

## Editor's Note

What you hold in your hands is an edition of *Primary Point* that was compiled by the European sangha. When we embarked on this editorial journey in late summer 2020, we found ourselves faced with a number of doubts and challenges. So many things transpired over the course of last year—not just globally but also within our sangha—that we struggled to find a suitable approach for this edition, one that would be pious enough to pay due respect to the many life-and-death situations our community has had to face, while at the same time ensuring that we also offered somewhat less mournful contributions. With the passing of Myong Hae Sunim JDPS and Oleg Śuk JDPSN, our sangha lost two inspiring teachers last year, and so we commemorate them in this issue with stories and pictures from the European sangha members. In 2020 we also lost Roger Keyes, the late husband of Lizzie Coombs JDPSN, whose commemoration will be included in the next issue. As for the less somber topics, we include various other submissions from both students and teachers offering reflections on the vitality of our sangha.

## Transmission Ceremony for Zen Master Hyon Ja

*On September 26, 2020, Alma Potter received transmission from Zen Master Bon Shim in a virtual online ceremony and became Zen Master Hyon Ja.*

### DHARMA COMBAT

4]

**Question:** I heard a Zen master talking about a child who had died. At first the Zen master was greatly upset, then the Zen master thought that the child was where it always had been and felt better. When you and I talked about people who were ill or had died, you were very upset. Which one is correct teaching—to accept that the child is where it always has been or to be upset about the death of the child?

**Zen Master Hyon Ja:** [*Wiping away tears*] Ji Jang Bosal, Ji Jang Bosal.

**Q:** Thank you so much for your heart energy teaching!



**Question:** Hi Alma. You have been teaching your dharma to us for so many years now. Today, Zen-master dharma is being transmitted to you. Which dharma do you prefer—the dharma you have been teaching or the dharma after transmission?

**Zen Master Hyon Ja:** I prefer you!

**Q:** [*Laughs loudly.*] Thank you!



**Bon Sun Sunim:** Lovely to see you and everyone in Vienna Zen Center. You receive dharma transmission today to become a Zen master in Zen Master Seung Sahn's lineage. How will you go above this lineage?

**Zen Master Hyon Ja:** How can I help you, Sunim?



**Question:** I love art. For some time, I have wanted to draw a Buddhist drawing. I want to draw the three jewels, that is, the Buddha, dharma, and sangha. I already know how to draw the Buddha and the sangha. But I don't know how to draw the dharma. Can you help me to know how to draw the dharma?

**Zen Master Hyon Ja:** Paint yourself into the picture!

**Q:** [*Opens mouth and then laughs.*] Oh, thank you! That is high-class dharma.

### DHARMA SPEECH

[*Raises the Zen stick over her head, then hits the table with the stick.*]

The Sixth Patriarch said to [one of his disciples] Fada, If your mouth recites while your mind does not practice, then the sutra “turns” you.

If your mouth recites and your mind practices, you “turn” the sutra.

[*Raises the Zen stick over her head, then hits the table with the stick.*]

No sutra,  
No practice,  
No turning!

[*Raises the Zen stick over her head, then hits the table with the stick.*]

What shall we do?

KATZ!