

Zoom - 26 December 2020

Last Saturday I talked about the mondo between Ungan Donjo and Tozan Ryokan that Master Dogen explains in the Ganzei chapter of Shôbôgenzô.

Tozan asked his master Ungan Donjo to give him the Pupil of the Eye, Ganzei.

Ungan Donjo tried to explain to Tozan that he could not give him what was most precious to him, because he already had it.

The 'Eye-Pupil' expresses what in us, in each of us, sees and perceives the world, and which in Buddhism is called the buddha-nature and also the Unborn; the original face before birth, the landscape of our native land. It is the Original Source which is our own Mind. So can we really transmit or give anyone his own mind, that which he already has and from which he cannot be separated? To understand this truth is to awaken. And even not understanding it and asking oneself the question is also the buddha-nature, the Eye-Pupil seeking itself.

When we sit down, it is *the way to clarify the world of our experiences* - to see its impermanent, illusory nature. That which sees impermanence and illusion is the Eye-Pupil and this very activity is Awakening.

Zazen is direct access to our native land which reveals itself in the pure Presence of self-awareness. To be present to oneself, body and mind, is the activity of the Eye-Pupil, the actualisation of Awakening.

During zazen, That which sees thoughts, feels sensations, listens to the kusen and understands what is beyond words without grasping them is the Eye-Pupil.

"Our own mind, the Eye-Pupil, is as high as a mountain, as deep as an ocean and its light is unthinkable. It reveals itself in silence, without any disharmony, without any consideration of good or evil. It transcends all boundaries between sentient beings and Buddha. Its entire body is heaven and earth (understand that the Spirit is at the same time Ku, the sky, and shiki, the earth, phenomena)."

In front of the wall, we see that the space of our own body is not limited and we can witness its impermanence. We see, too, that the space of our own mind includes the inside and the outside, without any separation, and each of us can verify this now ... This is what "*to clarify the world of our experiences*" means. We are all One. This is the truth!

"There is nothing to compare with it," continues Master Keizan. *"It's like someone who is dead, whose eyes are clear and who is standing nowhere. Where could there be the slightest dust? What could stand in his way?"*

What Master Keizan is talking about is the Real! And of course this seems abstract, unthinkable and perhaps even implausible to us. Understanding can only be achieved in the silent space of our mind, where words are out of place, outdated.

The year 2020 is drawing to an close in a few days, and it will be an opportunity for almost everyone to get together and to hope for happier days soon, for the end of health complications and the reopening of our borders. We will utter numerous wishes for ourselves and others. They are useful and beneficial, but the most important is our wish to reveal our original face; to unveil and rediscover the landscape of our homeland. It is up to each one of us to do this and to understand that by doing so we are fulfilling the Buddha's wish and manifesting the wonderful activity of the Eye-Pupil.
