

PICTURE 7-
THE OX FORGOTTEN; THE SELF REMAINS

Allow yourself to be drawn into the picture.

PREFACE:

The Dharma is not dual, the ox just points to our subject.
 As rabbit and snare differ in name, so fish and net are not the same.
 As gold comes forth from dross, so the moon emerges from clouds.
 A shaft of its icy light, ancient even in the age of Ion.

VERSE:

Astride your ox, you've reached the hills of home.
 With ox put away, you too are at ease.
 The sun's risen three poles high, yet still you're dreaming.
 Your whip and line hang idle under the thatched eaves.

[Daido Looi/Tanahashi Verse]

Astride the ox, you reach home.
 Now at rest, the ox is forgotten.
 With the bright sun high in the sky, you are in blissful repose.
 Whip and tether are abandoned behind the thatched hut.

[M.H. Trevor/Kennedy Verse]

The herdsman has come home on the back of the ox.
 Now there is no ox any longer. The herdsman sits
 alone, quiet and at leisure ...
 Singing and dancing, the herdsman leads a leisurely
 life, not bound to anything anymore.
 Between the sky and the earth, he has become his own master.

WAKA: Hard to take

 People who fret over good and bad.
 Knowing nothing of Naniwa reeds.

Picture 6 – GUIDING QUESTIONS

Reflect upon duality, the dividing of reality into its opposites -- good and bad, right and wrong, sickness and health. The key is to see that you do this according to your opinions, judgements, beliefs, and self-created standards. Practice seeing this condition clearly and not attaching to it. Ask yourself: What is the fact? And what is my story about the fact?

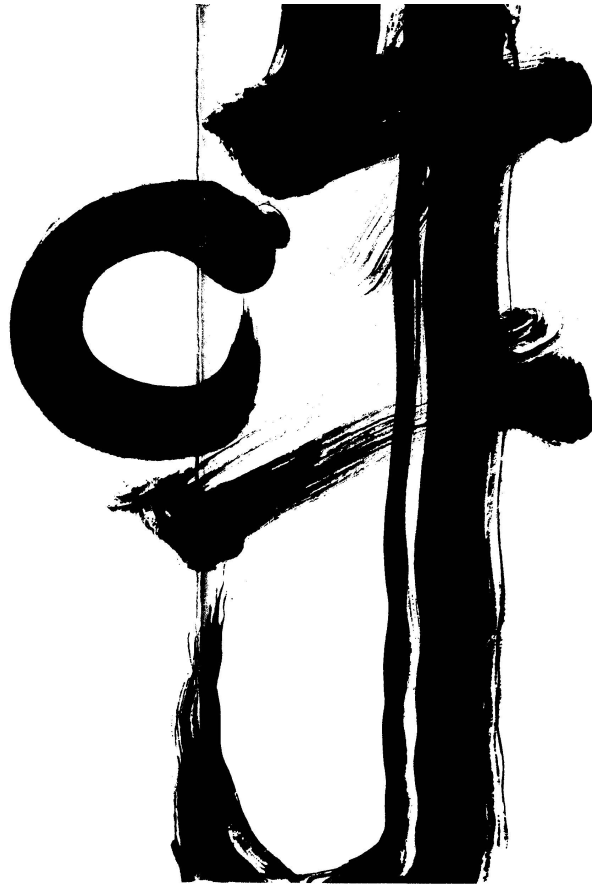
Study co-dependent arising: all things co-arise, including your sense of self. This means that there is nothing in the world that exists apart from anything else; nothing is independent. Reflect upon movement (constant flux), impermanence, and emptiness.

Reflect upon “non-differentiation,” the reality that goes “beyond differences”. In other words, things are “just as they are.” Notice what you add to the situation. What are your additions based on?

ASSIGNMENT(S)

1. Allow yourself to be drawn into the picture. Feel yourself at home in the all-oneness of life. What arises for you?

2. During the coming month, practice being “At One with your Life as it is.” What are you discovering? When you drift away from this reality, practice returning “on a dime.”



UM, represents the sound of the Ox. Calligraphy by Maezumi Roshi (Spring 1973 ZCLA Journal cover). Also represents death, and is associated with the infinite subtlety of life and its realization.