Poetry Stones #4-6

#4

The fourth monument is located just west of Gallery Neiha, next to an old lamppost. It is inscribed with a poem reflecting on the nature of daily practice:

mamoru tomo

omowazu nagara

oyamada no

itazura naranu

kakashi narikeri

Though limp at its post

the useless-seeming scarecrow

does not realize

how important it is to

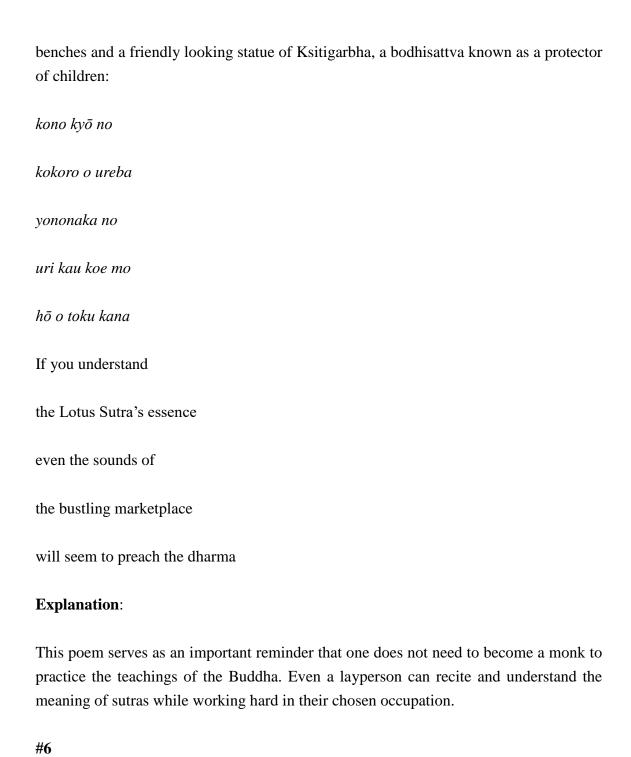
the small mountain rice paddy

Explanation:

The scarecrow is simply doing what it has always done, and it may not feel like it is really accomplishing anything. But by watching over the fields, the scarecrow is fulfilling its own important role. The same is true of us in our day-to-day lives.

#5

The fifth monument can be found in Eiheiji's pocket park, a small grassy area with



Continuing in the direction of Eiheiji Temple, visitors will find the sixth monument

alongside the street across from the pocket park:

itazura ni

sugosu tsukihi wa

ōkeredo

michi o motomuru

toki zo sukunaki

How many they are

the days and months spent idly

doing this or that

and yet how ever scarcer

our time spent seeking the Way

Explanation:

In a world filled with desires and distractions, it can be difficult to devote oneself to Zen practice. It is crucial to make a wholehearted effort every single day, regardless of how hectic life may feel.