

Poetry

Buddha's Enlightenment Day Poem

Barry Briggs JDPSN

December 7, 2013

Days came and went,
and the Buddha never moved.

Mara, with his armies and daughters, came and went,
and the Buddha never moved.

The morning star came and went,
and the Buddha never moved.

Traveling around India for 35 years,
the Buddha never moved.

But the whole world comes and goes non-stop
and enlightenment is never separate from this.

So . . . a big mistake.

The iron girl dances across the waves.
The cloud boy floats motionless in the sky.

How do we go beyond the mistake of movement
and stillness?

KATZ!

The gold Buddha sits unmoving on the altar.
Clouds of incense float through the air.

Happy Buddha's Enlightenment Day!

Wu Bong Sa, Autumn 2013

Ja An JDPSN

(Bogumila Malinowska)

At the End of the Road in the Garden
Home where whole Europe's Don't know was born:
Deep, deep Silence inside green trees, songs of birds,
dance of squirrels
Paid by all Colors of Pain
Thousands of hours up and down looking for this very
moment
Deep silence slowly swallows and digests Everybody
Anger
Desire
Ignorance
Stillness Home
Great hope for many in the Future
Where does this Clear, deep silence come from?
Where will it go?
KATZ!
Colorful leaves moving by Golden Autumn Wind
warming up and feeding the Earth

August 21, 2013

London

Around, Around, Around

10-Year Memorial Poem for Zen Master Seung Sahn

Ken Kessel JDPSN

Birth man, sick man, old-age man, death man
Which one is the true you?¹

Two empty hands teaching
In the ten directions
And the six realms
For 55 years²

Who knows where
You are now?³

Lofty Mountain
Pierces heaven and earth
Universe explodes⁴

(All Together): KATZ!⁵

Endless blue sky
Somewhere someone is thirsty
What can you do?⁶

Commentary:
The first time I saw you
The last time I saw you
Who sees who see what?
Clear, clear
White snow in winter. Blue sky in summer.

Notes

1. Why make birth, death and true? Still, there's something to teach.
2. No time. No space. No teaching. No poem. No problem.
3. Never mind the Zen master. Where is his attendant? If you find the attendant, you can find the Zen master.
4. Aigo! Aigo! Whose dream is this?
5. Now you're talking!
6. Sentient beings are numberless.