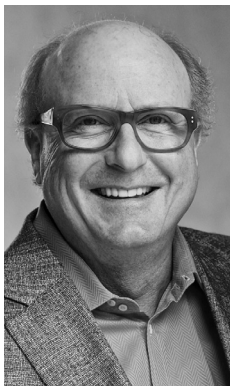


The Governor's Card



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In the city of Kyoto, there lived a great Zen master called Keichu. Keichu held sway over his temple and was respected for his astute perceptiveness. When Kitagaki took over as Governor of the city, he heard much about Keichu's wisdom. Kitagaki called upon Keichu one evening at the temple to pay his respects. Kitagaki presented his calling card to the attendant and asked for an audience with the Master. The attendant asked Kitagaki to wait and went inside to give the card to Keichu. "Master, there is someone here to see you," the attendant announced,

and he gave Keichu the card which read: *Kitagaki, Governor of Kyoto*. "I have nothing to do with this fellow!" bellowed Keichu, throwing the card in disgust. "Tell him to leave right away!"

The attendant picked up the card and dashed to the hall where Kitagaki was waiting. "My apologies, dear Sir," he said, "The Master does not wish to see you," returning his card. Realizing his folly at once, the Governor took a pencil and scratched out something from the card. "That was my mistake," he told the attendant, giving him the card again. "Would you please be kind enough to ask your Master once again?" The attendant returned to Keichu's chamber and handed him the Governor's card again. The card now simply read: *Kitagaki*. The Governor had scratched out the words, *Governor of Kyoto*. Keichu read the card and his eyes lit up. "Oh, it is Kitagaki? Yes, I would like to see him now; please send him in!" And that is how the Governor of Kyoto got an audience with the Zen Master Keichu. Trust me. Call me.

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