

Grass Cutting Story

By Seung Sahn

In Korea, people use grass cuttings to make compost. Cutting the grass with a sickle was a job for children. When I was eight years old I liked the job, so one day my friends and I went out and I cut a lot of grass. Then we gathered it all in a bag, and we all went to school together. On the way, one of my friends said to me, "You cut your leg!" Then I looked at my leg and saw the blood. I was bleeding very badly, and blood was making squishing sounds in my rubber shoe as I walked. As soon as I saw this, I fell to the ground in great pain and couldn't move. The other students all came around to see what had happened, and they ran to get my mother and helped me to the hospital.

Excerpted from *Only Don't Know; The Teaching Letters of Zen Master Seung Sahn*, Four Seasons Foundation, San Francisco, 1982, p. 79.)