

# Thousand Peaks – Tradition and Teachers

BY MU SOENG

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*Thousand Peaks* is the first comprehensive history in English of the rich tradition of Korean Zen, little-known in the West yet one of the few living links with the vigorous, ancient schools of Chinese Ch'an. The author, a Buddhist scholar who was ordained as a monk for eleven years, presents a wealth of historical material in an easy-to-read narrative.

"I am happy to welcome this book on Korean Zen. It was written by a monk trained in that tradition and combines a scholarly treatment of the subject with a genuine, heartfelt appreciation of it, possible only to one who has practiced it daily for a number of years. If we come face to face with our ancestors we will have a much wider understanding not only of Korean or Chinese or Japanese Zen, but also the Zen tradition that is evolving now..."  
— *Dae Soen Sa Nim Seung Sahn*

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## An Extract from "Thousand Peaks"

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Once a scholar came to visit Man Gong and asked, "What is the teaching of Buddha?"

Man Gong said, "It's in front of your eyes."

The scholar asked "If it's in front of me, why can't I see it?"

Man Gong said, "Because you have you, so you cannot see."

The scholar asked "Do you see?"

Man Gong answered, "There is only you. But you cannot see. Besides that, there is me. So it's even more difficult to see."

Then the scholar asked, "If there is no you and no me, then who can see?"

Man Gong said, "No you, no me... Then who wants to see?"

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