

## CASE 55, Blue Cliff Record

Tao Wu and Chien Yuan went to a house to make a condolence call. Yuan hit the coffin and said, "Alive or dead?" Wu said, "I won't say alive, and I won't say dead." Yuan said, "Why won't you say?" Wu said, "I won't say." Halfway back, as they were returning, Yuan said, "Tell me right away, Teacher; if you don't tell me, I'll hit you." Wu said, "You may hit me, but I won't say," Yuan then hit him. Later Tao Wu passed on. Yuan went to Shih Shuang and brought up the foregoing story. Shuang said, "I won't say alive, and I won't say dead." Yuan said, "Why won't you say?" Shuang said, "I won't say, I won't say." At these words Yuan had an insight."

One day Yuan took a hoe into the teaching hall and crossed back and forth, from east to west and west to east. Shuang said, "What are you doing?" Yuan said, "I'm looking for relics of our late master." Shuang said, "Vast waves spread far and wide, foaming billows flood the skies—what relics of our late master are you looking for?" Hsueh Tou added a comment saying, "Heavens! Heavens!" Yuan said, "This is just where I should apply effort." Fu of T'ai Yuan said, "The late master's relics are still present."

Thomas Cleary. The Blue Cliff Record . Shambhala. Kindle Edition.