

## 修空華萬行

Kuge mangyō o shū su

Tracing flowers in the sky

This line is a couplet with “Sitting in the Moon Water dōjō.” With the condensation of the chilled air on a winter morning, small, shiny apparitions sometimes appear in the sky. There is in fact nothing there, but there is shining.

That place where there is nothing in the heavens and the earth obstructing us, and nothing below us to support us, is the state of mind of knowing Buddha Nature just as it is. The millions of years of this planet Earth and even the expanse of the universe are still only like a tiny bubble in the middle of the great ocean. That huge expansiveness is the state of mind to which we awaken.

Like lightning, each person shines brightly and then disappears. We are the scenery of a moment. Yet even if this world should vanish forever, in that infinite eternal Buddha Nature there is not the slightest disturbance. Our deep vow to liberate the numberless sentient beings and the compassion that comes from our deep samadhi will not be destroyed even in the greatest crisis. To make that vow and be determined to keep it is the Path of the Buddha.

“Tracing flowers in the sky” is an expression of our deep faith in that immovable state of mind. No matter what we encounter it’s always new, a manifestation of our great deep vow and our truth. This is the actuality of the empty flowers in the air. We must directly experience those flowers and the truth of that infinitely changing, unmoved Mind. This is the ultimate point of Buddhism.