

The Plumber's Smile

Anonymous

One day, Kobutsu was working alone in the monastery basement, crawling around in the pipes that run along the ceiling. There was no one in the basement, and Kobutsu was waiting for a drop of water to show up on the stem of a leaky valve that he had just tightened. Soen Roshi walked, no, sort of scuffled slowly into the room. He was obviously in a samadhi state as was Kobutsu up on the ceiling. Since Kobutsu's samadhi was imperfect, he was distracted by the Roshi's approach. Being mindful, and not wishing to disturb the Roshi, he did not make a sound. Consequently, the Roshi was apparently unaware of Kobutsu's presence.

