



WILLIAM BROWN

Fall Out of Bed/Get Enlightenment

(raises stick and hits table)

At this time 2,540 years ago, Buddha was born; also at about this time 2,000 years ago, Christ was crucified.

(raises stick and hits table)

Originally our true nature has no life, no death.

(raises stick and hits table)

Every day human beings celebrate births, and mourn deaths.

KATZ!

Outside yellow crocus are shining over brown grass.

Human life is originally empty, complete stillness. Returning to this original point, then in this stillness (everything, the whole universe) is clear; we see that the sky is blue, grass is green, water is flowing. One by one all things are already complete without consideration. Everything in every way is the truth—just like this. There are many *just like this* enlightenment stories associated with Zen folklore. Someone hears a bell and gets enlightenment, someone tastes that sugar is sweet and gets

enlightenment, or hears a rock falling, smells a flower, sees a dog chasing a cat, hears a mother scolding her child, a KATZ! or has their finger cut off.

What mind is unreservedly open to just seeing something, just hearing something, just smelling something, just tasting something, just touching something, just thinking something, just feeling something? Life follows intention or as Zen Master Seung Sahn says, cause and effect are clear. If your intention is clear then when you fall out of bed—boom! ouch!/wow (enlightenment). However, if you're bound by your self-regard, then falling out of bed—boom! ouch!/woe-is-me (suffering and hindrance).

If one person attains their original nature then the whole world is clear, however if one person is attached to "I" then the whole world is a suffering world. What can we do?

Truth is nothing special, just everyday and every moment going about our lives, hearing, seeing, etc. clearly. Then without being impeded we can follow completely whatever situation we find ourselves in, responding with the unconditional compassion and wisdom that defines our original nature. Without holding or checking our opinions, we just do it. Just doing it means complete freedom and complete responsibility.

When Southern Chan flourished under Hui Neng, the monks just farmed during the day, they did not have any formal practice nor did they read sutras. They didn't even have meditation halls. Their practice was and was kept alive by simple labor, working in the fields throughout the day, supporting one another, without depending on outside income. Only working together supporting and helping each other. That is our life, working together supporting and helping each other and this whole universe.

In every moment of our lives there is a just-like-this thing happening, just another case for enlightenment.

(raises stick and hits table)

Hui-Neng said, "People may be from the north or south, but how could Buddha nature have any east or west." "All things are not apart from our intrinsic nature which is inherently pure." An old Christian hymn says, "In Christ there is no east or west, in Him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth."

(raises stick and hits table)

In original nature there are no compasses, so how can you find your direction?

(raises stick and hits table)

Buddhism appearing in the West, Christianity appearing in the East.

KATZ!

Today western facing Buddha shines on eastern-facing sangha.

