



PICTURE 10 – ENTERING THE MARKETPLACE
WITH EXTENDED HANDS

PREFACE:

Alone behind a brushwood door, not even a thousand sages are aware. Hiding your light, you shun the tracks of sages of the past. Dangling your gourd, you come into town; thumping your staff, you return to your hut. Visiting bars and fish stalls, you turn all into buddhas.

VERSE:

With bare chest and feet, you come to the market.
Under dirt and ash, your face breaks into a laugh.
With no display of magic powers,
You make withered trees burst into flower.

[Daido Looi/Tanahashi Verse]

Entering the marketplace barefoot and unadorned.
Blissfully smiling, though covered with dust and ragged of clothes.
Using no supernatural power, you bring the withered trees
spontaneously into bloom.

[M.H. Trevor/Kennedy Verse]

With bare chest and feet he enters the market.
His face is smeared with earth, his head covered with ashes.
A huge laugh streams over his cheeks.
Without humbling himself to perform miracles or wonders, he
suddenly makes withered trees bloom.

WAKA: Hands extended, feet planted in the sky--

Otokoyama

On a withered branch perches a bird.

Picture 10 – GUIDING QUESTIONS

In your own words, what fundamental aspects of reality is being shown through pictures 8, 9, and 10?

Make a chart with five columns as follows (see attachment)

Seeing <u>from ego</u>	Acting <u>from ego</u>	Shift <u>to emptiness</u>
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Seeing <u>from As Is</u>	Acting <u>from As Is</u>
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Pick a simple subject (e.g., a tree) or a situation (e.g., My boss is difficult.) and write about it under each column.

- Practice shifting to Emptiness by simply opening – dropping thinking and storyline.
- What do you notice as the difference between acting from ego/self-centeredness and acting from Wisdom, or Seeing As Is? Remember, this is dynamic wisdom, not resignation or ignoring conventional rules (which is more self-centeredness.)
- Reflect upon actions as serving or offering? What does it mean to “serve from ego-centeredness” and what does it mean to “serve or offer from as is”?

ASSIGNMENT(S)

1. Allow yourself to be drawn into the picture and see yourself as a Hotei – humble, unassuming, unpretentious, joy giving, without attachments, and so forth.
2. During the coming month, practice with the five columns presented under the Guiding Questions. What is this experience for you?
3. Come prepared for Class 11 in April to explore this dynamic of shifting from ego-centeredness to wisdom-centeredness.