



Nine Mountains Zen Gate Society

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Dear Friends and Members of the Sangha:


I am writing to commend your attention to *The Garden of Flowers and Weeds*, a book written by my dharma heir Matthew Juksan Sullivan.

I am a Zen Master in the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism and abbot of the Nine Mountains and Zen Gate Society and the Awakened Meditation Centre in Toronto, Ontario, and their affiliates. I received my dharma transmission from the late Venerable Wol Ha Kun Sunim, was the Supreme Patriarch of the Jogye Order in Korea and the former Grand Zen master of Tongdosa Monastery. I served as the president of the Sangha Council of Ontario Buddhist Ministry, the Buddhist Council of North America, and the Maha Prajna Compassionate Society International. The Chinese Sangha honored me with the distinguished title of Tripitaka Master, and the Sri Lankan Sangha gave me the title of Honorary Supreme Patriarch.

Matthew came to study Zen with me in 2004. In 2006, I invited him to travel with me to Korea to visit our ancestral temple, Tongdosa Monastery, where I presented him to other Zen Masters in our lineage. Later that year I ordained Matthew as a Dharma Teacher (*Ji Do Poep Sa Nim*). In 2013, I formally confirmed his enlightenment by bequeathing transmission, which made him a Zen Master, my direct dharma heir, and my first son in the dharma. He has the authority to teach and carry on my lineage.

I know *The Garden of Flowers and Weeds* will benefit sentient beings. In this book, you will meet the koans that are the precious treasury of the Zen school. Some of these old koans are correct and helpful, and some are not. Whether they are correct or not doesn't matter. We use koans to make our heart clear and vast, like the sky.

Yours in the Dharma,



Zen Master Venerable Hwasun Yangil