

First, Sr. Rosario Sensei could not be here, nor could she deliver her teisho yesterday because of technological reasons. However, it is my privilege to convey to you her Closing Preaching.

Today, around 10:58 a.m. is the full moon. In our practice, the full moon is symbolic of the culmination of one's practice – seeing into our True Nature. The moon is a recurring theme in Sr. Rosario's various teisho. She expresses the fact so well with this haiku

The moon is always full  
Whether you see her or not,  
She is always full.

What a wonderful metaphor! And so it is with True Nature.

Sr. Rosario's teisho was to have been on Case No. 36 of the Shoyoroku – Master Ba is ill. This is also the subject of Hekiganroku No. 3. In this koan, Great Master Ba was on his deathbed and the head monk asks him how he feels. Master Ba replies "Sun-face Buddha, Moon-face Buddha. Sun-face Buddha is purportedly a Buddha who lives for 1,800 years. Moon face Buddha, on the other hand, is one who lives for only 24 hours. The following day, Master Ba passes on to Nivana.

I think all of you can savor the various layers of this koan. Sr. Rosario expresses it very clearly in her haiku.

Her teisho also celebrates the Sun-face Buddha in the myriad acts of compassion that are blossoming with the sharp prodding of the coronavirus.

Finally, she enjoins us to truly see who this Master Ba is;  
and that is no other than each one of us, here, now.

On my part, I wish to thank the buddhas who helped make this Virtual Sesshin a success. They are Carmen Afable, Tina dela Cruz, Je-el Constantino, Marites Ocampo Palad, and Dave Aguilar. They sometimes had to sacrifice precious minutes of Zazen to make sure everything was going well. But the deepest gratitude goes to each and everyone of you who made this Virtual Sesshin a genuine manifestation of Sanbo – the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha.

Now, the closing prayers –  
The Heart Sutra in whatever version you wish,  
The Ekomon, Modified for the season of the virus  
And Shigu Seigan Mon, the Four Great Aspirations

Though we chant these prayers in the individual sanctuaries of our homes, only One Sound issues forth from the innermost recesses of our beings in one Universal Unending Moment.

Thank you.