

Dongshan's Five Stages of Merit

Orientation

Sage rulers have always modeled themselves on Emperor Yao.
Treating others with propriety, you bend your dragon waist.
At times, passing through the thick of the bustling market,
You find it civilized throughout and the august dynasty celebrated.

Service

For whom have you washed off your splendid makeup?
The cuckoo's call urges you to return.
The hundred flowers have fallen, yet the call is unending,
moving deeper and still deeper into jumbled peaks.

Merit

A withered tree blossoms in timeless spring.
You ride a jade elephant backwards, chasing the unicorn.
Now as you dwell hidden high among the thousand distant peaks—
A white moon, a cool breeze, an auspicious day.

Merit in Common

The many beings and buddhas do not intrude on each other.
Mountains are high of themselves; waters are deep of themselves.
What do the myriad differences and distinctions clarify?

Merit Upon Merit

If horns sprout on your head, that's unbearable;
If you rouse your mind to seek Buddha, that's shameful.
In the vastness of the empty kalpa there is no one who knows—
Wh go to the South to interview the fifty-three sages?