

Tribute to Myong Hae Sunim JDPS

Editor's note:

Many of those who wrote tributes are monastics and have omitted the monastic title *Sunim* from their names out of humility, as monks and nuns never use the title to refer to themselves. In these cases, we have included the title in square brackets following their names, in order to allow readers to know which of the writers are in the monastic community.

A Poem for Myong Hae Sunim JDPS

To Bright Ocean

You carried a broken house
all over the world.

How did you become
so strong . . . and kind . . .

A friend to everyone.

Changing buildings,
another challenge.

You went first
to open the Path for others.

We meet soon ~
Opening eyes, I see you.
Hearing the wind and water,
hear you.

Dae Bong [Sunim] hapjang
Phoenix Dragon Mountain, Korea
2020.08.27



Dharma Sister Life after Life!

I came to Hong Kong in 2003 after I had completed haeng-ja training in Musangsa Temple in Korea. Something that really shocked me was the dharma sisters here, especially Myong Hae Sunim. She could wake up at 4:30 a.m. and keep working nonstop until 11 at night! After being together for a longer time, and sometimes having accompanied her to visit her Chinese doctor, I came to understand that her body was too weak that she just couldn't fall asleep in such short breaks during the day. In fact, bodily pain was never an obstacle for her perseverance of "only go straight, just do it"!

I remember there was a period when her body was very sick, and she needed a wheelchair to help for longer walks. By some chance, she got to know a qi gong teacher who was teaching Yi Jin Jing exercise. From that point, she dragged her painful body every day, step by step, heading to the park to learn the exercise. After she returned to the

► Biography of Myong Hae Sunim JDPS

Myong Hae Sunim JDPS was the first Buddhist nun from Lithuania. She heard of Zen Master Seung Sahn's teaching for the first time in 1991 and sat her first retreat with Zen Master Su Bong when he visited Lithuania in 1993. Myong Hae Sunim moved to Hwa Gye Sa Temple in South Korea in 1996 to train as a haeng-ja. She then relocated to Hong Kong after becoming a nun in 1997 to train under Zen Master Dae Kwan. Myong Hae Sunim remained in Hong Kong for more than twenty years and served as head nun, vice abbot, and second guiding teacher of Su Bong Zen Monastery. After receiving inka from Zen Master Dae Kwan in 2016, Myong Hae Sunim became the second guiding teacher of Su Bong Zen Monastery and the guiding teacher of the Lithuanian sangha. She led many retreats in Hong Kong, Lithuania, and other parts of Europe before passing in her home country in August 2020.

Zen center, besides practicing the qi gong exercises, she did lots of mantra practice too. During that period, sometimes she would have some emotions, because of not being able to do together action and join practice with everybody, and also when outside people couldn't understand her situation. In fact, eventually she overcame all those mind obstacles, and later she got special permission from the qi gong teacher to teach us qi gong in the Zen center. Something amazing is, if she felt interested in something, she would really do it with 100 percent passion, make a deep investigation, and finally became proficient.

I learned a lot from Myong Hae Sunim all these years, especially when organizing activities. In Hong Kong, our teacher usually would perceive the timing and climate, location advantage, and human situation at that moment. In case the planned schedule wouldn't work well with the above criteria, all plans and rundown could be completely changed anytime. Usually people would just get shocked, feel strong emotions and helplessness with the sudden