

Rebel Buddha by Dzogchen Ponlop

TOPICS, TALKING POINTS

Buddhists

1. There are many assumptions people make about Buddhists. They are peaceful, happy, vegetarian, compassionate, content, and humble -- just to name a few. Isn't this stereotype a turnoff for many people who would otherwise adopt a Buddhist lifestyle?
2. You wrote an article for the Washington Post called "The Buddha Wasn't a Buddhist." If the Buddha wasn't a Buddhist, why should we become Buddhists? Can't we each find enlightenment on our own, just as the Buddha did?
3. What would be a typical day in the life of a Buddhist -- for example in New York City or Hong Kong?
4. What is the most important quality for Western students of Buddhism to cultivate?