

Colin Campbell Robinson

*from The Wittgenstein Variations*

*He who sees not things as they are  
will never know Zen.*

1.

Uttering a word is like striking a note  
on the keyboard of the imagination.

2.

stone red  
what do you have to know

write into a corner  
disappear  
later

familiar future  
strange now

2.1

Consider what 'to point at something with one's attention' means.

3.

Why is watching the sea in the morning  
like reading Wittgenstein in the late afternoon?  
Comment with examples.

3.1

Should the philosopher treat a question as an illness?  
No cure or curable?

3.2

Is everyone who speaks when no one is present  
talking to himself or herself?  
Conduct an oral examination.

3.3

word-full  
point to a circle  
to mean  
to imagine  
measure the distance

3.3.1

is  
to sleep  
active  
or passive

3.3.1.1

utter the word  
this  
immersed in colour

3.3.1.2

unearthly connection  
there is  
a spirit

4.

What is the sound of one hand?  
Depends on what you mean by one.

4.1

when the words are the meaning  
no meaning

the red is vanishing  
the broom is in the corner

I will never be silenced  
until all is silence

4.2

Philosophy ought really to be written  
as poetic composition.

4.2.1

a lamp gives light  
doesn't exist  
to fill an empty space

no boundary between  
don't think  
look

like a child  
throwing a ball  
repeatedly  
against a coal-hole door

a game  
no-one wins

done  
in the doing

4.2.2

the height of mont blanc  
the word - game  
the sound of a clarinet  
who is surprised

know something  
but be mute

or say what you please  
so long as it doesn't stop you  
from seeing how things are

seeing that  
there are things  
you won't say

4.2.3

after all  
nothing is hidden

5.

In what way is logic sublime?  
Discuss and provide 10,000 examples.

5.1

What is the weight of time? Discern measurements  
with reference to St Augustine.

5.1.1

Forever's look is in every shadow.

5.2

Think what is not the case.

5.2.1

humility	
language	table
experience	lamp
world	door
humble	

5.2.2

lock him in a room  
leave a door open

5.2.2.1

He's imprisoned in a room with a door that's unlocked  
and opens inwards, as long as it does not occur to him  
to pull rather than to push.

5.2.2.2

Why are there tears in your eyes?  
I don't know . . . I don't know, said Kafka.

6.

Who wrote the chemical history of a candle?

6.1

Who said that water is one individual thing - it never changes?

6.2

Repair a torn spider's web with your fingers.  
Describe the process.

6.2.1

a word  
like a chess piece

6.2.2

But this is how it is  
I say to myself over and over again.

6.2.2.1

Philosophy is not a theory but an activity.

6.2.2.2

a problem  
with form  
lost

hidden  
without interest

yet it may be hidden  
in the simple  
the familiar

it is there  
never anywhere else  
it is here

this is how things are  
something true  
something false