

How to Govern Properly

A lot of inspiration went into this
A lot of hard work went into this
A lot of *this* went into this
Altogether, nothing has been forgotten
Nothing has been excluded.

The big view, the universal view of the guru
Has no beginning and no end
The big view is without any second thought
The big view is never wrong
It is so big.

To govern the province of awakened mind means
to have confidence in ordinariness
To have fleeting thoughts about extraordinary experience
is to be caught like an animal in a trap
To cry and moan about being caught is useless
To feel the pain of being caught is illuminating.

Having encountered the situation of choicelessness
Discussion becomes nothing more than flavor
On the other hand, without taste, experience would be
simply recognition
To be true and good and kind is to taste again and again
the nonduality of experience.

All of us—good people—rely solely on the jewel
of the Buddha, the glorious guru, for inspiration
That relative reference point is simply a way of waking up
to what is
Lord Saraha, who told the truth, said it this way:
If experience is half-baked it will soon dry up.

To those who wish to connect with the pure and
 indestructible lineage
And who care not about comfort
Phenomena will be self-evident and coemergent
 without thoughts
The rest of it is left to those who wish to argue.

*This little poem was written by the last itch on the Buddha's
shoulder, the one named Ösel Tendzin, on this 14th day of
November, 1987, in Vancouver, British Columbia.*