

# Goals & Rewards of Teaching ~ Shinzen Young

00:00:00 So what is the most rewarding thing for you as a teacher?

00:00:11 Not hard to imagine.

00:00:13 It's seeing progress of people that study with me.

00:00:18 That's the most rewarding thing.

00:00:23 And that progress takes various forms.

00:00:26 Some people experience little progress, little pieces of progress.

00:00:31 Every once in a while somebody actually has a major insight.

00:00:41 So that's what's rewarding for me as a teacher is seeing the progress of the students.

00:00:49 I only judge my worth as a teacher in terms of the progress of the student.

00:00:57 Confucius said, not to learn is the student's fault.

00:01:02 Not to teach is the teacher's fault.

00:01:05 I disagree.

00:01:11 If the student doesn't learn, it's not the student's fault.

00:01:14 It's the teacher's fault.

00:01:16 It's my fault.

00:01:19 In other words, it's the job of the teacher to make it possible for the student to learn.

00:01:25 We can't say, oh well, you don't have the right karma or whatever.

00:01:31 It's like if they're not getting it, it's on me.

00:01:33 It's not on them.

00:01:35 So to find a way to communicate with them.

00:01:38 So you're talking about communication skills.

00:01:41 Well yes.

00:01:42 Unless you're doing a transmission.

00:01:44 You asked me what's most rewarding.

00:01:49 In general, what's most rewarding is when the students make progress.

00:02:01 If a student happens to have a classical liberation experience, which happens occasionally, the

00:02:09 sudden kinds of things, that of course is really, really good.

00:02:16 So that's extremely rewarding.

00:02:21 The other rewarding thing for me is if I can figure out something new, something that hasn't

00:02:31 been tried before, that works.

00:02:34 Which you do on a daily basis.

00:02:36 You're always coming up with something new.

00:02:38 Well I go around with a notebook.

00:02:42 I would say that although I've been guiding people for some 35 years, I learn something

00:02:51 new every day.

00:02:53 And I take notes on my own process.

00:02:58 Every once in a while I get these epiphanies of creativity with regards to how you can

00:03:05 teach people.

00:03:06 And when I get one of those, that's really, really good.

00:03:11 And that's extremely fulfilling.

00:03:14 I try it out and it actually works.

00:03:17 My ultimate goal as a teacher is that anything I have personally experienced, I could lead

00:03:25 anybody else to that experience.

00:03:28 That's what I set for myself as my goal.