

In the Spring of 2000, I taught a class on the oxherding pictures and asked students to submit their own versions of the well-known scenes, depicting the path of Zen. —M.W.

The Oxherding Pictures

Robert Dodge

SUMMER 2000



Searching for the Ox

all alone
something missing
everything shifting
and unsteady



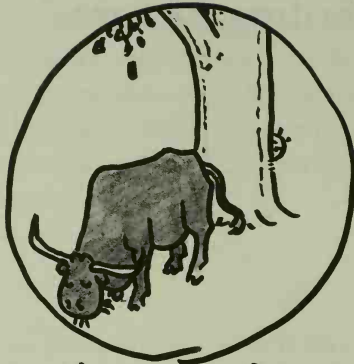
Seeing the Traces

what's this?
something flashes
startling
right under his nose



Seeing the Ox

sudden insight
overwhelming
unexpected
in his face



Herding the Ox

dropped away
too much to handle
just observing
looks OK



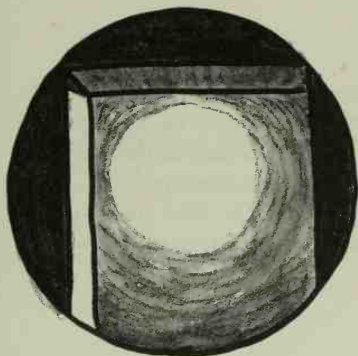
Catching the Ox

chaos!
nowhere to stand
attachment, aversion
clinging in fear



The Ox Forgotten

the dream is over
but something lingers
safe, content
he floats



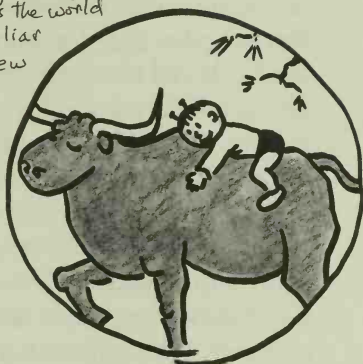
The Ox and Boy Both Gone

through the window
moonlight streaming
floods everything
all dissolves



Returning to the Origin

morning sunlight
restores the world
so familiar
ever new



Coming Home on the Ox's Back

strong and steady
marching homeward
now is found
what was not lost



Entering the Market with Bliss-Bearing Hands

life goes on
moment by moment
his delight
shows the way