

White Plum Asanga – the lineage of Dharma heirs of Taizan Maezumi

Unsui

Referring to become monk, becoming homeless – in the mind – and being everywhere and nowhere like Clouds and Water

Hoshi – assistant teacher

In the White Plum Asanga, the first step in a practitioner's teaching career is to receive the rank of "Hoshi" or Dharma Holder. This usually signifies that the practitioner has completed all or a portion of the White Plum koan curriculum and can start giving Dharma talks and seeing students in private interviews under the supervision of their teacher.

Denkai

The White Plum Asanga, consisting of Dharma heirs of Taizan Maezumi, recognizes denkai, transmission of the Bodhisattva Precepts, in advance of dharma transmission:

This authorizes them to give the precepts (jukkai) and to ordain (shukke tokudo), although not to give dharma transmission, themselves.[web 14]

This precept-transmission has a long history in Sōtō-shū. Keizan, the fourth Sōtō-patriarch, received transmission of the precepts from Gien, the third (actually fourth) abbot of Eihei-ji, but received dharma transmission from Tettsū Gikai, the disputed third abbot of Enheiji. According to Keizan's Denkoroku, Dogen had received Dharma transmission from Rujing, but precept transmission via the Rinzai-lineage of Myōzen, with whom he first studied.

Denbo

In the White Plum Asanga, full Dharma transmission is conferred through receiving denbo and qualifies one as a sensei. At this point a practitioner may give denkai and denbo to their students as they see fit.

Inka

Dharma Transmission may be followed by inka, the final acknowledgement:

... once you have transmission then your teacher is sort of watching to see how you're doing as a teacher – on how you are conducting yourself and, after a period of time, if the teacher has confidence in your understanding and ability to teach (that you are conducting yourself with integrity and clarity) then, at some point, the person will get the final seal of approval – which is what inka is. There is nothing particularly mysterious about it.