

## Only Doing It for Sixty Years

**Compiled and edited by Diana Clarke. KUSZ, Cumberland RI, 1987.**

This book, put together to commemorate the sixtieth birthday of Zen Master Seung Sahn, is a collection of contributions from people who have come into contact with him over the years: students, friends and other teachers. Some of these contributions are in the form of letters of congratulations, poems, drawings and photographs. Some are anecdotes and personal experiences. Together they blend into a potpourri of many tastes, many impressions. They speak for themselves of Soen Sa Nim's influence, of deeply felt love and gratitude.

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### An Extract from "Only Doing It"

One day Soen Sa Nim sat his students down. At that time there were about seven regular "customers" — that was one of Soen Sa Nim's jokes, calling everyone who ate his soup or came to his Sunday night talks a "customer". He explained that it was time for the Zen Center to have a practicing schedule. This was the end of an era. The practice began to shift from the kitchen into the Dharma Room. He even asked them to wear those gray robes. The chants were transliterated and bows were counted. Cushions were even assigned and Sunday night Dharma talks got better and better... He was always willing to answer any questions and, if nothing else seemed helpful, he would tap the student's head with a chop stick and say, "Too much thinking! Put it down, OK?"

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