

Statement at end of Sesshin, Apr 1968 [68-04-23-C]

Tuesday, April 23, 1968
Tassajara

In spite of my lack of effort, you fulfilled this training period very well. I am satisfied Katsuzen-san did it very well, supported by many students who are here with us.

We say, "Before spring has gone, the summer comes." We had spring training. And right here we will have the next sesshin.

If I pause for a while, I cannot help being amazed at what I see, including you. You developed very well, and at the same time Tassajara became more and more mature. These may not be the right words for congratulations, but it is exactly how I feel. So we should try not to be lost in our practice, and Tassajara also should not be lost from this world by your efforts. Like various unknown flowers near the stream, we should keep up with the world of transiency.

Thank you very much.

Edited by DC 12-16-2014 with this comment: Suzuki's reference to his lack of effort is because he missed most of the practice period due to a lengthy flu. "Katherine" was replaced with "Katzuzen," shuso, head monk, Phillip Wilson's Zen name. The seasonal comment reflects the Japanese view of each season hinting at its coming in the prior one. I wrote about this in *Thank You and OK*. This is the entire lecture or comment by Suzuki.

Source: City Center original tape. Verbatim transcript by Bill Redican (8/15/01)
