

德政

Acts of Grace

(ie cancellation of debts to moneylenders)

賊元来不打家貧

Robbers never strike poor houses

孤独財非万国珍

One man's wealth is not wealth for the whole country

信道禍元福所復

I believe that calamity has its origin in good fortune

青銅十万失靈神

You lose your soul over 10,000 pieces of copper

in:

*Ikkyu and the Crazy Cloud Anthology*

Sonja Arntzen (translator & editor)

University of Tokyo Press

Tokyo

1986

page 139

Another translation:

*Cancel All Debts*

Robbers never plunder the homes of the poor;

Private wealth does not benefit the rest of the nation.

Calamity has its source in the accumulated riches of a few,

People who lose their souls for ten thousand coins.

in:

*Crazy Clouds*

Besserman, Perle & Steger, Manfred

Shambhala Publications, Inc.

Boston

1991

page 71

Having waited for the day a whole year, debt collectors were ruthless, as indicated by a satirical poem by Buddhist priest Ikkyu (1394-1481): “The world is hi no kuruma (a fiery cart) / For poor people who are tormented / By devils (collectors) from pawnshops and rice shops.”