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Frontispiece: Calligraphy by Ashikaga Shizan (1859–1959)

流水寒山路 Along flowing waters, the way to cold mountain.
深雲古寺鐘 Deep in clouds, the old temple's bell.

These are well-known lines from a poem by the Zen master Zekkai Chūshin (1336–1405), found in an anthology of his Chinese poems, the *Shōkenkō*. Zekkai was a great master of Chinese-style Zen poetry. A disciple of Musō Kokushi, he later became abbot of the Shōkoku-ji, one of the Kyoto "Gozan" temples, the five main Zen institutions in the capital. "Cold mountain" alludes to the dwelling-place of the legendary poet Han-shan.

Zekkai was one of the most prominent figures in the Gozan literary movement which developed in Japan early in the fourteenth century and continued on into the fifteenth. Japanese Zen monks devoted themselves diligently to the production of Chinese literary forms, particularly poetry, and many eminent Zen poets appeared. In 1368, Zekkai went to China to study and remained for nine years. He came to be esteemed there as a poet, and is said to have been held in such high regard that he was even invited to the Ming court to discourse on the Dharma.

Ashikaga Shizan, whose calligraphy is reproduced here, is one of the representative Zen masters of modern Japan. This example belongs to his later years. *See pp. 94 and 96.*

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IN 1977 *MN* published seventeen articles on things Japanese, such as *Nishiki no Ura*, *Santōka*, *Kinuta*, *Deshima*, *Hachikazuki*, *Sen Rikyū*, *komusō* monks, *Shiga Naoya*, *Kintōsho*, incense, *Haisho Zampitsu*, tales of the Lotus Sutra, and the *wakamonogumi*.

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