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Ton Lathouwers (1932) is one of the most liberal Zen teachers in Europe. From 1968 until 1996 he was Professor of Slavic Literature. In 1987, he received transmission by the Chan master Teh Cheng. He is the driving force behind the *Maha Karuna Chan* (The Great Compassion), a lay movement in The Netherlands and Flemish Belgium.

Ton Lathouwers

MORE THAN ANYONE CAN DO

ZEN TALKS

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The Zen talks of Ton Lathouwers are always personal in tone. They are actually testimonies in which he weaves together his own experiences with references to his voraciously wide reading. He enjoys illustrating his insights with texts drawn from a variety of literary and spiritual traditions, both Eastern and Western. Lathouwers speaks from heart to heart and truly knows how to convey the faith that everyone is capable of finding his or her own personal answer to the great mystery of existence.

'Talking doesn't work, for it immediately creates mental representations that are going to take on a life of their own. Remaining silent doesn't work either. Sitting *zazen* doesn't help. *Koan*-training doesn't help. [...] Studying doesn't help. Nothing works. Maybe you recognize this experience yourself. It is in every respect my own experience, the story of my life. And yet at the same time, there is the other side: that there can be unlimited trust, that life itself is limitless faith, boundless openness.'

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