

The Way Of Korean Zen

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the power and simplicity of the korean zen tradition shine in this collection of teachings by a renowned modern master translated by martine batchelor kusan sunim provides a wealth of practical advice for students particularly with regard to the uniquely korean practice of hwadu or sitting with questioning an

extensive introduction by stephen batchelor author of buddhism without beliefs provides both a biography of the author and a brief history of korean zen

don t know mind is our enlightened mind before ideas opinions or concepts arise to create suffering practicing with don t know mind has long been a central concern of korean zen here an american zen master in the korean lineage brings the teaching to life by using stories about the chinese and korean zen masters as jumping off points for his own teaching don t know mind is a clear direct and heartfelt presentation of zen teaching applicable to anyone both for formal practice and for all the rest of life

empty house explores the origins of korean zen and traces its history as a living tradition right up to the present day while chinese zen was effectively wiped out by the cultural revolution the korean tradition maintains the original teaching style of the lin chi school the primary teaching device still used in zen halls today is the hwadu this means the korean zen tradition is closer to the original chinese style in both method and spirit than its japanese counterpart empty houses explores the hwadu teaching device and presents biographical materials on the most notable korean zen masters together with selected teachings and poems

this book is a translation of the bound volume of the seonmun gangyo jip 禪門綱要集 collection of the essential outlines of the seon school and the seonmun bojang nok 禪門寶鏡 record of the treasures of the seon school both of which are late goryeo materials essential for understanding the philosophical feature and identity of korean seon the seonmun bojang nok by the thirteenth century master jinjeong cheonchaek 智正 禪叡 compiles the recorded sayings of seon masters cheonchaek was the fourth patriarch of baengnyeonsa 雲峯 white lotus society of the cheontae school he also left the hosan nok 護山錄 literary collection of hasan the seonmun gangyo jip summarizes the essence of seon though and there is a controversy surrounding its authorship in particular whether the author was cheonchaek or jin gak hyesim 金覺 慧心 1178 1234 this book confirms as its author hyesim bojo jinul s disciple who promoted ganhwa seon the seonmun gangyo jip of 1531 edition has survived it consists of five chapters chapter of the three saints conversation of the two worthies theory of a foolish man compilation of blue mountain and white cloud and three sentences of yunmen the first three chapters discuss the essential thought of the linji school the seonmun bojang nok

was published in three volumes by cheonchaek in 1293 it was published a few more afterwards the first volume has discussing the differences between seon and doctrinal buddhism in twenty five sections the second volume wherein all lecturers revert to and submit to seon in twenty five sections the third volume buddhist lords and ministers in thirty nine sections it is also well known as the first material that records jin gwi 眞記 josaseol a theory that seon was transmitted to Śākyamuni these texts had a huge impact on seon monks of joseon including cheongheo hyujeong

here is the inimitable zen master seung sahn up close and personal in selections from the correspondence that was one of his primary modes of teaching seung sahn received hundreds of letters per month each of which he answered personally and some of the best of which are included here his frank and funny style familiar to readers of dropping ashes on the buddha is seen here in a most intimate form the beloved zen master not only answers questions on zen teaching and practice but applies an enlightened approach to problems with work relationships suffering and the teacher student relationship

a simple exhaustive and often hilarious presentation of the essence of zen by a modern zen master of considerable renown in his many years of teaching throughout the world the korean born zen master seung sahn has become known for his ability to cut to the heart of buddhist teaching in a way that is strikingly clear yet free of esoteric and academic language in this book based largely on his talks he presents the basic teachings of buddhism and zen in a way that is wonderfully accessible for beginners yet so rich with stories insights and personal experiences that long time meditation students will also find it a source of inspiration and a resource for study

sōn japanese zen has been the dominant form of buddhism in korea from medieval times to the present a handbook of korean zen practice a mirror on the sōn school of buddhism sōn ga kwigam was the most popular guide for sōn practice and life ever published in korea and helped restore buddhism to popularity after its lowest point in korean history it was compiled before 1569 by sōsan hyujōng 1520 1604 later famed as the leader of a monk army that helped defend korea against a massive japanese invasion in 1592 in addition to succinct quotations from sutras the text also contained quotations from selected chinese and korean works together with hyujōng's explanations because of its brevity and organization the work

proved popular and was reprinted many times in korea and japan before 1909 a handbook of korean zen practice commences with the ineffability of the enlightened state and after a tour through doctrine and practice it returns to its starting point the doctrinal rationale for practice that leads to enlightenment is based on the mahayana awakening of faith but the practice hyujŏng enjoins readers to undertake is very different a method of meditation derived from the kongan japanese koan called hwadu chinese huatou or point of the story the story being the kongan this method was developed by dahui zonggao 1089 1163 and was imported into korea by chinul 1158 1210 the most famous hwadu is the mu no answer by zhaozhou to the question does a dog have a buddha nature hyujŏng warns of pitfalls in this practice such as the delusion that one is already enlightened a proper understanding of doctrine is required before practicing hwadu practice also requires faith and an experienced teacher hyujŏng outlines the specifics of practice such as rules of conduct and chanting and mindfulness of the buddha and stresses the requirements for living the life of a monk at the end of the text he returns to the hwadu the need for a teacher and hence the importance of lineage he sketches out the distinctive methods of practice of the chief sŏn chinese chan lineages his final warning is not to be attached to the text the version of the text translated here is the earliest and the longest extant it was translated into korean from chinese by one of hyujŏng's students to aid korean readers the present volume contains a brief history of hwadu practice and theory a life of hyujŏng and a summary of the text plus a detailed annotated translation it should be of interest to practitioners of meditation and students of east asian buddhism and korean history

zen is famous for koans called kong ans in korean and in this book those bizarre and seemingly unanswerable questions zen masters pose to their students to check their realization such as what is the sound of one hand clapping fear of koans keeps some people from ever giving zen practice a try but here through the experience of seeing a modern zen master work with his students you can see what koan training is really like it's a skillful lively practice for attaining wisdom this book presents the system of ten koans that zen master seung sahn came to call the ten gates these koans represent the basic types one will encounter in any course of study each of the ten gates or koans is illuminated by actual interchanges between zen master seung sahn and his students that show what the practice is all about it is above all a process of coming to trust one's own wisdom and of manifesting that wisdom in every koan like situation

life presents us with for more information on the author zen master seung sahn visit his website at kwanumzen.com

kusan sunim 1901-83 was one of the greatest modern masters of korean zen as the zen master of the songgwang monastery he preached the sermons and dharma talks collected here first published in 1985 and long out of print these pithy down to earth refreshingly practical guides to meditation and spiritual cultivation are now again available to followers of buddhism and the way of zen a brief history of korean buddhism a fascinating account of life in a korean monastery and a biography of master kusan provide important background information and the glossary of korean and general buddhist terms is a valuable tool for readers new to the field of buddhist studies of special interest is master kusan's presentation of a meditation practice unique to korean zen the hwadu zen students familiar with koan riddles and the just sitting practice of japanese zen will be eager to learn of this distinctively korean approach to meditation and to read master kusan's detailed instructions for its practice master kusan also offers an interpretation of the classic ten oxherding pictures illustrated by the ink paintings of living national treasure sokchong sunim

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the first book in english devoted exclusively to modern korean buddhism this work provides a comprehensive exploration for scholars students and serious readers makers of modern korean buddhism focuses on three key areas buddhist reform zen revival and the interrelationship of religion history and politics in korea the modern period in buddhism begins in earnest in the late nineteenth century during the closing years of the chosŏn dynasty which was characterized by a repressive brand of neo

confucianism buddhist reformers arose to seek change in both buddhism and korean society at large the work begins with a look at five of these reformers and their thought and work the zen revival that began at the end of the nineteenth century is covered from that period to contemporary times through an exploration of the life and thought of important zen masters the influence of japanese buddhist missionaries the emergence of korean engaged buddhism known as minjung buddhism and the formation of modern buddhist scholarship in korea are discussed as well this outstanding collection will be highly valued by the scholarly community for the way it deals comprehensively and insightfully with an important though relatively unexplored topic in the modern era steven heine author of zen skin zen marrow will the real zen buddhism please stand up jin y park is associate professor of philosophy and religion at american university she is the author of buddhism and postmodernity zen huayan and the possibility of buddhist postmodern ethics and the editor of several books including buddhisms and deconstructions

a celebration of 1500 years of korean zen poetry

hwadu is the most authoritative edition of zen questions and answers by jeonbeop zen master daewon moon jaehyeon through hwadu one may encounter the living zen of the korean tradition

the buddhist master chinul 1158 1210 is regarded as one of the greatest son zen monks in korea in this penetrating analysis of chinul s writings about son the esoteric world of the buddhist meditation experience becomes more accessible to readers

the sacred radiance of our original nature never darkens it has shined forth since beginningless time do you wish to enter the gate that leads to this simply do not give rise to conceptual thinking zen master so sahn 1520 1604 is a towering figure in the history of korean zen in this treasure text he presents in simple yet beautiful language the core principles and teachings of zen each section opens with a quotation drawn from classical scriptures teachings and anecdotes followed by the author s commentary and verse originally written in chinese the text was translated into korean in the mid twentieth century by the celebrated korean monk boep joeng an american zen monk hyon gak has translated it into english

chinul 1158 1210 was the founder of the korean tradition of zen he provides one of the most lucid and accessible accounts of zen practice and meditation to be found anywhere in east asian literature tracing back the radiance an abridgment of buswell s korean approach to zen the collected works of chinul combines an extensive introduction to chinul s life and thought with translations of three of his most representative works

this project was designed to introduce the intellectual heritage of korean buddhism to all over the world by selecting representative works of korean buddhist tradition in various fields and publishing them in english for a six year period from 2018 to 2023 the jogye order of korean buddhism supervised the project with the support of the ministry of culture sports and tourism and has been publishing ten representative buddhist works in english buddhism has been the central axis of korean culture and thought for thousands of years and has exerted considerable influence to the present buddhism which originated in india and settled here in korea via china maintains both local particularity and global universality various works on philosophy history and culture of korean buddhism need to be published to introduce the originality and excellence of korean buddhism to the world the jogye order of korean buddhism previously published the collected works of modern korean buddhism 2017 english translations of carefully selected korean buddhist works as part of the globalization project of korean buddhism succeeding and further developing upon the previous undertaking this project aims to inform the world of korean buddhism which not only served as an indispensable spiritual asset for korean people but also provided them with the locus of universal discourse the ultimate goal of this project is to expand the worldwide base for korean studies promote the globalization of korean buddhism and improve the brand equity of korean tradition

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