

PREFACE VIII.

凡情脫落聖意皆空  
 有佛處不用遨遊  
 無佛處急須走過  
 兩頭不著  
 千眼難窺  
 百鳥啣華  
 一場懨羅

PERSON OX ALIKE FORGET

*Worldly desires drop away*  
*Holy intentions all empty*

*Having-no Buddha place:*  
*no need seek out*

*Without-urgent Buddha place:*  
*must pass by*

*Either side not touch*

*Thousand eyes difficult peering*

*Hundred birds offering flowers,*

*one scene shamed heart*

THE PERSON AND THE OX BOTH FORGOTTEN

All worldly emotions fall away; all sacred sentiments are empty.  
 No need to linger in places where the Buddha is;  
 in places where there is no Buddha, quickly pass by.  
 Neither side exists.  
 A thousand eyes could not detect him.  
 A hundred flower-offering birds:  
 that scene would be one long farce.

SELF AND OX FORGOTTEN

This serenity scatters no light. No holiness appears. If he thinks he is a Buddha, it passes quickly. Proud that he is not a Buddha, that goes too. Five hundred fully-enlightened ancient ones cannot see anything special in the man. If a hundred flower-bestowing birds circled his room, he would feel the deepest shame.

POEM VIII.

鞭索人牛盡屬空  
 碧天遼闊信難通  
 紅爐焰上爭容雪  
 到此方能合祖宗

PERSON OX ALIKE FORGET

*Whip rope*  
*person ox*  
*all belong emptiness*

*Blue sky*  
*wide deep*  
*words cannot penetrate*

*Red stove*  
*flame above*  
*how survive snow?*

*Arriving here*  
*only then*  
*join ancient teachers*

THE PERSON AND THE OX BOTH FORGOTTEN

Whip and rope, person and ox: all are empty.  
 Words cannot reproduce the vast blue sky.  
 How could snowflakes survive the flames of a forge?  
 One can only join the ancestors by getting to this place.

SELF AND OX FORGOTTEN

Empty whip, empty rope, empty Ox, empty human being.  
 "The vast blue sky" is not at all the vast blue sky.  
 Think of snow falling on a blazing fire. Just there  
 the spirit of the ancient masters is fully present.