



# The Willow Tree Cannot be Broken

*the Spirit, Practice and  
Teaching of Soto Zen*



*Dogen Zenji*

**Saturdays**

**August 11, September 8,  
October 13, November 10**

**10:30 am to 12 noon**

**Carl Cherry Center for the Arts, Carmel**

*The Willow Tree Cannot Be Broken*, a series of classes exploring the spirit, practice and teachings of Soto Zen, will continue at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts through November.

Through meditation, talks and discussion, the classes will investigate the core teachings, themes and practice of Dogen Zenji. The series is intended to make Dogen's writings and practice accessible to students, including those not familiar with Zen or Buddhism in general.

Traditionally credited as the founder of Japanese Soto Zen, Dogen Kigen (1200—1253) combined a profound religious realization with keen philosophical understanding that continues to define Zen practice in Japan and the west. A prolific writer whose works have instructed and inspired for more than 700 years, Dogen Zenji used everything from Mahayana philosophy to poetry to the details of everyday life in a monastery to illuminate Zen practice.

An important teaching in Soto Zen is that every thought, word, and action is part of our spiritual life, whether or not we choose to acknowledge them as significant. By exploring the teaching of this pivotal teacher we will make the effort to integrate the Soto style into all aspects of life.

The classes will be taught by Robert Reese, a priest in the lineage of Suzuki Roshi and members of the MBZC teaching council.