

NANCY MUJO BAKER

The Case

During an informal dharma talk, Bernie told a story about an enlightened Zen master who wanted to be a hermit and went to live in a small cabin in the woods. He didn't do a good job of keeping it monastic-style neat and clean. It was a basically a mess. One day he saw out the window, coming through the forest, the abbot of his monastery. He was so embarrassed about the mess that he hid behind the stove.

Diane Shainberg raised her hand and said, "Sensei, how can an enlightened Zen master be embarrassed?"

Without missing a beat Bernie bellowed, "He was THOROUGHLY EMBARRASSED!"