

Weak and Strong Consciousness

BY ZEN MASTER SEUNG SAHN

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Question: What if your center is strong but your cognition is not growing?

DSSN: Then together action is very important. Together action and interview. Very important, interview. Interview makes your direction clear, and continues your cognition. So interview is very important.

In Korean Zen, interview disappeared a long time ago. Nowadays human beings' consciousness is very weak: always checking, checking, holding, holding, something, something – that's nowadays consciousness. Always like/dislike is strong. How to take away this karma, this like/dislike and checking mind and holding mind?

A long time ago in China and Korea, the Zen-practicing people had very strong consciousness. So only one time they meet a Zen master and only get one kong-an. Then they go to the mountain: not moving, very strong center, not moving, only go straight for one year, two years, three years, eighteen years. Then finally – boom! – got enlightenment. Then the Dharma continues through the Zen masters.

But nowadays people say, “Oh, Zen Master, oh, why not teach the Dharma, nice interview! Oh, interview is very important!” Always they like interviews, dharma speeches; that means our conscious is too low-class consciousness – weak, weak. Old people's consciousness was very strong consciousness, so only one time meet Zen master, then go to mountains and sat there not moving.

But we are every day practicing, practicing, for a whole three months; many interviews, many dharma talks, but you are still moving: your center is not strong. So all the time, together action: together action is very important nowadays. If you are strong, together action is not necessary: only go to the mountains, do solo retreat, no problem!

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