

Case 60:

第六十則 鐵磨牯牛

Iron Grinder, The Cow

示眾云。鼻孔昂藏。各具丈夫相。腳跟牢實。肯學老婆禪。透得無巴鼻機關。始見正作家手段。且道。誰是其人。

Introduction: Nose high, each has a powerful appearance. Footsteps firm and solid, one may study 'old woman Chan'. When you penetrate the ungraspable dynamic, for the first time you see the method of a true master. But tell me, who is such a person?

舉。劉鐵磨到滄山（相見已了）。山云。老牯牛汝來也（撩蜂剔蠹）。磨云。來日臺山大會齋。和尚還去麼（氣毒煙火然）。山放身臥（半路抽身）。磨便出去（一撥便轉）。

Case: Iron-Grinder Liu went to Guishan: (Already they have me.) Guishan said, "Old cow, you've come?" (He picks off the bees and scrapes off the termites.) The Iron-Grinder said, "Tomorrow on Taishan there's a big gathering and feast--are you going, teacher?" (The poison is like smoky fire burning.) Guishan lay down, sprawled out. (He extricates himself midway.) The Iron-Grinder immediately left. (One push and she turns.)

師云。滄山自稱水牯牛。以鐵磨為牯牛。安名賞號作家相見也。他雖是尼。久參滄山。去山十里卓庵。一日參子湖。湖問。莫是劉鐵磨否。磨云。不敢。湖云。左轉右轉。磨云。和尚莫顛倒。湖便打。看他與滄山。放則雙放。收便雙收。佛果謂之隔身句。意通而語隔。要知意句俱到麼。更看天童脫體

頌出。

Commentary: Guishan called himself a water buffalo, he called Iron-Grinder Liu a cow--giving a name, an epithet of praise, it is meaning of adepts.

Though she was a nun, she had studied with Guishan for a long time. She had built a hut several miles away. One day she called on Zihu, who asked, "Aren't you Iron-Grinder Liu?" She said, "I daren't presume so." Zihu said, "Do you turn to the left or to the right?" She said, "Don't tip over, Master." Zihu immediately hit her. See her with Guishan: when letting go, they both let go; when gathering in, both gather in. Foguo called this a 'body-block' saying--the meaning is conveyed but the words intervene. Do you want to know the realization of the meaning and the phrase? Look ahead at how Tiantong produced the whole thing in verse:

頌云。百戰功成老太平（安家樂業）。優柔誰肯苦爭衡（饒人不是癡）。玉鞭金馬閑終日（雖有如無）。明月清風富一生（受用不盡）。

Verse: Success in a hundred battles accomplished, growing old in great peace: (At peace in one's house, enjoying one's work.) Serene and gentle, who is willing to trouble to contend? (Not contending with people is not stupidity.) The jade whip and golden horse are idle all day:(Though they exist, it's like they didn't.) The bright moon and pure wind enrich a whole lifetime.(Enjoyment of them is inexhaustible.)

師云。小僧多說佛。老將不論兵。山前麥未辨青黃。廬陵米不知價利。更論佛法誰曾夢見。東漢陳蕃傳曰。蕃能樹立風聲。抗論昏俗。而驅馳險隘之中。與刑人腐夫爭衡。二人相見不樹立風聲。不驅馳險隘。優游平易。老成圓

熟。天童賞讚不盡何也。得處自然忘計較。用時全不費工夫。

Commentary: Many young monks talk about Buddha; old generals don't talk about the army. If they don't yet discern whether the wheat in front of the mountain is green or yellow, and don't know the 'price of rice in Luling,' yet still go on talking about Buddhism, who has ever seen it even in a dream? The biography of Chen Fan of the Eastern Han dynasty says, "Fan was able to set up local education and establish his character and repute; he argued against ignorant customs, striving in the midst of danger and prejudice, and contended with convicts and eunuchs." In the meeting of Guishan and Iron-Grinder Liu, they didn't establish character or repute, didn't strive in danger and prejudice--they were relaxed and easygoing, seasoned and mature. Why is it that Tiantong can't finish praising them? Upon attainment, calculations are naturally forgotten--When in action, no effort is wasted.