

## NO HESITATION

One time while teaching, Master Lin-Chi stated, “Upon the lump of red flesh there is a ‘True Man of no Status’ who ceaselessly goes out and in through the gates of your face. Those who have not yet recognized him, look out, look out!” A monk came forward and asked, “What is the True Man of no Status?” The Master descended from the meditation cushion, grabbed the monk and said, “Speak! Speak!” The monk hesitated. The Master released him and said, “What a shit-stick this True Man of no Status is!” Then he withdrew to his quarters.

In writing this, I have promised not to hesitate. This way there won’t be so much wool-gathering and thinking to get in the way of what is really happening right now. I may be able to write a whole page in just a couple of minutes. We’ll see.

Hesitation is like poison in Ch’an practice. Notice how Master Lin-Chi treated the monk who hesitated when he challenged him to “Speak! Speak!” Life itself is challenging us to “Speak! Speak!” but we don’t speak when life demands it. In other words, we hesitate....we hesitate because of our inability to come face-to-face with what is real, what is right here, what is right now. And because of this inability, the Ch’an path is very difficult for us. The more difficult it gets, the stronger our effort must be.

This is why, in the Meditation Hall, we absolutely, positively do not hesitate when doing anything, because it is this hesitation which leads directly to the egocentric, discursive mind which is the source of all our misery. We are miserable because we consider everything to be owned by our own beautiful, wonderful selves, and it is this so-called beautiful, wonderful sense of self that causes us to trip and stumble around and fall down day after day after day. So when we are in the Meditation Hall we go directly from one activity to the next.....BOOM! Just like Master Lin-Chi, who never hesitated when life demanded that he “Speak! Speak!”

Hesitation is death.....hesitation is loss.....hesitation is pain.....hesitation is delusion. Hesitation is an illness that we MUST cure before we can get right to the heart of the matter. So we train and train and train and train until every move we make, every sound we make, every thought that comes to the surface, has nothing to do with the discursive mind, but everything to do with the True Mind, the Mind that is infinite and everlasting, the Mind that is Enlightenment itself. No hesitation, no stalling, nothing of that sort can even exist in this mind, which is why it is so easy sometimes to see just how much delusion we are holding on to. It’s manifest in the way we behave when it’s time to do the next thing.....do we go RIGHT

to the next thing and do it, or do we hesitate and think about it? I'm not talking about making considered decisions....that's another matter for another time. I'm talking about being one with this very moment, which makes us one with EVERY moment. It's much more than just putting an "e" at the beginning of "very moment," causing it to become "every moment." It's practicing the art of non-hesitation, the art of being totally aware, totally awake. We try and try and try, and it's hard, but we still keep trying and trying and trying. This is why this place is here....this is why these people are here.....to give us the golden opportunity to practice the art of non-hesitation. So the least we can do is to not hesitate when given this golden opportunity, in the hope that this non-hesitation will carry over into our everyday, minute-to-minute existence. Imagine.....I just wrote a Dharma Talk in about three minutes! Well, actually, no one did except the True Man of no Status!