

Jiashan Sees the Ferryman

(from Looi, *The True Dharma Eye, Zen Master Dogen's 300 Koans*, #90)
(see also Ferguson, *Zen's Chinese Heritage*, p. 163)

Chuanzi Decheng was practicing together with Daowu and Yunyan at Yaoshan's community. Chuanzi left Yaoshan and lived on a small boat on a river in Huating Prefecture. Before he left, he had said to Daowu, "If you meet a promising teacher, please send him to me."

Zen master Shanhui of Jiashan [Chuanming] was abbot of Zhulin Monastery. Daowu happened to visit the monastery and attended one of Jiashan's lectures. A monastic asked, "What is the dharma body?" Jiashan said, "The dharma body has no form." The monastic asked again, "What is the dharma eye?" Jiashan said, "The dharma eye has no scratch." Daowu could not help laughing. Jiashan noticed it. After getting down from the teaching seat, he invited Daowu, made a formal bow, and said, "Did you laugh because I gave a wrong answer to that monastic? Please be kind enough to explain." Daowu said, "Although you have become the abbot of this fine monastery, you have not yet met a true master." Jiashan said, "Please tell me where my fault lies." Daowu said, "I cannot explain it to you, but I have a peer who gives teachings on a boat in Huating. Let me suggest that you go and meet him. I am sure you will attain something." Jiashan said, "Who is this person?" Daowu said, "There is not half a slate above him. There is not an inch of ground beneath him. But when you go, you had better not wear your robe."

Jiashan soon dissolved his assembly, changed his clothes, and went straight to Huating. Seeing Jiashan, Chuanzi said to him, "Of which monastery are you the abbot?" Jiashan said, "I am not abbot of a monastery, or I wouldn't look like this." Chuanzi said, "What do you mean by 'not like this'?" Jiashan said, "It's not like something right in front of you." Chuanzi said, "Where did you study?" Jiashan said, "No place that ears or eyes can reach." Chuanzi said, "The phrase you understand can still tether the donkey for a myriad kalpas." Then he said, "I hang a line one thousand feet deep, but the heart is three inches off the hook. Why don't you say something?" Jiashan was about to open his mouth. Chuanzi knocked him into the water with the boat pole. Jiashan surfaced and climbed onto the boat. Chuanzi said, "Say something. Say something!" Jiashan was about to open his mouth when Chuanzi hit him again. Jiashan was suddenly awakened and bowed three times.

Chuanzi said, "You are welcome to the fishing pole. However, the meaning of 'It ripples no quiet water' is naturally profound." Jiashan said, "Why do you give away the fishing pole?" Chuanzi said, "It is to see whether a fish of golden scales is or is not. If you have realized it, speak quickly; words are wondrous and unspeakable." While Chuanzi was speaking, Jiashan covered his ears and began to walk away." Chuanzi said, "Quite so, quite so." Then the master instructed Jiashan, saying, "From now on, erase all traces, but do not hide your body. I was at Yaoshan's for thirty years and clarified just this. Now you have this. Do not live in a city or a village. Just

be in a deep mountain or on a farm and guide one or half a person. Succeed in my teaching and don't let it be cut off"

Jiashan accepted Chuanzi's entrustment and bid him farewell. He went ashore and started to walk away, looking back again and again. Chuanzi called out, "Reverend, reverend!" Jiashan turned around. Chuanzi held up the oar and said, "There is something more." Upon uttering these words, he jumped out of the boat and disappeared into the mist and waves.