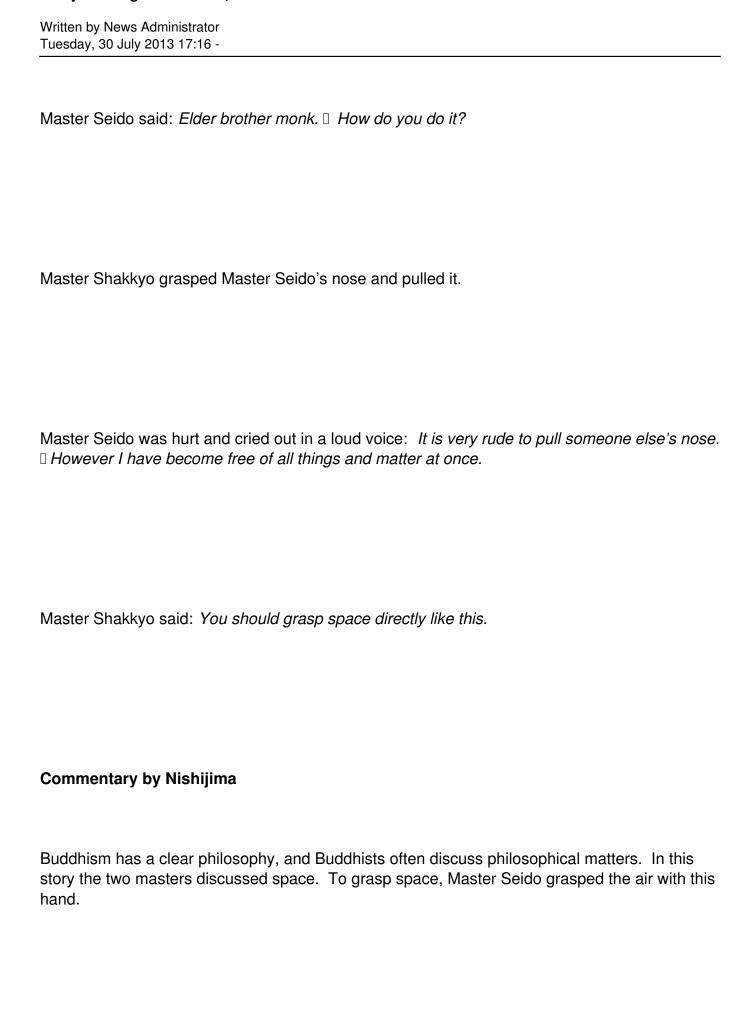
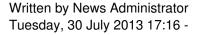
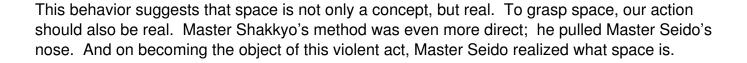
Written by News Administrator Tuesday, 30 July 2013 17:16 -

| Koan Commentaries |
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| Master Shakkyo Ezo asked Master Seido Chizo: Do you know how to grasp space or not? |
| Master Seido said: <i>I know how to grasp space.</i> |
| Master Shakkyo said: How do you grasp it? |
| Master Seido made a gesture of grasping the air with his hand. |
| Master Shakkyo said: You don't know how to grasp space! |







This story also teaches that Buddhist theory is not just concept; it points to reality here and now.

Commentary by John Fraser

The immediate meaning of the story appears to be that Seido has an intellectual understanding of space, unrelated to his actual experience. Shakkyo's vigorous action brings him back.

We can also see this as being about emptiness. The 'ku' in 'koku' [space] is the same 'ku' [emptiness] as we encounter in the heart Sutra. A point is being made about space and emptiness; their relationship, and a world re-envisioned by that relationship.

We carelessly imagine the space between us as dead space; the permanently dead space between the precariously alive things. But if both 'space' and 'things' are empty, then the distinction disappears, and the whole fabric of the world becomes dynamically alive. And so, there is no 'space'. We can call this Indra's Net, or Interdependence, or the body of the Buddha. But if we do, we should expect to get our nose pulled.

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