

## 聽雨寒更盡

Ame kiite kan sara ni tsuku

Listening to the rain, I passed the cold night hours

This line is a couplet with “When I opened the doors, there were many fallen leaves.” After a night of deep solitude, listening to the rain falling on the roof, when daybreak comes it’s evident that what had sounded like rain was actually falling leaves.

A monk asked Master Taizui, “When the conflagration at the end of the eon comes and the universe is totally destroyed, is this One destroyed or not?”

Master Taizui answered matter-of-factly, “Of course it will be destroyed!”

The monk had been so certain that Buddha Nature is without birth and death. He thought that even if the physical world ended, the mind of enlightenment would be unaffected. He thought that those who have awakened are somehow separate. He was astonished at Taizui’s answer and further inquired, “That which isn’t influenced by anything, that which is the True Master, will it too disintegrate along with the world?”

Again, Taizui spoke directly, “Along with the world, it will be destroyed.”

By seeking an absolute,<sup>8</sup> the monk created two worlds. Taizui, speaking from actual experience of the One, responded that the monk’s double-faced view would be destroyed along with the world. Without having known this experience directly, the monk could only conceptualize it. He was like someone who mistakes falling leaves for rain.

There’s nothing sillier than searching for a world that we think will be like this or for something to be gained that we think will be like that. If we throw ourselves completely into each thing we do as we do it, our mind won’t be buffeted. Even if there’s an upheaval that roils the heavens and the earth, it’s only a reflection in a mirror.

This does not mean we shouldn’t have feelings; the sound of the rain brings a quiet, settled feeling that can be deeply enjoyed. Is our mind moved around by the situation, or can we truly just enjoy it?