

THE NEW YEAR COMES AND FINDS ITS SEAT

The New Year comes to the West a little late,  
Because coming past the East,  
So very hungry and thirsty.  
"I want food."

Quickly eats something.  
"Oh, very salty - this is salt.  
Ah, here is honey. Oh, very sweet.  
Where is the bread?"

The bread says, "Don't touch me.  
Who are you?"

"I am the New Year."

"Are you? I don't believe you."

"Why not believe me?"

"How can I believe you?  
I don't know the New Year.  
Where are you coming from?"

"I don't know."

"So I cannot believe you.  
If you want food, you must find your seat."

"What am I?  
Where is my seat?  
I don't know."

The New Year asks the dog,  
"Do you know the New Year?"

"Woof! Woof! Woof!"  
The dog only understands woof New Year.

Next, the New Year asks the cat,  
"Do you understand the New Year?"

"Meow, meow, meow."  
The cat only understands meow New Year.

But, the New Year is thinking about woof and meow -  
Not new, not old.  
Every day woof, woof.  
Every day meow, meow.  
No new, no old.

The New Year cannot find itself and its seat.  
At that time, two people are fighting:

"The New Year is not necessary."

"The New Year is necessary.  
If there is no New Year,  
How can we understand age?"

"In our true self,  
There is no life, no death.  
If you're attached to age,  
Then you have life and death."

"But, the New Year came in today.  
Who made the New Year? God?"

"No, no."

"Consciousness?"

"No, no, no."

"Time?"

"No, no, no."

"Then what?"

"Time is empty.  
So the New Year is not the New Year.  
The New Year is also empty,  
Only made by your thinking.  
So, the New Year is not necessary."

Hearing this,  
The New Year loses itself.

So, the New Year asks Zen Master Duk Sahn,  
"Do you understand the New Year?"

"Where are you coming from?"

"I'm from time."

"Time? Time comes from where?"

Silence

The Zen Master only HITS.

At that time, the New Year completely understands  
NOTHING, nothing at all.  
No time, no New Year, no name, no form,  
Complete emptiness.

Then, what am I?  
Everybody says, "Happy New Year! Happy New Year'."

The New Year is confused.  
Complete nothing,  
But everybody says, "Happy New Year!"  
"What shall I do?"

So, he asks another Zen Master, Lin Chi,  
"I am the New Year. Where is my seat?"

Lin Chi Zen Master shouts,  
"KATZ!!! Keep clear mind!"

"Aha! Now I understand!  
Keep clear mind.  
Everything is just like this.  
Keep clear mind.

Nice day today. Happy New Year.  
The sky is blue. The snow is white.  
Just like this."  
He understands.

"Everywhere.  
~~My seat is everywhere.~~  
The whole universe is my seat.  
The New Year is everywhere."

The New Year is dancing around.  
But a little child is laughing,  
"Ha, ha, ha! You're a fool.  
You still don't know your seat."

The New Year is surprised.  
"My seat is everywhere!"

"No, no, no!"

"Oh? Then where is my seat?"

"One more step. Come in here."  
She points to a calendar.  
"January 1, 1977."  
That is your seat."

At that time, popcorn, ice cream,  
Bread, cookies, cake, bananas,  
Apples, oranges, tea, drinks,  
Music - la, la, la, la, la, la.

(숙제) HOMEWORK 宿題

Head Monk Shin Su's poem: 神秀大師詩 (신수대사시)

몸은이 보리 나무로  
마음은 명정대 와 같나니  
때때로 부제란이 털고 닦아서  
리끝이 못키안로룩하라.

Body is Bodhi tree  
Mind is clear mirror's stand  
Always clean, clean, clean.  
Don't keep dust.

身是菩提樹  
心如明鏡臺  
時時勤拂拭  
勿使惹塵埃

Sixth Patriarch Hui Neng's poem: 六祖大師詩 (육조대사시)

보리는 본래 나무가 없고  
명정도 또한 대가 없음이라  
본래 한 물건도 없는데  
어데 리끝이 있겠는가

Bodhi has no tree.  
Clear mirror has no stand.  
Originally nothing.  
Where is dust?

菩提本無樹  
明鏡亦非臺  
本來無一物  
何處惹塵埃

Question: Hui Neng's poem hit this Head Monk's poem, so he got transmission and became the Sixth Patriarch. But when the Sixth Patriarch said "Originally nothing. Where is dust?" that was a big mistake. Your homework is to write an answering poem to hit the Sixth Patriarch's poem. You may write your poem below and give it to Soen Sa Nim to check, then maybe you can get transmission.

問題 ... 六祖大師는 本來無一物 라는 文句로써 神秀大師의 詩를 五祖의 法을 받았으나, 本來無一物 라는 文句에 대가 적지 아니하니 六祖大師의 詩를 느낄수 있는 詩를 지으면 六祖의 法을 이어 받을 것이다.

BODY AND MIND -  
ARE THEY THE SAME OR DIFFERENT?  
KATZ!  
INSIDE THE AIR IS STILL,  
OUTSIDE THE WIND BLOWS ACROSS  
OLYMPIC BLVD, ON THIS COLD  
JANUARY MORNING,

Buddha's Enlightenment Day  
December 9, 1978  
a poem by  
Zen Master Seung Sahn

Truly seeing, the seer is lost.  
True Enlightenment has no Enlightened one.  
Seer, Enlightened one dance together  
Beyond time and space.

Seeing the star, attaining Enlightenment --  
What is it getting what?  
That's funny!  
What a fool it is!

Stone bear  
Holding belly.  
Ha ha ha ha!  
Great laughing.

Sun rising in the East.  
10,000 miles no stars.  
10,000 miles blue sky.  
Green tree. Red flower.