

Cold Mountain Blues

Poem by Jan Potemkin

with notes and capping verse by Zen Master Jok Um (Ken Kessel)

Is there no fresh snow?¹
I find my footprints everywhere,²
From shoes I don't have anymore,³
Back and forth,⁴
Stepping on old tracks.⁵
Sit on a cold round rock,⁶
Wondering—is there somewhere to go?⁷

NOTES

1. In the heat of the summer, Jan knows what to look for.
2. Quite the thing, while walking on the ocean.
3. Ah, if that were all.
4. If it's not here, it must be there.
5. No one else can find them, so it must be you.
6. Chilled to the bone, finally, he rests.
7. That's the right question. Sit there and ponder it more.

CAPPING VERSE

Pine needles
Eternally green
Covered with snow or dew
If you want to know the season
Look through the trees

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Jan Potemkin is a longtime practitioner in the Kwan Um School of Zen, at Chogye International Zen Center in New York. He is an attorney and lives in New Jersey.



Vrážné Zen Center

Winter Kyol Che 2020

January 4th 2020 - April 4th 2020

Retreat with 3 entries

For more details:

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