?

If you want it, go get it.

If you don't want it, it will get you.

[Raises Zen stick over head, then hits table with stick.]

Return to the place of not wanting, not getting.

[Raises Zen stick over head, then hits table with stick.]

Getting is only getting,
Wanting is only wanting.
That's all a big mistake.
What can you do?

KATZ!

It's nice to be here together with you.

Thank you Dae Soen Sa Nim for your teaching, thank you sangha for your support, and thank you to my family for your patience. Many years ago, I arrived at the Zen Center to only practice with my friends, my dharma brothers and sisters. Somehow during this process an unusual thing happens to us. When we start practicing, there's a "me" and a "you." However, as we continue to practice, we are naturally transformed into an "us." That's the most important point of our teaching.

In Buddhism, we talk about four important things. First, getting a human body... most of us have that. Second is hearing about the dharma. Next is finding a keen-eyed teacher, which we have in Zen Master Seung Sahn. Finally, attaining the same realization as the Buddha. That's our practice. All of us here—without even knowing it—have already completed three-quarters of this project. So now, our only job is to continue on the path.

Recently, Dae Kwang Sunim mentioned to me that Zen Master Ma Tzu had over one hundred and thirty dharma heirs, and that Zen Master Man Gong, our great grandteacher, gave inka to over fifty people. When they were alive, there weren't six billion human beings on the planet, but they still recognized that many worthy successors.

Remember, all of us have an obligation to this world; that's the central point of our teaching. This obligation means, attain these four things and save all beings from suffering. Everyone is capable of doing this. Why not?

[Raises Zen stick over head, then hits table with stick.]

Hurry up, time won't wait.

[Raises Zen stick over head, then hits table with stick.]

No time, no waiting.

[Raises Zen stick over head, then hits table with stick.]

Which one do you like?

KATZ!

Wake up! This talk is over.

