

Buddhism in Fifteen Words

PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR INTENTION (5)

Wisdom: Right View and Right Thought

- A correct view of the naturally occurring koan generates a pure intention.
- Vows and intentional activity based on them lead directly to attainment of spiritual autonomy and effortless knowledge.

DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW (6)

Meditation: Right Effort, Right Concentration, and Right Mindfulness

- As students of the Buddha, only an authentic direct perception of the world satisfies our yearnings.
- The mystery of Don't-Know Mind emerges from the study of reality.
- Don't-Know Mind is the middle way of Buddhism where the Personal and Universal Aspects of Mind manifest in unending intimacy and openness.

NO BLAME, ONLY RESPONSIBILITY (4)

Morality: Right Speech, Right Action, and Right Livelihood

- The law of karma is studied and understood.
- The fundamental misperception – how we come to initially see the world – is an innocent mistake and has no blame in it.
- Buddhist morality arises within a transformed state of being where innate purity emerges and penetrates all aspects of life.
- Liberation offers a means by which *“you discover that you have rendered something in its true character.”*

SUMMARY: The highest form of living is simple: seek awakening and manifest what is learned.

Buddhism in Fifteen Words is based on Renshin Verkuilen's fable *The Tale of Zen Master Bho Li*. A PDF of the book and an audio recording are available at midwestsotozen.org/zen-sparks