

is a Single Flower

THE ROOT, THE SEED, AND THE SOIL

Zen Master Dae Kwan

I want to thank Zen Master Seung Sahn for bringing this “Whole World is a Single Flower” teaching to Asia, especially to Hong Kong and China. Every Zen center has their own particular situation. It is not easy for any of our Zen centers throughout the world; it is not easy to start a Zen center and for people to come and practice together. And, since I am from a Chinese Buddhist culture, setting up a Korean-style practicing center is extremely difficult. But while it may be difficult, we still try to keep our Zen center and connect with the worldwide sangha. It is because of Zen Master Seung Sahn’s teaching that we keep going. Together action is the spirit of the teaching of the Whole World is a Single Flower. At the end of the Japanese war, on independence day, Zen Master Man Gong used a flower dipped in ink to write, “The Whole World is a Single Flower.” That really impressed me. Zen Master Seung Sahn really brought this flower to life through his great vision to bring this spirit to us.

So, I want to ask you: Are you the root, the stem, the leaf, or the flower petal? Everybody likes to be a beautiful flower, but without the roots, without a stem, without the leaves, without the soil, this flower cannot appear. Don’t worry if you are not the beautiful flower petal. Everybody wants to be the top, but we don’t have to fight to be the top flower. Remember, the top dies first, if you want to be the top. Don’t worry. No matter if you’re the soil, the roots, the dirt, or the leaf, you are very important. We all need each other. I need all of you and you also need me—we need each other. How do we truly become like this flower? Can we chant “Om Nam” together three times? Now everybody hapchang. Om nam. Om nam. Om nam. Thank you. We’ve become the root, the soil, the leaves, and the flower all together at the same time. Thank you very much. ☸



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