

Bodhidharma's One Mind Precepts

from The Mind of Clover by Roshi Robert Aitken

Commentary on the Ten Grave Precepts

1. Bodhidharma said, "Self-nature is subtle and mysterious. In the realm of the everlasting dharma, not giving rise to concepts of killing is called the Precept of Not Killing."
2. Bodhidharma said, "Self-nature is subtle and mysterious. In the realm of the unattainable dharma, not having thoughts of gaining is called the Precept of Not Stealing."
3. Bodhidharma said, "Self-nature is subtle and mysterious. In the realm of the ungilded dharma, not creating a veneer of attachment is called the Precept of Not Misusing Sex."
4. Bodhidharma said, "Self-nature is subtle and mysterious. In the realm of the inexplicable dharma, not preaching a single word is called the Precept of Not Lying."
5. Bodhidharma said, "Self-nature is subtle and mysterious. In the realm of the intrinsically pure dharma, not giving rise to delusions is called the Precept of Not Giving or Taking Drugs."
6. Bodhidharma said, "Self-nature is subtle and mysterious. In the realm of the flawless dharma, not expounding upon error is called the Precept of Not Speaking of Faults of Others."
7. Bodhidharma said, "Self-nature is subtle and mysterious. In the realm of the equitable dharma, not dwelling on I against you is called the Precept of Not Praising Yourself While Abusing Others."
8. Bodhidharma said, "Self-nature is subtle and mysterious. In the genuine, all- pervading dharma, not being stingy about a single thing is called the Precept of Not Sparing the Dharma Assets."
9. Bodhidharma said, "Self-nature is subtle and mysterious. In the realm of the selfless dharma, not contriving reality for the self is called the Precept of Not Indulging in Anger."
10. Bodhidharma said, "Self-nature is subtle and mysterious. In the realm of the One, not holding dualistic concepts of ordinary beings and sages is called the Precept of Not Defaming the Three Treasures."