

16 Bodhisattvas
Koan Sunday



April 11, 2010

Quickly, without thinking good and evil,
before your parents were born —
what is your original face?



In the dark, darken further

Daodejing



One day the poet Shangu was visiting Chan teacher Huitang. Huitang said, “You know the passage in which Confucius says, ‘My friends, do you think I’m hiding things from you? In fact, I am hiding nothing from you.’ It’s just the same with the Great Matter of Zen. Do you understand this?”

“I don’t understand,” Shangu replied.

Later Huitang and Shangu were walking in the mountains, where the air was filled with the scent of sweet-olive blossoms. Huitang asked, “Do you smell the fragrance of the blossoms?”

Shangu said, “I do.”

Huitang said, “You see, I’m hiding nothing from you.”



Hold up your cushion (or chair)

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