

The Exultant Master

The exultant master
turns to himself
and says,

*Now finally
you are ready
to begin
on your own
without me.*

Nothing to Do

He has nothing to do
and eternity to do it.

He throws away
his list of hours.

Something Startled Me

I said something
that startled me,
and now I ache
to remember it.

The ache remembers
where the words
come from.

Aha!
Better than words.

In One Valley

In one valley,
in one century,
there is death
and horror.

In a house, not nearby,
there is a heart singing,
for no apparent reason,
to no particular audience.

Millions rush toward
the valley.

In the Summertime

In the summertime,
happiness,

In the wintertime,
even happier,

Hard to tell
what year
it is.

I Went to Prison

I went to prison.

Then I went
to a drive-in
for lunch.

What next?

Before and After

Before enlightenment,
chop wood, carry water,

After enlightenment,
still busy.

Who Complains

Who complains
about nothingness?

Inside nothing,
everything else.

Inside that,
complaints abound.

Depression

I've been depressed,
lately.

While singing
in the rain.

I don't neglect
the rain.

If I Work Hard

If I work hard,
without working at it,
I have it all.

Being the same as hard work
is like taking a vacation
on the job.

Plucked from Perfection

As if plucked from perfection,
I awaken, here, in dreamland.

All dreams are enjoyable
when you know the dreamer.

This Laziness

This laziness is your
disguise of discipline.

The wise man
fools himself
perfectly.

The unlocker says he's only
collecting keys, and he lives
out of doors.

I Don't Think

I don't think I am
a singer of sutras.

I don't even have
a mouth or a throat
I can call my own.

My Favorite Team

My favorite team;
sometimes
on a winning streak,
sometimes losing.

I cheer, I shout, I weep.

In my heart, I don't care so much.
In my heart, victory is old hat.

In my heart, even defeat
tastes like victory.

Over Here

Over here I sit.

I'm being disloyal
to my favorite table.

Who can tell but me,
how much I love that table?

When my heart's in my mind,
I worry about such things.

When my heart's in my heart,
I am completely faithful,
no matter where I am,
even to furniture.

Monkeys on the Temple Steps

Monkeys
on the temple steps.

Not you.

I was looking at the monkeys
when you passed by.

Look, no monkeys,
and you are still here.

These are busy steps.

A Nature Poet

A nature poet
in the city.

Did you think
I was lost?

I still catch
my breath.

I still see
the moon.

Under the Serenity Tree

Here, under
the serenity tree.

So much
activity.

A Man Shouts Desire

A man
shouts desire
from a car.

Ooh! Yeah!

A blind cow
walks into
a tree.

The bird,
on the cow's back,
sings.

Open Doors

Open doors
keep the dogs
and cats out.

Open windows
keep the bugs out.

Even uninvited thoughts
stay away.

Because here,
no one pets them,
no one swats them.

A Small Quick Bird

A small, quick bird
whips across
the soccer field.

It swoops, darts,
and soars.

He doesn't care
about the score.

I lose track
of the game
myself.

This is not good
for one of my
reputations.

A Brown Goose Appears

A brown goose appears,
then six young ones,
then another goose,
then eight more
young ones.

In mutual
wonder,
the men
stop telling
brave stories.

Who Cuts Up Roots?

Who cuts up roots
to make houses?

My roots are in the air,
I come from nothing.

People call me tree,
and rock, and bear.

I Stopped

I stopped
talking
to myself.

Now,
I listen.

Now,
no one
calls me
crazy.

The Master Points

The master
points to the moon.

And then, the moon
Disappears.

So he points
to the hometown
of the moon.

What is the Meaning?

What is
the meaning
of transformation?

*Here
I am.*

The Same

The same,
day after day,
year in, year out.

Nothing
is always
the same.

Rollercoasters
on the volcano.

One Finger

One finger
points
to the moon.

Three fingers
point back,

To the same
moon.