

## The Samurai Warrior and His Teacher

A samurai warrior was walking down the path while contemplating the mystery of life. He saw his teacher, a monk, sitting on the side of the path. He asked, "O master, what is heaven and what is hell?"

The monk replied, "I would not waste words on you. Your uniform is dirty, your body stinks, and your sword is dull. You are a disgrace to all samurais."

The samurai became enraged and screamed, "How dare you talk to me like that!" He pulled out his sword and ran toward the monk. When the blade was a hair's length from the monk's neck, the samurai stopped in horror and fell to the ground.

"That, my son, is hell."

The samurai understood and said, "I am deeply grateful to you, O master, for risking your life to give me this teaching." His face was radiant as he knelt down and kissed the hem of the monk's garment.

The monk said, "And this, my son, is heaven."