



**PICTURE 9 – RETURN TO THE ORIGIN,
BACK TO THE SOURCE**

PREFACE:

Originally immaculate, without a speck of dust. Watching appearances come and go, you reside in the serenity of non-doing. But this is not the same as illusion, so why cling to it? The rivers are blue, the mountains green. Sit and watch them rise and pass away.

VERSE:

You returned to the origin, went back to the source--such wasted effort.

How much better to just be blind and deaf?
From inside your hut, you don't see outside your hut,
Let the streams just flow on, the flowers just bloom red.

[Daido Looi/Tanahashi Verse]

Having returned to the source, effort is over.
The intimate self sees nothing outside, hears nothing outside.
Still, the endless river flows tranquilly on, the flowers are red.

[M.H. Trevor/Kennedy Verse]

Returned to the ground and origin, the herdsman has completed everything.
Nothing is better than on the spot to be as blind and deaf.
He sits in his hut and does not see anything outside.
Boundlessly flows the river, just as it flows. Red blooms the flower,
just as it blooms.

WAKA:

The Dharma way--no traces--on the original mountain.
The pines are green, the flowers glint with dew.

Picture 9 – GUIDING QUESTIONS

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

Make a chart with three columns as follows:

Seeing <u>from Ego</u>	Seeing <u>from Emptiness</u>	Seeing <u>from Just As Is</u>
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Pick a subject (e.g., a tree) or a situation (e.g., eating chocolate ice cream) and write about it under each column.

- What is becoming clear to you?
- If you are confused, what is your confusion?
- Can you clearly distinguish between judgement and discernment?

Comment on each line of this poem:

Before awakening, mountains were mountains; rivers,
rivers.

During practice, mountains were no longer mountains,
rivers no longer rivers.

After awakening, mountains were mountains; rivers,
rivers.

What awareness does each line represent?

What is the difference of awareness between the first and third lines?

ASSIGNMENT(S)

1. Allow yourself to be drawn into the picture -- no ox, no ox herder! Practice seeing, hearing, tasting, awareness, smelling without preferences.
2. During the coming month, practice with the three columns presented under the Guiding Questions. What is this experience for you?
3. Share with the eGroup how the wisdom of “as is” is impacting how you are living. Note: this is dynamic wisdom, not resignation or ignoring conventional rules.