

PROBLEMS

When you have wisdom, true wisdom that is not just a limited understanding, you have no problem.



People create problems they do not actually have. When you are afraid of some problem, or when you are too concerned about yourself, you create a problem that you don't have. Originally you don't have a problem, but you create one for yourself, and you suffer from it. Most of the problems we have are homemade problems. You make delicious problems to eat. This is how we fill our life with problems.

If you realize this point, you may realize how important it is to practice Zen. When you practice Zen, there is no problem, and you will have a

bright light within yourself, a bright light within and without. When the light comes, there is no problem. In the darkness there is a problem, and even if you try, you cannot solve it by working on it in the dark. When the light comes, various problems will be dissolved. Because it is dark you have a problem, but when it is not dark, there is no problem.

Sometimes under big trees there are small trees. When you see this, you may think that the small ones are suffering under the big trees. It looks like a problem; even when we look at nature we think that we see many problems! But if you look at the roots of the small trees and big trees, you will understand how the small trees survive under the big trees. If you do not see the roots, it looks like the small trees always have difficulties under the big trees. But if you understand how the roots of the small trees go under the big trees, you will understand how the small trees survive. Under the big trees there are many leaves and decayed roots, so the small trees take their food under the big trees and the big trees always give them nourishment. When the big trees die, the small trees take their place. That is how they survive, but before you see that, it looks to you like a problem.

It is the same with our practice. When you have wisdom, true wisdom that is not just a limited understanding, you have no problem. You will understand that the problem itself has some meaning for the problem, for yourself, and for others, and you will understand the true meaning of the problem and the true nature of the problem.

We say that our practice is a scarecrow practice. If you just sit, there are no crows around you. Even though you do not try to scare them, they are scared of you and will not come to you. So if you practice zazen, there is no problem.