

*(Raises the Zen stick over her head, then hits the table with the stick)*

Paint a tiger, get scared of the tiger and look for an escape.

*(Raises the Zen stick over her head, then hits the table with the stick)*

Don't make anything! In infinite time and infinite space there is not even one single thing. Where is a tiger, where is the one who paints a tiger?

*(Raises the Zen stick over her head, then hits the table with the stick)*

Become clear. When a tiger appears, ride the tiger and get out of the illusion world! Then, crying and laughing with no hindrance, only for all beings.

Which one of this three do you choose?

Ho!

Good to see you all here! Thank you, dear Sangha, for coming to this ceremony. My invaluable gratitude is for my great teachers Zen Master Seung Sahn and Zen Master Wu Bong. The biggest privilege in my life is that I had the chance to meet these great teachers. When I was still a very young Zen student and practiced for some time in Korea, Zen Master Seung Sahn told to me several times, “soon a teacher should appear in Germany”. He knew that I was living in Germany, so I felt addressed. I asked him each time, “whom do you have in your mind?”, hoping he would have seen some quality in me which I didn't even know existing. He then just ignored me completely and did not say a word. Sometime later I found out that this was his way to encourage me to keep practicing.

Soon after Zen Master Wu Bong passed away, I had a vivid dream of him one night here in the temple in Falenica. I told him in a dream, “Sunim I miss you so much. Where are you now?”. He spread out his arms and with his typical big smile he said, “the sky is blue and the trees are green.” Then I woke up and was so glad to know with no doubt, where all the buddhas and great teachers are all together, and that we are never separated from them. Today here I meet them especially in the presence of you all.

Most of the retreats I attended in Europe were guided by Zen Master Bon Shim. She was always the source of inspiration and encouragement for me. Thank you Bon

Shim Soen Sa Nim, for your teaching, trust and unconditional support. And I bow to my family in gratitude. Thank you that I am allowed to be your wife, your mother and most of all to be your friend.

Almost thirty years ago I came for the first time to Falenica and here I first met the teachings of Zen Master Seung Sahn. That one week I stayed here was extremely difficult for me. I suffered from pain in knees and back. I had to stand up and sit down again and again every ten minutes during the sitting meditation and I shivered and sweated cold and hot because of the pain. Despite the pain and the struggle there was something which did not allow me to give up. That was my strong wanting mind. I wanted to know what all the great teachers knew and I don't. What is the insight they had? I thought, as soon as I know of it, my life will become different. More meaningful and more worth to live.

The guiding teacher during that Kyol Che told me during an interview that if I keep strong don't know mind, I would see clear, hear clear and everything will become clear. Actually I did not know the true meaning of "don't know" nor "seeing clear". So everyday during a break I went out to the garden and checked whether I could see more clear. According to my idea at that time I expected to see something more than what I could perceive usually or things might appear with more sharp outlines. To my disappointment I didn't notice any progress in this concern.

But during the sitting meditation I saw a lot more. My seat was placed right in front of the wooden wall. The small piece of the wall in front of me soon turned out to be constantly changing pictures. I saw pictures of beautiful landscape, fields, trees, animals, faces of man and women, people dancing, laughing and making love and so on. I was totally fascinated and absorbed while looking at the pictures and forgot everything around me for many days. But on one day it happened that suddenly all the pictures disappeared. The wall stayed just as it was with lines, dots, colors and wood grains. Simple and not changing. The view of this simple piece of wood could not be compared with anything else which I had seen before. It was so clear and beautiful! This beauty touched me so deeply that I started to cry silently. But only some years later I could realize that what I saw on the wall and how I saw it had to do with my mind only. This small piece of wooden wall revealed obviously how my mind was moving and creating things. When our mind

moves and thinking appears, out of the lines, dots and colors a tiger jumps out, demons are threatening, sex and rock'n roll emerge. It is the same in our everyday life. Our mind fabricates something, we think it's real and we laugh, cry and crave like mad because of that. We are like a fish fidgeting in the net of our own mind. Only when we realize that the substance of thinking and also the substance of our mind are all empty, we can let go of our attachment to our thinking and get out of the net. Everything becomes then simple and clear as it is. The wall is white and the sky is blue. Whatever we perceive, we are one with it. Only white and only blue.

Enlightenment is simple. Just without attaching to our thinking see clear, hear clear, perceive everything clear. Then what is the job of enlightenment?

Before my mother died, she was seriously sick for many years, so she had to take many strong medicine. As a side effect she had hallucinations from time to time. She saw snakes crawling in her room, pumpkins growing on a tree in wintertime or monkeys jumping around. At the beginning I felt strongly embarrassed. Every time when she claimed with hand clapping, "look at these big pumpkins! Let us make a pumpkin soup!" or "how cute this monkeys are!" I tried to persuade her that what she meant to see was not there and not real. But with no success. I could also not convince her that there were no snakes in her room. She was terribly scared. There was no doubt about her emotional reaction to what she perceived.

At some point I started to ask myself, whether it was also possible that we all live in a world of hallucinations. Indeed, many people live in this world under the strong influence of a drug which is called ego. They see everywhere I, my, me where there are none. What do we see now? If we perceive whatever it is in front of us under the perspective of our opinion, our condition and our situation, we create our own hallucinatory bubble. Buddha bubble, Zen bubble, enlightenment bubble, Zen Master bubble. When we are attached to our bubbles, we make good and bad, right and wrong and we are fighting for my religion first, my country first, my family first and I first. We become blind and deaf to suffering and to the cries of this world and create even more suffering.

In this life it is not about our I and it is not about our gain or loss. What is this I? We cannot find it. Only don't know. This very don't know is our very original nature! We are this don't know, no matter in what situation and condition we are. So

whatever it is, it is okay. Whatever we do, this don't know is doing it. This don't know is manifesting in ten thousand things, and the ten thousand things are manifesting this don't know. So living in this world means living this don't know in each moment. Happiness comes, only happy. Sadness comes, only sad. Paradise is welcome. Hell is welcome too. Then we can use our happiness, our sadness and also the paradise and hell in order to help all beings. That is our job in this life and our direction. Enlightenment is just do it. So let us from moment to moment just do it!

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Sitting, sleeping always with your eyes open. If you perceive you dreaming, are you in sleep or are you awake?

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Who perceives whose dream?

*(Raises the Zen stick over her head, then hit the table with the stick)*

Wake up! What are you doing now? Just do it!

But how can you do this “just do it”?

Ho!

My talk is now finished. Thank you for listening.