

HALF A CLOUD

Once an old Ch'an master,
it may have been Yun-men,
was approached and addressed by a monk,
obviously on the brink of despair,
acutely intensified after having penetrated
layer upon layer of psychological constructions.
"Would you kindly point out to me the essence
of the Buddha's teaching?"

Full of compassion, Yun-men did so
and responded:

"Next question, please!"

Face beaming, mouth open, you know,
Eyes Unclouded,
HERE unshrouded,
The monk stood there, forgot to bow.

Ha-mu's comment:

Old Queen Intentionality, the ruler of heaven and hell, did not go a step without Attention, an ageless bright maiden, whom she had turned into her servant, and whom she directed wherever it pleased her. Utterly helpless without her maid, the Queen felt nourished by her and imagined herself to be as everfresh as Attention herself. Once, in her hybris, she pretended to have a headache and made the mistake to ask Yun-men for a remedy. – That rascal held up a mirror: "Look here! Do you feel better now?" The Queen swooned at the ridiculous sight of herself and fell into the arms of her previous maiden, into the worldless, non-referential, HERE of pre-intentional Attention.

Stop this mythological rubbish! How do we understand it nowadays?

Well, contemporary scholars have discovered an interesting focus to the problem, one that is both novel and scientifically valid.

Demonstrating the unprecedented superiority of modernity, the most recent technological advancements are applied. With consummate skill they discuss, whether the brain had escaped through the monk's shining eyes or his open mouth.

Archives are scanned, historical records analyzed, archaeological evidence is compared. Biochemical data are collected and neurophysiological phenomena are measured in simulated attempts of recreating the special effects of effortless wonderment under laboriously controlled laboratorial conditions. Abstract mathematical precision of highest order is retranslated into models of metaphorical language for easier comprehensibility.

Magnificent! Life's riddle
Is measured, the middle
Of science now known as size.

S/He got the Nobel prize.
What then is this about?

– Imagine half a cloud!