



Photo: KYCL Archives

snakes, but tigers—that’s a whole different story! It turned out that a tiger had swum from Jahor over to Pulau Ubin and was scaring the local residents. Fortunately, we made it to the temple alive and were able to have tea with Sunim.

It’s amazing to look back now and consider how Kwan Yin Chan Lin has grown over the last 25 years. But, whether located on a undeveloped island, in Bukit Timah, on Lavender Street, or in Geylang, the direction of Kwan Yin Chan Lin has always been the same: Provide clear teaching and help the world. Only a clear and dedicated leader can inspire something like that to happen year-in and year-out. That’s the true tiger!

Nevertheless, we all know that in human realms nobody does anything by themselves. Without the support of a dedicated and sincere sangha Kwan Yin Chan Lin would not be possible. Our Zen center has been able to do its work all these years through the dedication and hard work of a large number of people. Happy anniversary, Kwan Yin Chan Lin—all of you! ♦

8] I Still Don’t Understand My True Self

Interviews with Zen Master Wu Bong

Eduardo del Valle Pérez

When I was a young Zen student, I was very interested in checking if it was true that great masters were always keeping a not-moving mind. I entered the interview room, bowed in front of Zen Master Wu Bong and sat in front of him.

He asked, “Do you have any questions?”

I suddenly jumped over him very fast, shouting “*Aah-hhggg!*” And I grabbed his neck tightly and shouted at him, “*Give me the money!*”

Zen Master Wu Bong kept completely quiet. His body didn’t move even one millimeter. He just smiled while I was grabbing his neck and very kindly asked me, “How much do you need?”



During a dharma talk at the Palma Zen Center, Zen Master Wu Bong explained that our body is not our true self. Then, when I went to the interview room I asked him, “During the dharma talk, you said that our body is

not our true self, but in the *Song of Dharma Nature* the great patriarch said, “This empty delusory body is the very body of the Buddha.” So why do you make a distinction between our body and our true self?”

Zen Master Wu Bong looked down at the floor and smiled like a child who has been caught stealing candy in a shop. He looked at me with that smile, happy to have a student confronting him. Then he said “It is just a teaching style I’m using.”



At the end of 1992, before he had received dharma transmission, I asked Jacob Perl JDPSN (who would later become Zen Master Wu Bong), “Teacher, why have you not received transmission?” He seemed humbled, looked away from me for a moment and then looked at the floor. He suddenly became sad and said to me very softly, “Zen Master Seung Sahn said to me that I don’t still understand my true self.” A few months later, he got transmission from Zen Master Seung Sahn. ♦