

The Identity of Relative and Absolute ▲

The mind of the **Great** Sage of India
Is *intimately conveyed west and east*.
Among human beings are **wise** ones and fools;
In the *Way there is no teacher of north and south*.
The subtle Source is **clear** and bright;
The *branching streams flow in the dark*.
To be attached to things is **primordial** illusion;
To *encounter the absolute is not yet enlightenment*.
◉ All spheres, every **sense** and field,
intermingle even as they shine alone.
Interacting **even** as they merge,
Yet keeping their places in expressions of their own.
Forms differ **primally** in shape and character
And sounds in harsh or soothing tones.
The dark makes **all** words one;
The *brightness distinguishes good and bad* phrases.
The four elements **return** to their true nature,
As a child to its mother.
Fire is hot, **water** is wet,
Wind moves and the earth is dense.
Eye and form, **ear** and sound, **nose** and smell,
Tongue and taste, the sweet and sour:
Each **independent** of the other
Like leaves that come from the same root.

And though roots and leaves **must** go back to the Source,
Both *root and leaves have their own* uses.

Light is **also** darkness,
But *do not move with it as* darkness.

Darkness is light;
Do not see it as light.

Light and darkness are **not** one, **not** two,
Like the *foot before and the foot behind* in walking.

◎ Each thing has its **own** being,
Which is not *different from its place and* function.

The relative **fits** the absolute,
As a *box and its* lid.

The absolute **meets** the relative,
Like two *arrows that meet in mid* air.

(cue officiant exits altar) ◎ Hearing this, **simply** perceive the Source,
Impose no standards.

If you do not **see** the Way,
You *do not see it even as you* walk on it.

When you walk the way you **draw** no nearer,
Progress no farther.

Who fails to see **this**
Is *mountains and rivers* away.

⑩ **Listen**, those who would **pierce** this subtle matter:

⑩ *Do not waste your time by night or day!* (damp all bells)