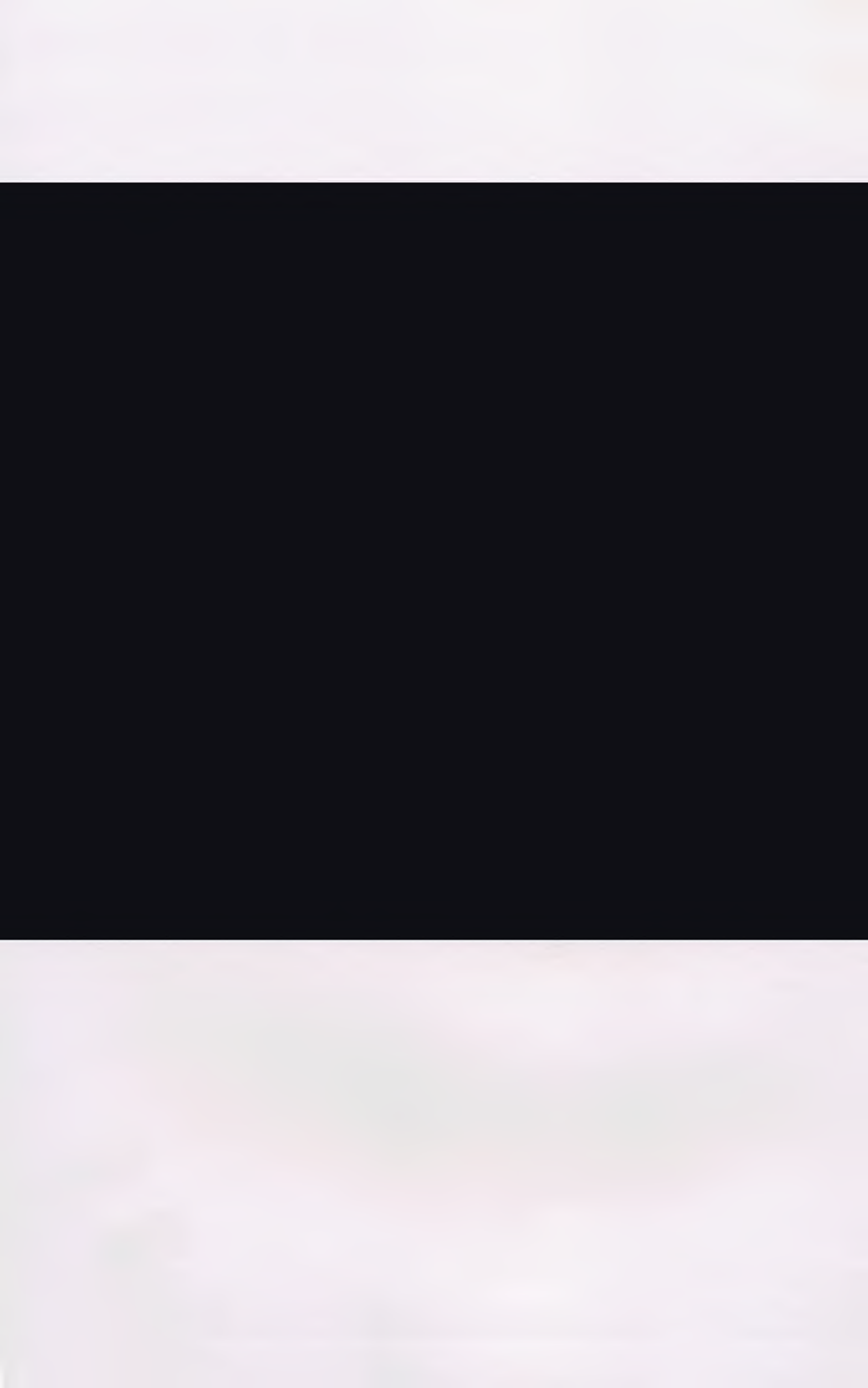


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HOTEI WADING A STREAM

FŪGAI EKUN

The roly-poly Chinese beggar-monk Pu-tai (Hotei in Japanese), a popular figure in Chinese folk religion, was a special favorite of the Zen painters of Japan. None of them was more successful in capturing Hotei's free and childlike spirit than the reclusive monk Fūgai Ekun, 1568–1654, one of the foremost painters of the Japanese Sōtō school. Fūgai usually depicted Hotei wearing a happy smile; but sometimes, as in this painting, he gives him a sad, pensive expression. For a discussion of this and other works by Fūgai, see *The Life and Art of Fūgai Ekun*, pp. 59–75.