

On November 8, 1998, Gae Mun Sunim received inka from Zen Master Seung Sabn at Kwan Yin Chan Lin, our Zen Center in Singapore.

Dharma Combat

Question: Gae Mun Sunim, today you have an inka ceremony. I have seen you working and practicing and taking care of many people for a long time. I see you are a great bodhisattva. In the sutras, it says there are ten stages of bodhisattvahood. What stage are you?

GMSN: You already know.

Q: No. I'm asking you.

GMSN: Your nose is big.

Q: My nose is big? That's my stage?

GMSN: Not enough?

Q: Not enough!

GMSN: The dog is chasing the bone.

Q: Thank you for your teaching.

Q: Congratulations and good morning. So, Gae Mun Sunim, you have been practicing for many years now. Now you understand that everything is Zen: sitting is Zen, walking is Zen, talking is Zen, eating is Zen, and going to the toilet is also Zen. So I ask you, Gae Mun Sunim, what is not Zen?

GMSN: You already understand.

Q: Please tell me.

GMSN: Please drink this tea.

Q: Thank you. [*drinks*] But this is hot water, not tea!

GMSN: Are tea and hot water the same or different? That is a question for you.

Q: You already understand... Please drink this water.

GMSN: [*drinks*] It's very nice water.

Q: Thank you.

Q: Good morning, Gae Mun Sunim, and congratulations on becoming a Ji Do Poep Sa. I have a question for you. Soon you will be a great teacher for all students here in Asia. But in Asia, many people are Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, and all sorts of other things. My question for you is, how will you teach all these people?

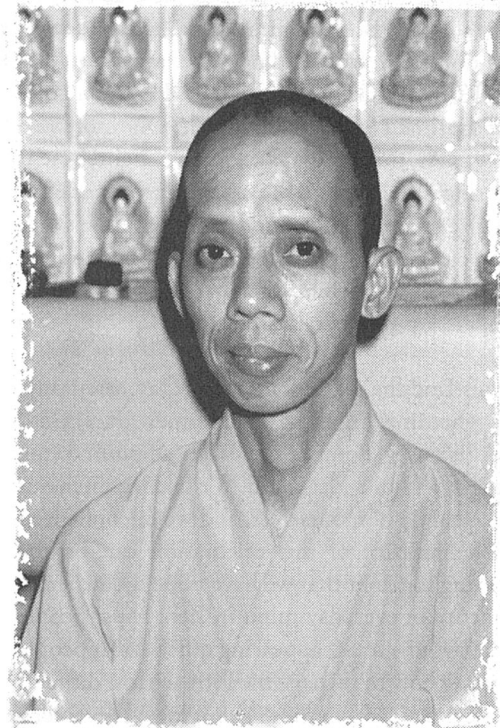
GMSN: You already understand.

Q: So I'm asking you.

GMSN: Chinese people call this shui, Americans call this water, Muslims say ae. Which one is correct?

Q: Thank you, but I'm not thirsty.

GMSN: Then go for a rest.



Q: I am a vegetarian. If I eat one piece of meat, my mind says, "I don't know"—no, sorry, no "I"!

"Don't know!" If I eat meat with a "don't know" mind, then am I committing violence?

GMSN: You already understand... What's important is, why do you eat meat?

Q: I am a vegetarian.

GMSN: So, you're a vegetarian—what for?

Q: I'm asking you to explain Zen mind—don't know.

GMSN: Already!

Q: Congratulations. In Zen teachings, we are told to put down our thinking... I would like to know, what is one hundred percent thinking?

GMSN: You already understand. What are you doing now?

Q: [*hits floor*]

GMSN: Only that?

Q: Sitting on the meditation cushion listening to Poep Sa Nim.

GMSN: Keep this mind. One hundred percent thinking or no thinking, no problem... So, you like thinking or not thinking? You decide: thinking, then suffering. "No problem," then no problem.