

Sunday July 18, 2021

Flower Mountain Zen

The Space Between Difficult and Easy

Koan:

One day Layman Pang suddenly cried out, "Difficult, difficult, difficult! I've put ten coats of linseed oil on these planks, already!"

Mrs. Pang said, "Easy, easy, easy! Just turn your eyes to the floor, lower your feet to it, and be on your way."

Their daughter Lingzhao said, "It's neither difficult nor easy! The heart-mind of the ancestors is on every blade of grass."

Questions:

1. What would the blades of grass say to you, if they knew you were listening?
2. Do you think the three people in the koan, father, mother, daughter, understand each other?
3. What does your difficult problem look like through the lens of the koan? Does it allow you to see anything you might have missed?

Poem

This We Have Now *By Jelladin Rumi*

This we have now
is not imagination.

This is not
grief or joy.

Not a judging state,
or an elation,
or sadness.

Those come
and go.

This is the presence
that doesn't.

It's dawn
here in the splendor of coral,
inside the Friend, the simple truth

of what was said.

What else could human beings want?

When grapes turn to wine
they're wanting
this.

When the night sky pours by,
it's really a crowd of beggars,
and they all want some of this!

This
that we are now
created the body, cell by cell,
like bees building a honeycomb.

The human body and the universe
grew from this, not this
from the universe and the human body."