

# **Case for Dharma Exchange**

## **Shoyoroku Case 12:**

### **Jizo Plants the Field**

#### **PREFACE TO THE ASSEMBLY**

Scholars cultivate the pen. Orators cultivate speech. Zen students tire of seeing the white ox on the bare ground, and we don't even turn to look at the rootless, splendid herb. How do we pass our days?

#### **MAIN CASE**

Attention! Priest Jizo asked Priest Shuzan, "Where did you come from?" Shuzan replied, "I came from the South." Jizo replied, "How is the Buddha-dharma down South these days?" Shuzan answered, "There's a lot of debate going on." Jizo said, "Here, it is better for me to plant the fields, make rice balls, and eat." Shuzan asked, "What about the three worlds?" Jizo replied, "What is it that you call the three worlds?"

#### **APPRECIATORY VERSE**

Zen discussions numerous, altogether artificial;  
flowing between mouth and ear they cause separation.  
Planting the field, making rice-balls—an everyday affair:  
unless replete with his inquiry, a person can't know it.  
Replete with his inquiry, he knows for sure there is nothing to seek;  
General Shiho after all didn't value awards of rank.  
Activity forgotten, having returned, he's like the fish and birds;  
washing his feet in the smoky Soro waters of autumn.