

Sunday May 1, 2022

What Embodies Wonder

The Koan:

Transmission Poem *by Wenzhao*

If the well of divinity fails to stir,
what embodies wonder?

Utterly unique solitary brilliance,
whose radiance is it?

Perfect thus-ness
looks like reality.

Conceiving of an eminent ancestor
is making a blemish on perfect flesh.

Discussing "just this"
is searching for shadows.

For a lifetime the old teacher spoke of dreams,
and then died.

Each of us came here to wake up.
Don't you remember?

Questions:

1. What does it mean to "wake up" for you? Do you have examples of that?
2. What verse of the poem is the most important to you right now?
3. What verse do you think was the most important to Wenzhao?

Poem

The Breeze at Dawn *by Rumi*

The breeze at dawn has secrets to tell you.
Don't go back to sleep.

You must ask for what you really want.
Don't go back to sleep.

People are going back and forth across the
doorsill
where the two worlds touch.

The door is round and open.
Don't go back to sleep.

