

SILENT ILLUMINATION

By Chan Master Hongzhi Zhengjue
(Song Dynasty, 1091 - 1157)

Silently and serenely, one forgets all words,
Clearly and vividly, it appears before you.
When one realizes it, time has no limits.
When experienced, your surroundings come to life.

Singularly illuminating is this bright awareness,
Full of wonder is the pure illumination.
The moon's appearance, a river of stars,
Snow-clad pines, clouds hovering on mountain peaks.

In darkness, they glow with brightness.
In shadows, they shine with a splendid light.
Like the dreaming of a crane flying in empty space,
Like the clear, still water of an autumn pool,

Endless eons dissolve into nothingness,
Each indistinguishable from the other.
In this illumination all striving is forgotten.
Where does this wonder exist?

Brightness and clarity dispel confusion
On the path of Silent Illumination,
The origin of the infinitesimal.
To penetrate the extremely small,
There is the gold shuttle on a loom of jade.

Subject and object influence each other.
Light and darkness are mutually dependent.
There is neither mind nor world to rely on,
Yet do the two interact, mutually.

Drink the medicine of correct views.
Beat the poison-smeared drum.
When silence and illumination are complete
Killing and bringing to life are choices I make.

At last, through the door, one emerges.
The fruit has ripened on the branch.
Only this Silence is the ultimate teaching.
Only this Illumination, the universal response.
The response is without effort.

The teaching, not heard with the ears.
Throughout the universe, all things
Emit light and speak the Dharma.
They testify to each other,
Answering each other's questions:
Mutually answering and testifying,
Responding in perfect harmony.

When illumination is without serenity,
Then will distinctions be seen:
Mutually testifying and answering,
Giving rise to disharmony.

If within serenity illumination is lost,
All will become wasteful and secondary.
When Silent Illumination is complete,
The lotus will blossom, the dreamer will awaken.

The hundred rivers flow to the ocean,
The thousand mountains face the loftiest peak.
Like the goose preferring milk to water,
Like a busy bee gathering pollen,
When Silent Illumination reaches the ultimate,
I carry on the original tradition of my sect.

This practice is called Silent Illumination.
It penetrates from the deepest to the highest.

Translation from *Getting the Buddha Mind*,
Chan Master Sheng Yen, North Atlantic Books, 2005.

〈默照銘〉全文

宋·宏智正覺

默默忘言。昭昭現前。鑒時廓爾。體處靈然。靈然獨照。照中還妙。
露月星河。雪松雲_罽。晦而彌明。隱而愈顯。鶴夢煙寒。水含秋遠。
浩劫空空。相與雷同。妙存默處。功忘照中。妙存何存。惺惺破昏。
默照之道。離微之根。徹見離微。金梭玉機。正偏宛轉。明暗因依。
依無能所。底時回互。飲善見藥。_齋塗毒鼓。回互底時。殺活在我。
門裡出身。枝頭結果。默唯至言。照唯普應。應不墮功。言不_誦聽。
萬象森羅。放光_灑法。彼彼證明。各各問答。問答證明。恰恰相應。
照中失默。便見侵凌。證明問答。相應恰恰。默中失照。渾成剩法。
默照理圓。蓮開夢覺。百川赴海。千峯向岳。如鵝擇乳。如蜂採花。
默照至得。輸我宗家。宗家默照。透頂透底。舜若多身。母陀羅臂。
始終一揆。變態萬差。和氏獻璞。相如指瑕。當機有準。大用不勤。
寰中天子。寒外將軍。吾家底事。中規中矩。傳去諸方。不要賺舉。