

Editor's note: We asked School Zen Master Soeng Hyang to choose an article by Zen Master Seung Sahn and to say why she chose it. We will be continuing this format in future issues. Here is her response:

This article by Zen Master Seung Sahn is already available right in our chanting books. Those of us who have them can read it easily. I wanted to highlight it publicly and suggest that we all read it again. I vaguely remember when he was writing it. Zen Master Seung Sahn never did any-

thing without a lot of enthusiasm and effort. As good as his writing is, his chanting was even better than the way he wrote about it. That is really saying something. Please read this piece as if you were reading it for the first time. Read it and know that Zen Master Seung Sahn embodied that teaching. We are all so blessed to have a CD on which we can hear his chanting. Even more so, we are blessed to have opportunities to get together and practice listening to each other with ears that embrace don't-know.

Mind to Mind

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One time, a visiting nun expressed that she felt she could not relate to kong-ans, that kong-ans have nothing to do with Zen meditation and could not help her in her life. Later, during teaching, Zen Master Dae Kwan placed the Zen stick in front of her.

Zen Master Dae Kwan: This Zen stick's true nature and your true nature: are they the same or different?

Nun: Zen stick is over there and I am sitting over here, not same or different.

ZMDK: So is this your attitude toward life?

The visiting nun suddenly woke up, hapchanged and bowed to Zen Master Dae Kwan.

Commentary: *When you see there is garbage, place it in the garbage bin; when you see a blind person crossing the road, go and help him.*

Kong-ans guide us in how to relate and respond to people and situations in our daily life.



Zen Master Dae Kwan (Hyang Um), a Zen nun, studied sutras at the Kwok Kwong Buddhist College in Hong Kong in the 1970s and was ordained at Ajahn Chah's International Forest Monastery in Thailand in 1981. She practiced in Chiang Mai for a decade, including two years of intensive solo retreat in Tu Boo Cave. As a Theravada nun she went to Korea in 1992 for the first time and met Zen Master Seung Sahn during a three-month winter Kyol Che. Thereafter she became his student and returned to Hong Kong to help establish the Hong Kong Zen Center (now Su Bong Zen Monastery). In 1995, she received inka from Zen Master Seung Sahn, and in April 2001 she received dharma transmission from him and was named Zen Master Dae Kwan. Zen Master Dae Kwan is the abbot and guiding teacher of the Su Bong Zen Monastery in Hong Kong. She has translated several of Zen Master Seung Sahn's books into Chinese, including *Dropping Ashes on the Buddha*, *Only Don't Know* and *The Whole World Is a Single Flower*.