

# *When the Heat Comes Retreat*

*Mountain Cloud Zen Center*

*July 2004*

## **Oceans**

I have a feeling that my boat  
has struck, down there in the depths,  
against a great thing.

And nothing

happens!

Nothing . . . Silence . . . Waves . . .

-- Nothing happens?

Or has everything happened,  
and are we standing now, quietly, in the new life?

Juan Ramon Jimenez (translated by Robert Bly)

Someone asked Huguo, "Where were the Dharma Guardian Deities during the Huishang Incident?"<sup>1</sup>

Huguo replied, "On either side of the great gate, they should be ashamed."

Someone asked, "What is the pure, undefiled sangha?"

Zhaozhou said, "A young virgin."

"What are the people in the sangha?"

"The virgin is pregnant."

Xuefeng said, "Someone sitting next to a basket of food is starving to death, and someone sitting by a river is dying of thirst."

Xuansha commented, "Someone sitting in a basket of food is starving to death, and someone up to her head in water is dying of thirst."

Yunmen said, "Her whole body is food, her whole body is water!"

All— is the price of All—

Emily Dickinson

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<sup>1</sup> During the Huishang Incident of 845, Chinese Buddhism was forcibly suppressed by order of the Emperor. The Dharma Guardians are the two statues protecting the main gate of a Buddhist temple.