

THE GREAT SAGES ARE YOU YOURSELF

You put the great sages in a book and put the book in a bookcase. But if you do not put them in a bookcase, they are always with you.



If you can express yourself fully while sitting in zazen without dreaming of anything, that is the actual practice that includes everything.

If you have that practice, Buddha is with you, Bodhidharma is with you, and every sage should be with you. At that time, who is Christ, who is Buddha, who is Bodhidharma, who is Dogen? Who are they? They are you yourself.

How is it possible for Buddha or the great sages to exist forever? The only way is for them to exist with us. When you think about the sages,

they are with you in some form, and when you do not think about them, they also are with you. This point should not be forgotten.

You may think that the sages are only with you when you have their image in mind. But their real being is always with you, even when you do not think about them. That is the actual truth. You think they are not always there, but that is a very shallow, materialistic understanding. It is not sincere enough.

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If you understand the great sages in this way, you cannot just be Buddhist or just be Christian. You might say, "I am Christian," but actually you are not only Christian, you are also Buddhist. When you become you yourself, when you don't put the sages in a bookcase, how is it possible to say, "I am Christian" or "I am Buddhist"?

I am always happy to see people here from various religions. You don't have to feel that Zen Center is a special building for Soto Zen priests. Here we are doing our best to live with people in its true sense, that's all.