

Shunryū Suzuki-rōshi
REMARKS AT THE CEREMONY OFFICIALLY OPENING
BEGINNER'S MIND TEMPLE
Saturday, April 25, 1970¹
San Francisco

Suzuki-rōshi (speaking formally): On this day of the opening of Mahābodhisattva Zendō and main office of Zen Center, we arranged this altar, making offering of fruits and vegetables which were produced in this land of Mahābodhisattva, reciting *sūtra* of *Daihi-shin Darani*, the *Sūtra of the Great Compassionate One*.

With this merit, we want to express our way-seeking mind with our deceased friend Trudy Dixon, Baiho Sesshin [1 word],² and **Zenkei Dosaku Koji**, **Sōtō Sanjō**,³ and Sister F. Carlson, and all those who helped our activity by the spirit of Buddha or by various kinds of offering.

Hereby, we want to practice bodhisattva way step by step, so that our practice of step by step was paying back the mercy of Buddha and great bodhisattvas in India, China, and Japan.

Hereby, now, I have one statement which has been in my mind for more than ten years: Even on top of the mountain of great merit, we should try not ... [*Tape recorder stopped!*]

Source: City Center tape first transcribed verbatim by Katharine Shields (6/19/00). Checked against tape by Bill Redican (9/28/00).

¹ The tape on which this transcript was made was a compilation tape numbered SR-70-08-09. The original tapes appear to be SR-70-04-25A and -B. The original tapes may contain the complete lectures, but they are afflicted with sound problems that must first be remedied.

² Two Buddhist names were given to her at her lay ordination in 1967: Baiho Sesshin ("Fragrant Plum, Pure Mind").

³ *Sanjō* may mean "delegate" or "visitor": e.g., delegate from the Sōtō-shū (school) headquarters.