

All the desires of my original heart-mind are fulfilled by the treasury that is naturally here before me. The sky is up above. Down below is the earth. To the left is the kitchen, and to the right the meditation hall. So where is the treasury? Do you see it? If we stand and sit in a dignified manner, and listen and speak clearly, brilliant light floods our eyes and there is limitless peace. All sacred and mundane matters are brought to an end and all confining views drop away. The rivers are nectar and the great earth is gold. If a single phrase were to flow from your chest, what would it be? 'Since ancient times it's been streaming like white silk; the blue mountains appear on the horizon.'

Yuanwu



MORNING STAR KOANS



HEART

MIND

Zhaozhou said, "Buddhahood is passion and passion is Buddhahood."

A monk asked, "In whom does the Buddha cause passion?"

"The Buddha causes passion in all of us."

"How should we get rid of it?"

"Why should we get rid of it?"

Zhaozhou asked Nanquan, "What is the Way?"

Nanquan said, "Ordinary heart-mind is the Way."

No-Mind is exactly the function of mind, while constantly using the mind is to never allow it to function.

Niutou

Why are completely enlightened bodhisattvas attached to the blood-red thread?

Ten days in this temple and my mind is reeling!
Between my legs the red thread stretches and stretches.
If you come some other day and ask for me,
better look in a fish stall, a sake shop, or a brothel.

Ikkyu

A monastic asked Guishan, "Does someone who's attained enlightenment still need to continue with self-cultivation?"

Guishan said, "Through meditation a student may attain no-thought, become suddenly enlightened, and realize her original nature. But there are still delusions accumulated over numberless aeons that cannot be purified in a single moment. And so she should learn how to eliminate karmic tendencies and mental habits. There is no other way of cultivation."

Near death, Shoushan entered the hall to say goodbye to his community :

Silver world, golden body,

impassioned and passionless make one truth together.

When brightness and darkness are used up, neither shines forth;

the sun past its apex reveals the whole body.