

Revitalizing Zen: Kwan Yin Chan Lin Opening Ceremony

The following three talks were given at the Opening Ceremony for Kwan Lin Chan Lin Zen Meditation Centre in Singapore, on September 25, 2012.

This One-Doing

Tangen Roshi-sama

Please, please see it: everything is alive. Great, great alive. This is the happiness of all happiness. And this Now Here can never be destroyed. The light of your eternal life is shining brightly now. What joy there is in this radiance! Please take care of yourself, your shining Buddha-self. Become ever more able to appreciate your Buddha-self. That is not to say be arrogant. There is no one anywhere to feel small, and no one to be made small. There is no one anywhere who should feel superior, and no one toward whom you should feel superior. Who are you to feel

vain and proud when your very source is All Being? You are supported, you are nurtured, and you are guarded by All Being. The universe is One, Together, *thanks to All Being*. This one breath is breathed always One, always together, so very close, *thanks to All Being*. Please never forsake the limitless treasure which is You Yourself. Simply be in touch; simply do not look away. Grasp nothing. Hold nothing. There is just Now and Here— fresh and new and alive. Just Now. Just do your practice enveloped in all good grace.

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Photo: Courtesy of Bukkoku-ji temple

Daisetsu Tangen Roshi-sama (1924–) is the Dharma successor of Daiun Sogaku Roshi (1871–1961), the Zen monk known for combining Rinzaï koan teaching with Soto Zen. During World War II, before he met his master, Roshi-sama was trained as a kamikaze pilot, but the war ended just when he was about to fly. Grieving that he could not give his life to save his country, he met his teacher Daiun Roshi, who told him, “You yourself, you are still alive, so that you can forever and ever follow the path of giving. You can steadily, ever, ever more, give your life to save others, and that even with the death of this body, the genuine life continues.” He practiced with single-minded conviction and effort, until one day he went to dokusan (interview) with his master, Daiun Roshi, and passed all the koans with ease. In 1955 he became the abbot of Bukkoku-ji temple and has been teaching students for more than fifty years.