

SCHEDULE

Friday evening 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm



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VERNAL Equinox

KOAN RETREAT



*In the midst of winter
I found
invincible spring*

Nakagawa Soen

This is the stone, drenched with rain
that points the way

Santoku



When Enkakuji temple was destroyed by fire in 1374, the Buddhist and Confucian books that its founder had brought from China were reduced to ashes. Priests from a nearby shrine came to the temple, distressed about the loss of these ancient texts.

Fumon, the master of Enkakuji, said to them, "None of the texts has been burned."

"Then where are they?" asked a priest doubtfully.

The teacher drew a circle and said, "They are in here."

The priests didn't understand, and one of them asked, "Would you show us the Tang edition of the *Mahavairochana Sutra*?"

Fumon held up one hand. The priests didn't know what to make of this.

Another of them asked, "Will you show us the later translations of the *Lotus Sutra*?" Fumon held up one hand.

A Confucian scholar asked to see a copy of the *Four Confucian Classics*, and Fumon again held up his hand.

Then a teacher of the Shingon school asked, "What is that supposed to mean?"

Fumon said, "The covers got burned, but you can still hold the texts in your hand."



What is the buddha nature of this cup?

Explain buddha nature to your dog

Sing for the birds

Make spring rise from the palm of your hand



When Dongshan was ill, someone asked him, "You are unwell. Is there someone, after all, who is not sick?"

Dongshan said, "There is."

"Does the one who is not sick nurse you?"

"I am nursing that one," Dongshan replied.

"What's it like when you nurse that one?"

"Then I don't see that there is illness."