However, I’ve never had any bad luck. This is because I live with God and always feel what he does is for the best. Whatever God sends me, be it pleasant or unpleasant, I accept with a grateful heart. That is why I have never had bad luck. Finally, you wished that God should make me happy. But I have never been unhappy. For all I desire is to follow God’s will. I have surrendered my will so totally to God’s will that whatever God wants, that is what I also want and that is why I have never been unhappy.”

This is the personality that is able to come into harmony with the essential truth, either through expanding beyond all differences, or by stripping away all differences until pure potential is reached. This is a personality that is no longer in conflict or in comparison or in resistance or in judgment. It simply lives in a state of grace. Whatever is, IS. It is Presence, practicing. It is practicing Presence. This is a state of being at-one, being in harmony with whatever is, a totally surrendered being. I like to think of this state as the state of invisibility.

Often those who are engaged in spiritual service are notice­ able. Others may sense your “Light” shining or feel a “Presence” when near you. Many spiritual teachers have this presence or charisma that attracts people like crazy. But it’s very easy for people get stuck there, basking in the “presence.” The bigger the public persona/presence, the harder it is to get out of it. People who have followers in the thousands are caught in a sort of tender trap. They have to live in their public persona all the time. Unlike the cicada, they cannot abandon their outer shell and move on. On the other hand, true medicine people don’t want any­ body to know who they are. They don’t want to have to deal with curiosity seekers, so they cultivate invisibility. They disappear into the ordinariness of the whole. Then, if there’s something to do, they are where it happens; if there’s something to hear, they are there to hear it. Nobody notices. It’s just simply life happening. If a healing is called for, healing happens. If there’s a flower to be planted, the flower gets planted. If there’s a great laugh that needs to ring out, it rings out. It’s simply life happening and nobody stands out. A state of real freedom. Practicing the Presence. Because the light is everywhere present instead of shining in a concentrated current through a particular vessel.

Remember the tenth ox-herding picture in Zen where the bliss-bestowing Buddha goes trudging through the market­ place, dragging his bag of trash. Nobody knows who he is. He looks like a ridiculous dusty old man.

His thatched cottage gate is closed, and even the

wisest know him no. No glimpses of his inner life

are to be caught; for he goes on his way without following the steps of the ancient sages. Carrying a gourd he goes out into the market, leaning against a staff he comes home. He is found in company with wine-bibbers and butchers; he and they are all converted into Buddhas.

Bare-chested and bare-footed, he comes out into the market-place;

Daubed with mud and ashes, how broadly he

smiles!

There is no need for the miraculous power of the gods,

For he touches, and lo! the dead trees are in full bloom.

In the Zenrin it is written, “Meeting in the forest, they

laugh and laugh; the babbling brook, the falling leaves.”

Meet you in the forest.