

Many Facets of Enlightenment ~ Shinzen Young

00:00:00 How much does the path one takes towards enlightenment affect the nature of the enlightenment?

00:00:19 The quick and easy answer is if you were to focus only on the breath and come to an enlightenment

00:00:27 experience through that, it would be essentially the same kind of experience that a person

00:00:35 would have if they did a more systematic deconstructive path or if they did a reconstructive path

00:00:43 like the Vajrayana path where you sort of create an alternate identity from scratch

00:00:50 that's archetypal.

00:00:51 I would say they all take you to essentially the same type of experience.

00:01:00 But having said that, the confounding factor is that although it's essentially the same

00:01:08 ballpark, enlightenment is like a many-faceted jewel.

00:01:13 There's so many different sides to it.

00:01:16 So what side you're going to emphasize may slightly be influenced by what path you took,

00:01:25 but not necessarily.

00:01:26 You might take a certain path there and when you get there, decide to emphasize something

00:01:31 quite different in contrast to what the path was that took you there.

00:01:37 Also it unfolds with time.

00:01:40 One of my teachers used to say,

00:01:42 今日の悟りは明日の間違い

00:01:45 That means today's enlightenment is tomorrow's mistake.

00:01:49 Not mistake in the sense of fundamental mistake, but in the sense of, well, Newtonian physics

00:01:57 is basically right, but Einstein had something to say.

00:02:03 And then Richard Feynman had something else to say that built on this.

00:02:11 So it's like science.

00:02:13 It's many-faceted.

00:02:14 So it will present itself to you over the years in different aspects.

00:02:22 For example, my main teacher, Sasaki Roshi, when I met him, he was already a master's

00:02:28 master.

00:02:29 I mean, he was already a senior Roshi when I first met him.

00:02:34 He's now 102, 103.

00:02:40 I've known him for 25, 26 years now.

00:02:45 Over those two and a half decades, I have seen him evolve and hone his paradigm and

00:02:54 change his emphasis.

00:02:56 So he was already a master's master and he is discovering new facets of this at that

00:03:02 level.

00:03:04 So I would say that the path that you take will somewhat influence how you conceptualize

00:03:12 the experience, but it's not necessarily going to constrain it in some way.

00:03:19 And in fact, you may end up doing something quite different, ending up with quite a different

00:03:24 paradigm.

00:03:26 So I would say it's a matter of depth and what facet you're choosing to emphasize, rather
00:03:33 than a matter of what technique you use to bring you to that.