

THE KOANS

Every day Ruiyan would call to himself, “Master!”
“Yes!” he would answer himself.

“Be wide awake!” he would say.

“Yes!”

“Whatever the time, whatever the day, never be misled by others!”

“Yes! Yes!”



Someone takes you skydiving as a birthday gift. You learn all the safety procedures, but after you finally jump you discover that your parachute won't open. What do you do?



Are you afraid of this happiness?



During the laying of the foundations for a medieval Japanese temple, a buried stone coffer was discovered. Inside was a perfect circular mirror, and engraved on the back were the words *en kaku*, Perfect Realization. So the place was named Enkakuji, the Temple of Perfect Realization.

Later when a student told his teacher this story, the teacher said, “Leave for a moment that perfect mirror buried underground. The perfect mirror at this instant in your hands—what is it? Try to bring it out of its stone coffer. If you don't get this, the Temple of Perfect Realization will not be built.”



“If my mind does not arise, all things are blameless.”

· This is the question that arose spontaneously when Shakyamuni contemplated giving up harsh austerities for a way of no resistance, no tension, and no grasping