

## THIRTY-SEVEN

One day a monk asked Master Kenpo in the Etsu district: *Buddhas in all directions enter nirvana through one way. What street are they on, I wonder?*

The Master, picking up a stick and pointing up the street, said: *They are here.*

### Commentary

The monk's question contains both the idealistic and materialistic viewpoints. The idealistic phase is the idea of buddhas in all directions entering nirvana by one way.

The materialistic phase is represented by the question "*what street are they on?*" The monk is puzzled by the difference between the sublime world of buddhas in all directions and the everyday world of streets and houses. In other words, the relationship between the sacred and the profane.

Master Eshu Kenpo picked up a stick and pointed toward the street. "*They are here,*" he said. In this actual place here and now. In the place before our eyes we can find the gate to nirvana, because "*buddhas in all directions*" is just another name for reality itself. And whatever delusions we may be caught up in at the moment, reality always exists here and now.