

The whole Universe in on fire, with what kind of Sa



In June 2006, the Kwan Um School of Zen sponsored the first-ever Zen conference in Indonesia. This was the first time in history that Zen teaching traveled to Indonesia—amazing! Our School was represented by Zen Master Dae Kwang, Zen Master Wu Bong, Zen Master Dae Kwan, Gye Mun Sunim JDPS, and Chong An Sunim JDPS. Much of the planning for the conference was done by members of Su Bong Zen Monastery in Hong Kong.

VOLCANO MIND

Zen Master Dae Kwan

Recently, several of our Kwan Um School of Zen teachers went to Indonesia. The year before they had a big earthquake. Do you remember? At that time in Indonesia, a Buddhist group wanted us to go and give some Zen teaching. Throughout the history of Indonesia, they had never heard of Zen teaching; they only had Theravada-style Buddhist teaching. Also, most people in Indonesia are Muslim. So they wanted us to go and give some lectures over two days. Six hundred people came to the conference.

Indonesia is a place, like Africa, with many disasters. What does it mean? Do you understand a volcano, an earthquake?.. That's nature. Nature reflects our mind. That's why outside volcano, outside earthquake is not serious. But inside our minds we have volcanoes, we have earthquakes all the time. Sometimes our angry mind appears, boom! Yeah? All of you have experienced this angry mind. Very dangerous! If our mind is not clear, this angry mind can turn into a disaster. America nowadays has many people who are crazy; They bring

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madhi can you escape? ~ Zen Conference in Indonesia 2006



a gun to school and shoot everybody. Why is it like that? Because they have this volcano, this angry mind. In Chinese we say, "If there is a fire inside you, that will block your seeing and your hearing." This fire will just burn up everything.

That's why practicing is so important. Practicing means "return to your true nature." Why do we have so much trouble returning to our true nature? It's because we have a lot of attachments to our thinking, many attachments to our ideas. Zen Master Seung Sahn always used to explain that these ideas are not good, not bad. If you can use them, they can be very useful. But some people are so attached to their emotions, and their thinking, that it makes their lives like hell. This causes problems not only for themselves, but also for everybody else. Like these boys in Colorado, they don't just dislike one teacher or one girlfriend. I cannot imagine how they can go to that school and not just kill one person but kill everybody, kill the teachers, kill themselves too. It's like a moth. Have you ever watched a moth? When they see fire, they only want to fly into the fire. They die, too.

Many of us, if we are not practicing, we are like animals. Our emotions, these volcano feelings, control us. When I was in Indonesia, I talked about one thing: human beings must learn to live in harmony with others. Without harmony, it's the same as a volcano, the same as a tsunami. ☸

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