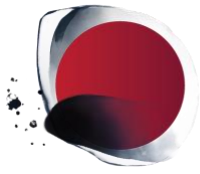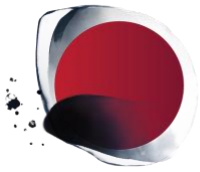# AXE HANDLE

The pattern is not far off.

> "One afternoon the last week in April
>
> Showing Kai how to throw a hatchet
>
> One-half turn and it sticks in a stump.
>
> He recalls the hatchet-head
>
> Without a handle, in the shop
>
> And go gets it, and wants it for his own.
>
> A broken-off axe handle behind the door
>
> Is long enough for a hatchet,
>
> We cut it to length and take it

With the hatchet head and working hatchet, to the wood block.

There I begin to shape the old handle

With the hatchet, and the phrase

First learned from Ezra Pound

Rings in my ears!

"When making an axe handle

      The pattern is not far off."

And I say this to Kai

Look: We'll shape the handle

By checking the handle

Of the axe we cut with –"

And he sees. And I hear it again:

It's in Lu Ji's *W'en Fu*, fourth century

A.D. "Essay on Literature" — in the

Preface: |In making the handle

Of an axe

By cutting wood with an axe

The model is indeed near at hand.

My teacher Shih-hsiang Chen

Translated that and taught it years ago

And I see: Pound was an axe,

Chen was an axe, I am an axe

And my son a handle, soon

To be shaping again, model

And tool, craft of culture,

How we go on."

Reference

Snyder, Gary. (1983). *Axe Handles: Poems by Gary Snyder.* San Francisco: North Point Press.

Image (search "Axe Handle) courtesy of: Annie Spratt @anniespratt

The Tim Dukes Method provides an opportunity for self-reflective individuals to cultivate the capacity to receive into consciousness hidden aspects of the self, claiming your unique gifts – ensuring that today's brilliance successfully transitions into tomorrow's wisdom. The Tim Dukes Method is designed and implemented by Dr. Timothy Dukes for determined creatives to ensure long-term viability — as a continuing investment in the well-being of yourself, family, organizations, culture, society, and the Earth itself.