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**The Masses**  
**by David M. Valadez**

Deshi: In many ways you say and do things differently than others.

Sensei: This is so.

Deshi: Do not the masses tell us something?

Sensei: They do.

Deshi: Something about what it is you are doing?

Sensei: No. I do not do what the masses are doing. You already said that.

Deshi: Isn't there some truth in numbers however?

Sensei: A kind of “agumentum ad populum”? No. Commonality does not make something true. And, because truth and Men of truth, are more rare than falsehood and Men of falsehood, popularity may be telling you the exact opposite of what it is you are thinking now. The masses hold only what is common - no more. They hold only what is legitimate by the institutions they create and invest in. I hold only what is my own. If what I hold is true or not true, it is so regardless of what the masses are doing and/or not doing.