

The Case

It was 1972, and we were driving on 8th St. in LA from ZCLA to go pick up his son, Markie, from school, and I asked Tetsugen, "If you could change anything about yourself, what would it be?" There was a very long silence. Finally, I looked over at him in the passenger seat, and he was chuckling uproariously. I said, "Why are you chuckling like that?" Bernie looked over at me and said, "I can't think of a single thing."

It was 1972, and we were sitting in the original Zendo at ZCLA. I looked to my right down the row that I was sitting in, which of course I wasn't supposed to be doing. Everyone was working very hard on sitting strong. I looked to my left and saw everybody also working very hard, as if there was something to get, as if by concentrating hard they could get it. I then turned around and looked behind me, and I saw Tetsugen sitting there with a big grin on his face. I immediately knew that he knew that there was nothing to get! It was at that moment that I knew I would stay and study with Maezumi Roshi because he had to be a great master to have such a great realized student as Tetsugen.