

Asan's Rooster

18th c. Japan

Asan was a laywoman who studied Zen with Master Tetsumon and was unremitting in her devotion to practice.

One day during her morning sitting she heard the crow of the rooster and her mind suddenly opened. She spoke a verse in response:

The fields, the mountains, the flowers and my body too are the voice of the bird—
what is left that can be said to hear?

Master Tetsumon recognized her enlightenment.