

Ordinary Mind Is The Way

Zhaozhou asked Nanquan, “What is the Way?”

Nanquan said, “Ordinary mind is the Way.”

“Should I try to turn toward it?”

“If you try to turn toward it, you move away from it.”

“How can I know the Way if I don’t turn toward it?”

“The Way has nothing to do with knowing or not knowing. Thinking you know is delusion, thinking you don’t know is blankness. When you truly reach the Way, it’s as vast as space itself. How could we talk about this in terms of *it’s this* or *it isn’t this*?”

With these words, Zhaozhou suddenly understood.

Sun-face Buddha, Moon-face Buddha

The evening before Great Master Ma died, his abbot asked, “Your health has not been good. How are you feeling these days?”

Ma replied, “Sun-face Buddha, Moon-face Buddha.”

* A sun-face buddha lives for 1800 years, a moon-face buddha only a day and a night.

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