

Shunryū Suzuki-rōshi

**~~REMARKS AT THE CEREMONY OFFICIALLY OPENING
BEGINNER'S MIND TEMPLE~~**

~~Sunday, April 26, 1970~~

Incorrect: This is an excerpt from 70-01-04, reprinted in *Wind Bell* F/W 1970-1971, p. 4. (Only Ananda's quote is from the opening ceremony.)

It may be a mistake to think it is easy to practice zazen when we have a complete building with a nice Buddha Hall and zendō. I know how difficult it is to practice in this kind of building. Because the building is so good there are difficulties. You know that to practice our way is not easy. It is difficult.

Our practice should be related to our life in the city and to the lives of our neighbors, too. This is a city zendō, where everyone may come and practice our way—not only old students but also people from outside of Zen Center.

There are big difficulties for new students and old students alike. Old students will have double-duty, and new students will have difficulties which they do not even dream of. So the old students must make practice easier for the new ones. The old students should lead the new students so they can practice our way more easily, but without telling them this way or that way—you should do this or you should not do that. **And our daily life in this building—extended from our zazen practice—should have a good relationship with our neighbors, too. Even though someone's nose is beautiful it should not be fixed upside-down.** MADE UP! NOT IN ORIGINAL LECTURE!

We say our practice is the ornament of Buddha. Even though students don't know what Buddhism is, if they come to some beautiful Buddha hall then they will naturally have some feeling. But essentially, for Zen Buddhists, the ornaments of the Buddha Hall are the people who practice there. Each one of us is—should be—a beautiful flower. And each one of us should be Buddha himself, who leads people in our practice.