

Case for Dharma Exchange

Shoyoroku Case 11: Ummon's Two Sicknesses

PREFACE TO THE ASSEMBLY

A bodiless person suffers illness. A handless person compounds medicine. A mouthless person takes meals. A non-receiving person has ease and comfort. Tell me: for incurable disease, what's the prognosis and what is the treatment?

MAIN CASE

Attention! The Great Master Ummon said: "When the light doesn't penetrate completely, there are two kinds of sicknesses. When you are not quite clear and there are things in front of you, this is one kind of sickness. Even though you thoroughly penetrate the emptiness of all Dharmas, there still somehow seems to be something. In this also, the light has not penetrated completely. Again there are two kinds of sicknesses in the dharmakaya. Though you reach the dharmakaya, because Dharma attachment is not forgotten, and a view of self persists, you plummet into the dharmakaya side--this is one sickness. Though you penetrate through this, if you are negligent, it's still no good. Even after a minute examination, when however you look at it, the question arises, 'What inadequacy can there be?'--this is also a sickness."

APPRECIATORY VERSE

Multitudes of shapes allowed to be as is--
boundless, thorough liberation still obstructs the eye.
To sweep out this garden, who has the strength?
Concealed in one's heart, it of itself gives rise to thoughts;
steeped in gathering autumn lies a boat upon the blue;
illuminated by snowy reed-flowers stands a pole with light suffused.
An old fisherman with skewered perch thinks of going to market;
carefree, a leaf sails over the waves.