

Transmission
~ An excerpt from *Passages: An Introduction and Commentary*
on *Richard Rose's Albigen System*
by Mike Gegenheimer and Shawn Nevins

The fifth level, transmission, is perhaps the most potentially paradoxical and seemingly vague. Transmission is the direct conveyance of a deep spiritual realization and is mentioned as part of Rose's Three-Fold Path, discussed in the likewise-named chapter of this book. Zen master Fayán, writing in the 9th century, said "When the founder of Zen came from India to China, it was not because there was something to transmit; he just pointed directly to people's minds, so that they could see their essence and realize enlightenment." That pointing is transmission. There are many ways to point, verbal and non-verbal. The moon on a cloudless night is pointing. The wind rustling through grass is pointing. The haunting lyrics of a song. The nostalgic glimpse of a light in a far-away window. All pointing. The voice of the teacher, the presence in a room. A word. Silence. All pointing.



Thus, there is no need to traipse around the world looking for a teacher to transmit to you. Avoid the trap of chasing the idea of transmission; hoping for rescue by a teacher who will drop the liquid nectar of enlightenment into your mind. Even if you did, Rose didn't believe a teacher could simply pick a student and transmit enlightenment to them like handing out a certificate. There has to be a readiness within the student. That readiness results from the commitment of a student of self-definition to apply the attention and energy needed to develop mental discrimination and intuition, and apply them in a subtractive path for the sake of knowing truth itself. Through that effort, the levels of meditation described [in this book] become manifest.

Because instances of transmission between teachers and students are rare, and nearly all accounts of realization seem to involve circumstances when seekers are alone, the readiness within the student resulting from their own inner work is clearly what matters most.

* * *

~ Order *Passages* from [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)