

SHIBUYA SENSEI



This is a story related to Zen Master Ling-yun Chih-ch'in (Rei'un Shigon, ? - ?) who was training himself under Kuei-shan Lin-yu (Isan Reiyu, 771-853) for thirty years. One day in Spring Lin-yung Shih-ch'in gone for walking and sat down at a hillside to take a break. Relaxed, he looked down at the village below. Spring was full bloom, everywhere was covered with fragrant pink clouds of peach blossoms. When he looked at this, he all of a sudden was Awakened. He was so grateful to his master, Kue-shan Ling-yu, and offered a gatha to express his Awakening as follows:

A stranger, looking for a sword thirty years
Many times leaves fallen, buds sprouted
Looking at peach fully blossomed
Ice of doubt melted, not remaining anymore

It is wonderful to be Awakened, all the more the Awakening without any doubt. The spring breeze, peach blossoms, freezing boughs and twigs -- all three phenomena take place simultaneously. A true wonder of nature! That is the Awakening of Spring breeze, peach blossoms, and boughs and twigs as well as Zen Master Ling-yung Chih-ch'in. This is a life.

from WAKA POETRY by Sensei, 1999

Doing nothing; nothing is undone

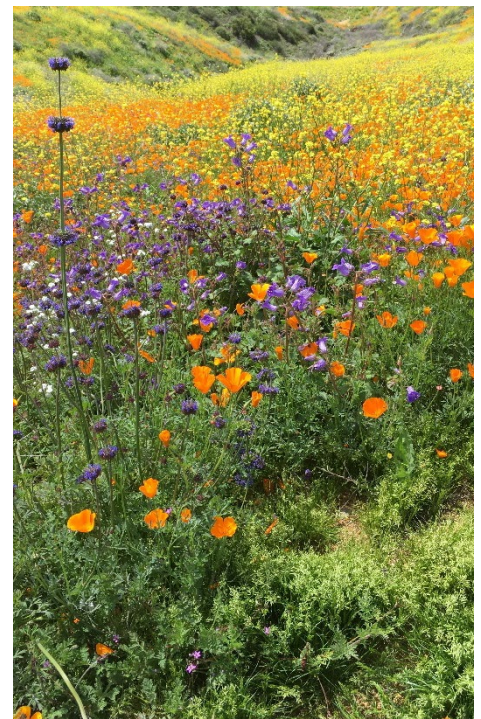
Doing nothing flowers bloom over the rolling hills of high desert.
When the rain starts to fall in the early spring
All the ground is carpeted with all kinds of colors:
White of Davy Gilia and Daisies,
Golden Desert Dandelion,
Yellow Eriophyllum and Acton Daisy,
Pink Red Stem Filaree and Sand Verbenas,
Orange poppies,
Blue Dicks,
Lavender Phacelia
Purple Nama

Spring breeze go through the desert scented with blossoms
Transforming the silent valley into the melodious land of life

Golden orange reflects the sunlight of California
From snowcapped Sierra-Nevada mountains
To the beach of Pacific Ocean

True nature and heart of the Golden State, true Paradise on the earth...

from CONSCIOUS BREATHS by Sensei, 2010



Subhuti was Buddha's disciple. He was able to understand the potency of emptiness, the viewpoint that nothing exists except in its relationship of subjectivity and objectivity. One day Subhuti, in a mood of sublime emptiness, was sitting under a tree. Flowers began to fall about him. "We are praising you for your discourse on emptiness," the gods whispered to him. "But I have not spoken of emptiness," said Subhuti. "You have not spoken of emptiness, we have not heard emptiness," responded the gods. "This is the true emptiness." And blossoms showered upon Subhuti as rain.

from 101 ZEN STORIES by Nyogen Senzaki, 1957



Stands here *Bhikkhu* Subhuti
The best with *sunnata*, emptiness
Among all disciples of the Tathagata
The best with non-quarreling
The best with non-argumentativeness
The best with non-resentment
Of every disciple of the Bhagavan
Originally a spoiled young man from rich family
Throwing stones to cawing crows
Stands here midst admiration
In the sounds
In the noises
In the bustle of the megalopolis museum

I wish, I would be the same as him

Pearl looks upon him
Goes around the statue
Again and again
How beautiful
How serene
How detached
This is a true person
Lives in the world
Practices
Attains
Peacefulness

I wish to be as him.

Shaving head
Wearing civara
Holding an alms bowl
With bare feet
Going from house to house
Village to village
Town to town
City to city
From north down to south
Along the main street of the capital
From west to east
Riding the wind of emptiness

Passing hills
Traversing rivers
Climbing mountains
Sleeping under trees
Meditating on rocks
Like a fleecy cloud
Like a fresh breeze
Like balmy sunlight
Like the serene moon in autumn
Like cherry blossoms in spring
Like watermelon in summer
Like honey bantam in autumn

Feeding the hungry
Quenching the thirst
Healing the sick and weak
Fulfilling the greedy and lustful
Encouraging the depressed
Purifying the defiled
Liberating the addicted
Appeasing the angry
Protecting the frightened
Resolving animosity between the brothers
Melting jealousy among the sisters
Breaking through the thicket of ignorance of the world

Calming the noises
Purifying pollution

Spreading peacefulness
Illuming the wisdom

