

## The Meaning

James Lynn Smith

*Sometimes simple answers are just not accepted...*

The hard-working pilgrim represents a serious group that beseeches him to climb the mountain and query the Great Guru at the top. He makes many tries, year after year, and fails. But finally, as an old man, the pilgrim reaches the top of the mountain.

He is surprised to find the Great Guru is...*diminutive*. He resembles a child. Nevertheless the pilgrim asks, “Master, what must we do to find meaning in life?”

The Guru leans forward. “Bwudda, what you need to do is wediscova *amazement!*”

“How do I wediscov—er—rediscover amazement?”

“Admit dat you don’t know dick about anyting. You don’t weally know how youh cells divide ah how youh bowels move.”

“But I have degrees from prestigious institutes of learning.”

“Dat’s all well and good, but you need to lighten up and get a Ph.D.”

“Ph.D., that’s—”

“Puhfectly Humowous Digwession...Fwivolous fun-speak, dingbat dialog, anyting to sabotage youh *sewiousness*. And discaud dis notion that you are heah to discover some unique message from da heavens. Discova tings already heah! You only tink you know about dem. But you miss good belly laughs and seein’ da beauty and mystewy behind what you look at.”

At first the old pilgrim is taken aback. After much reflection he goes back down the mountain and tells the waiting people what he heard...Then advises them

to seriously ponder and toil toward the meaning of the guru's riddle.

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