

A ZEN STORY Pai-Chang's "WILD DUCKS"

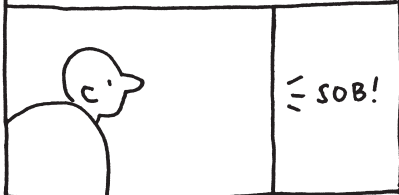
ONCE, PAI-CHANG WAS OUT WALKING WITH HIS MASTER, MA-TSU, WHEN A FLOCK OF WILD DUCKS FLEW PAST. MA-TSU SAID:



SUDDENLY, MA-TSU REACHED BACK and GRABBED PAI-CHANG'S NOSE -- GIVING IT A TWIST THAT MADE HIM CRY OUT



THAT NIGHT, THE
ATTENDANT MONK
HEARD PAI-CHANG
CRYING IN HIS ROOM,
and WENT TO SEE WHAT
WAS THE MATTER...



PAI-CHANG SAID

THIS MORNING, MA-TSU
GRABBED MY NOSE--
and IT STILL
HURTS!!

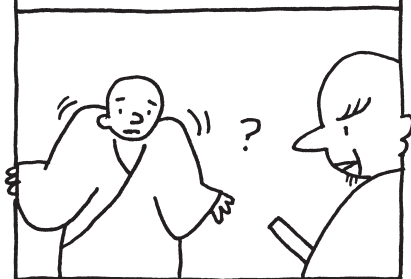


THE MONK ASKED " WHY
DID HE DO THIS?"
PAI-CHANG REPLIED

I DON'T KNOW--
YOU'LL HAVE TO
GO ASK HIM
YOURSELF...



SO THE MONK WENT
TO MA-TSU and TOLD
HIM WHAT HAPPENED



MA-TSU LAUGHED,
and SAID

OH, HE KNOWS
WHY, ALL RIGHT!
GO BACK and
ASK HIM
AGAIN!

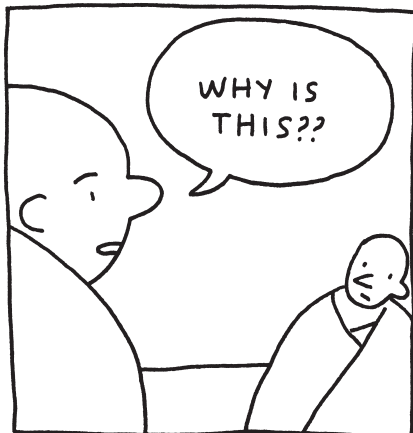


BUT WHEN THE MONK
RETURNED, PAI-CHANG
BURST OUT LAUGHING



THE MONK WAS BE-
WILDERED. HE SAID:

I DON'T UNDERSTAND-
A MOMENT AGO
YOU WERE
CRYING... NOW
YOU'RE LAUGHING
...



PAI-CHANG SAID

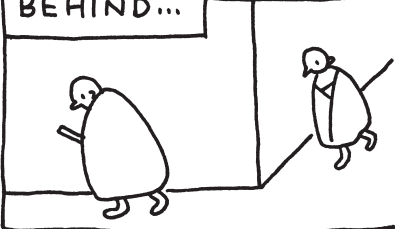


THE NEXT MORNING, THE MONKS ASSEMBLED
TO HEAR MA-TSU SPEAK...



BUT BEFORE HE HAD SPOKEN ONE WORD,
PAI-CHANG CAME FORWARD and ROLLED
UP THE BOWING MAT...

AT THIS, MA-TSU STEPPED DOWN SILENTLY and RETURNED TO HIS ROOM. PAI-CHANG FOLLOWED CLOSELY BEHIND...



WHEN THEY WERE ALONE, MA-TSU SAID

I HADN'T EVEN SPOKEN ONE WORD - WHY DID YOU ROLL UP THE BOWING MAT?



PAI-CHANG SAID

YESTERDAY, YOU TWISTED MY NOSE - and IT HURT! BAD!!



MA-TSU SAID

WHERE DID YOU PUT YOUR MIND YESTERDAY?



PAI-CHANG REPLIED

TODAY IT FEELS FINE...



MA-TSU SAID

YOU HAVE THOROUGHLY UNDERSTOOD YESTERDAY'S EVENTS



BLUE CLIFF RECORD NO.53