

From *The Zen Teaching of Huang Po*

...s people only seek to stuff themselves with knowledge and deductions, seeking everywhere for book-knowledge and calling this 'Dharma-practice'.<sup>2</sup> They do not know that so much knowledge and deduction have just the contrary effect of piling up obstacles. Merely acquiring a lot of knowledge makes you like a child who gives himself indigestion by gobbling too much curds. Those who study the Way according to the Three Vehicles are all like this. All you can call them is people who suffer from indigestion. When so-called knowledge and deductions are not digested, they become poisons, for they belong only to the plane of saṃsāra. In the Absolute, there is nothing at all of this kind.

**Hafiz,  
Why carry a whole load of books  
Upon your back  
climbing this mountain,  
When tonight,  
just a few thoughts of God  
Will light the holy fire.**

**-- Hafiz**