

Human Beings are Already a Mistake

BY ZEN MASTER SEUNG SAHN

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Question: You say, “Just do it, just do it,” but at the same time we are called upon, very often, to discriminate, to choose between two different things, to choose one thing rather than something else. Are there any particular guidelines for when we are forced into a situation to make a choice?

ZMSS: If direction is clear, “only do it” is possible. If direction is not clear, every time is a choice. So if direction is clear, “only do it” is very easy. Direction is not clear, every time is checking and choosing which one is correct: that is correct, that is not correct. This mind will appear. Understand?

Q: But sometimes we need to choose our direction as well.

ZMSS: For example, what?

Q: Well I had to decide whether to come here or not.

ZMSS: See, that is thinking. You are thinking, okay? If you are practicing, practicing, not so much to choose, not so much choice. Only moment to moment, do it. Yes, sometimes you make a mistake. Mistake is no problem. Many people are afraid of mistakes. But a mistake is okay. Human beings come into this world, it’s already a mistake! (*General laughter.*) Why come here? Understand? Already a mistake! So a mistake is no problem.

Zen means, human beings are already a mistake; already a mistake, so make it correct. We don’t understand why we come here, so we must find human beings’ correct way, and truth, correct life. That’s our job. So already coming here is a mistake, but everybody doesn’t understand human beings’ mistake: “I am. I am. I am.” Say “I am”, then you never correct the mistake. Put it down: “I”. Then making it correct is possible. So don’t worry about a mistake. Mistake: then again make it correct. That’s very important.

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