

# Blue Sky, White Clouds:

A SHORT INTERVIEW WITH GYE MUN SUNIM JDPS

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**Editor's note:** *The editorial team had a rare chance to have a candid talk with the abbot of Kwan Yin Chan Lin. Below is the transcription. The Chinese title "Shifu" means roughly "Master" or "Respected Teacher" and is the title by which Gye Mun Sunim is known there.*

**Questioner:** What is the vision of Kwan Yin Chan Lin?

**Shifu:** To revitalize Zen practice.

**Q:** What is the teaching of Zen? How to begin Zen practice?

**Shifu:** To enter this gate, do not attach to your understanding and concepts.

**Q:** What is your view of the students today? Are they more difficult to teach compared to students, say, 10 years ago?

**Shifu:** The students 10 years ago saw that the sky is blue, clouds are white. Students now also see that the sky is blue, the clouds are white.

**Q:** What is your wish for Kwan Yin Chan Lin?

**Shifu:** My wish is that everybody can always live among blue sky and white clouds, and find their correct life.



Gye Mun Sunim JDPS, is the abbot of Kwan Yin Chan Lin Zen Meditation Centre in Singapore and the Pengerang International Zen Centre. He shuttles between Singapore and Malaysia teaching Zen meditation and leading retreats. In 1971, Gye Mun Sunim took the Buddhist refuge under Ven. Hong Choon. He practiced under the guidance of his teacher Ven. Zhu Mo for five years and was ordained as a monk by him in 1985. Since then, he has traveled to Penang, Thailand, Taiwan, Japan and India to pursue in-depth studies in Bud-

dhism. In 1988, he started practicing Zen meditation and did a three-year retreat at Songkwang-sa monastery in Korea. Later he met Zen Master Seung Sahn and began practicing under his guidance and teaching. In 1991, Gye Mun Sunim started the Kwan Yin Chan Lin at Pulau Ubin in Singapore. On November 8, 1998, he received inka and the authority to teach Zen as a Ji Do Poep Sa from Zen Master Seung Sahn. In 2000, he started the Kwan Yin Chan Lin Pengerang International Zen Centre in Johore, Malaysia. ☸