

farm to provide aeration and carbon for the vegetables to grow. And of course, it's nice to keep someone's yard a little less cluttered.

In the afternoons, I've been helping one of the monks edit his English translations of the sutras. I find this to be a particularly humbling experience. I've encountered sutras before in classes on Buddhism, but I've been astounded by the depth of understanding of Dharma that some of the practitioners have here. It's such a precious opportunity to be able to sit down with someone who has devoted his life to the practice and study of the Buddhist tradition, and get to have such a detailed conversation about the importance of various ideas and how they might be communicated in English. Again, I am guessing I will find this work to be as important to my learning and development here as my formal practice and study.

Sometimes I wonder about what Buddhist practice was like in other ages. I imagine that at some time in the past history of Buddhist practice, before most people's lives became so busy and scattered, before so much of the population was collected in cities, and before we became so attached to various machines and media, there was a sense of connection to the earth that was close to most people's lives. I imagine that this connection to the earth, sustained over time, was a stabilizing force to practice that has become most difficult to find in this age. Just another reason, I think, to keep up with the raking.



解並重的修行者同坐，並詳談各種理念的重要，及如何譯為英文，真是很寶貴的機緣。無疑地，這份工作對於我在此地的學習成長，正如平日正規的修學般同等重要。

有時我會對其他時代的佛教修行感到好奇。想像以前大多數人還沒有變得如此忙碌紛擾，尚未聚集到城市，還沒有這般依賴各種機械與媒體，人們的生活與大地是很親近的，而這種緊密的聯繫，是修行的穩定力。如今，已難再現。我想，這是我持續「耙樹葉」的另一個理由。



譯棧小箋 *Translation Corner*

千峰頂上一間屋
老僧半間雲半間
昨夜雲隨風雨去
不及老僧半日閒

宋朝廬山歸宗志芝庵主 撰

Written by Hermit Master of Zhi Zhi of Gui Zong
(Returning to School) Monastery of Mt. Lu of the Song Dynasty

A) Translated by Tomas

Amid a thousand towering peaks
Sits a single hut;
This elder monk lives in half,
In the other—clouds.
Last night the wind and rain took away the clouds.
Even they don't have a half-day's leisure of this old monk.

B) Translated by Chris Spranger

Amid a thousand towering peaks, a single hut:
an old monk inhabits one half; clouds, the other.
Last night the wind and rain departed,
and the clouds followed close on their heels.
Not even they have half a day of this old monk's leisure.

