

Selling
Water
By
The
River

JOEL SNELL

i try
and i try not to try
i feel bad about feeling bad...
and i'm exhausted.
yet seasons change and flowers grow
and forests bloom and streams flow.
and a seed grows in me
to let things be.
as prophets have told us years ago
under the shade of a tree
you be you and i'll be me
the tao turns full circle
and water need not be sold
by the river.

the way is
and was and will be
rolling streams
never to dry
clouds living in
an everlasting sky.
to start is to stop
as answers to no questions
the universe is in a tear
and the message needs no name

the wise one
talks of all of us
not just some of us.
the wise one wishes
that life and death be good
yet, are we straw dogs
to the pathology of the world?
some may miss the flow
but not the light.
How do i know
but the tear of forgiveness
flows oh so softly.

from one to one
and blue to blue
i see the pattern
of course....
the light?
the dreamless sleep?
the gentle reunion?
come my enemy and friend
for wu is gentle and it is
just below the bottom
and just above the top
and just beyond the furthest point
and nowhere at all.

if i knew
but why do you have to know?
because.
so where is the answer?
there.
but where is there?
to one's inner voice
different but the same voice
universal but individual voices
proclaimed by great messengers
though the message does not sound the same
just as there are many rivers and streams
that flow from the mother.

from the dock
i see the mist
of the lake
so easy to evaporate
in the sun.
the water is so natural
so can man be?
can you live as you die?
or do you die?
awake from the dream:

what is it?
is it god? (G? 's)
is it cosmos?
is it mystery?
what does your heart tell you?
then you'll know by not knowing.
what is the way?
holy ... yes
material ... yes
let the way
be like the wisdom
of your innocence.
isn't god a verb?

when you know the truth
and you have it cornered
are you filled with clever hate?
when you feel what might be
the truth(s)
surely
you can love.
the way
has many roads
and many messengers.
the religion
beneath
all religions
is.