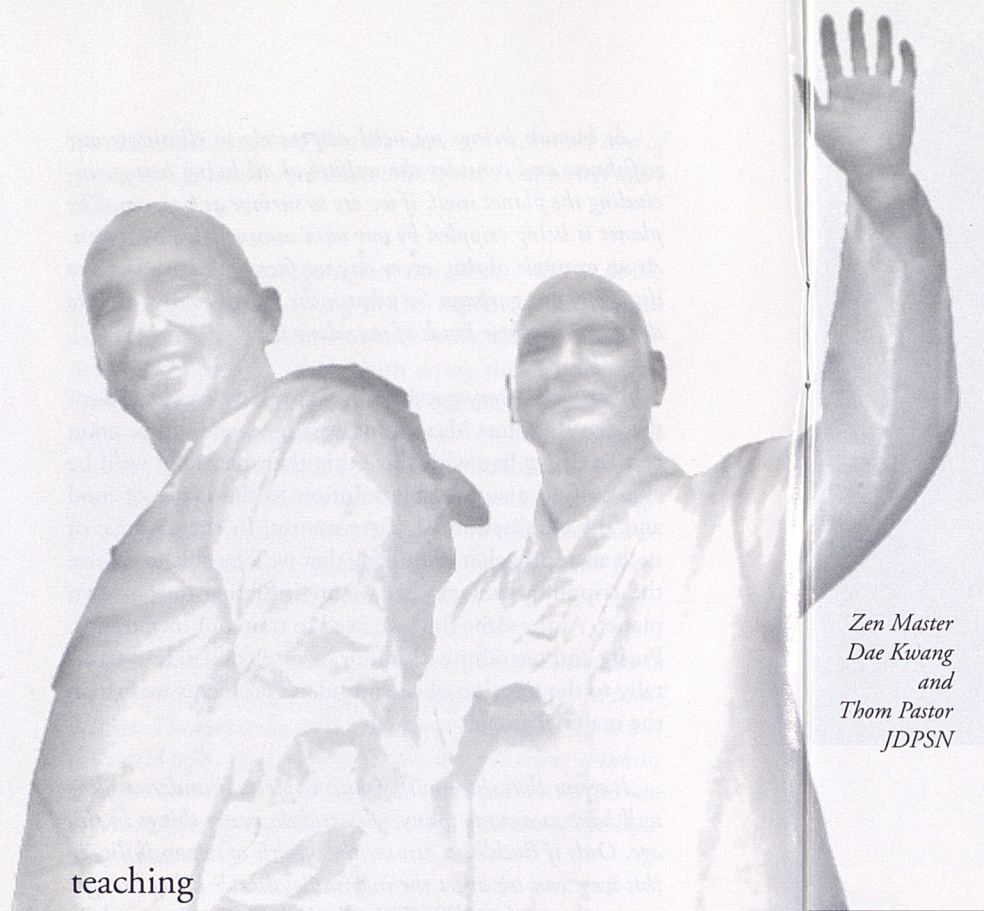


good



Zen Master
Dae Kwang
and
Thom Pastor
JDPSN

teaching

8] Opening speech by Zen Master Dae Kwang at the Whole World is a Single Flower Conference at Mu Sang Sa, October 2002

[Holds Zen stick high over head, strikes table.]

Teacher is student and student is teacher.

A long time ago in China, Joju Zen Master said, "If I meet a seven year old who can teach me, I will listen. If I meet a seventy year old man who needs instruction, I will teach him." That's our original nature, it can take any form—student or teacher, it doesn't matter. Just like water it takes the shape of any vessel.

[Holds stick up high over head, strikes table.]

This point means no student, no teacher.

Our original nature has no name, speech or words. But I already opened my mouth too much, so my dharma speech is a mistake.

[Holds stick up high over head, strikes table.]

Teacher is teacher, student is student.

This is the truth of our everyday life. Some people are teachers, some people are students. But this truth is not enough. More important is: How does this truth function?

Ho!

Outside the rice is ripe. Inside, many shiny faces from around the world have come to Mu Sang Sah to attend the Whole World is a Single Flower conference.

Human beings are very attached to name and form, and because they're attached to name and form, they suffer. The Buddha taught that all suffering comes from this one point. He practiced very hard for a long time and completely let go of name and form. Then he got up from under the bodhi tree and used name and form for 45 years to help our world. That's our job too. One time Zen Master Seung Sahn said that to be attached to the teacher and to follow the teacher are two different things. If you're attached to the teacher, then this just makes more suffering, and the wonderful message that a good teacher has becomes suffering.

One time there was a man who was lost in the woods. As the days went by he became weaker and weaker and more frightened. Then one night a person came by with a flashlight and said, "Come follow me, I'll show you the way out of the woods." The man was very relieved and followed him. That's interesting because at the time he was lost, he didn't care what color the person was with the flashlight. He didn't care if the person was female or male. He didn't care if the person was a Buddhist or a Muslim. He didn't care if the person had ever given a dharma speech or not. Instead, he only wanted one thing—out. The true meaning of the teacher/student relationship is also very simple; it means just one thing, "What are you?"

At the time of the Sixth Patriarch, Hui Neng, there was one other famous teacher of Zen in China, the monk Shen Hsui. Hui Neng lived in the south at Nam Hwa Sah temple while Shen Hsui taught in the north. At one time Shen Hsui sent one of his top students, Chih-ch'eng, to visit the Sixth Patriarch and report back about his system of teaching. When Chih-ch'eng asked Hui Neng for his dharma, he said something very interesting, "I have no dharma. If I said I had a system of dharma to teach you, I would be lying." Hui Neng said he had nothing to teach, he only liberated people according to circumstances. Buddha said in the Diamond Sutra that in his whole life he didn't say even one word. Zen Master Seung Sahn said that our school's teaching is only one thing: Don't Know. Thank you very much Zen Master Seung Sahn for this wonderful teaching.

There is a very interesting teaching phrase in Zen: If you meet the Buddha on the road, kill him. One time Zen Master Seung Sahn said that if you want to attain something in Zen you must first kill your parents. Then you must kill the Buddha and finally you must kill your teacher.

[Strikes table with Zen stick.]

Good teaching is bad teaching. Bad teaching is good teaching. That point has already taught us.

[Strikes table with Zen stick.]

This point means, keep away from good teaching and bad teaching.

[Strikes table with Zen stick.]

Good teaching is good teaching and bad teaching is bad teaching.

So Buddha held up a flower... is that good teaching or bad teaching? Huang Po beat Lin Chi with a stick three times. Is that good teaching or bad teaching? Zen Master Man Gong said that the whole world is a single flower, is that good teaching or bad teaching?

Ho!

Welcome to our Whole World is a Single Flower celebration. Please have a good time! ☺

Scenes from the Whole World is a Single Flower conference and tour: Seoul airport, on the way to Bo Won Sa Ji, Zen Master Wu Bong and Zen Master Dae Kwang

