

The Bodhi Mirror



Elder Dharma Master Chywan Yin

Dharma Master Chywan Yin ("Trans-mitting the Seal") left the home-life in 1954 and received his full ordination at True Suchness Monastery, Yun Jyu Shan ("Cloud Abode Mountain"), Jyangsyi Province, under the Venerable Elder Master Syu Yun ("Empty Cloud"). From 1956 to 1959, he served as the Elder Master's personal attendant, until the time of the Elder Master's Nirvana in 1959. After receiving the complete precepts, Dharma Master Chywan Yin underwent further training at Yun Jyu Mountain, which, under the leadership of the Venerable Master Syu Yun, was one of the principle centers of cultivation, especially Chan, during those turbulent times of political change in Mainland China.

Later, Dharma Master Chywan Yin attended the Buddhist Academy in Beijing, where he studied the Teachings School. Because he had special affinities with the Pure Land School, he went on to Jodo Shinshu ("Pure Land") Buddhist University in Japan for further study. From 1984 to the present, he has been the Senior-seated Bhikshu at Fa Ywan ("Dharma Source") Monastery in Beijing. He is also Vice-Chairperson of the Beijing Buddhist Academy, where he teaches the Vinaya, Pure Land Theory, and the History of Buddhism in India.

Dharma Master Chywan Yin came to the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in the summer of 1987, as one of the leaders of a delegation of monks representing Dragon Flower Monastery in Shanghai and Gwangji Monastery in Beijing for the Water, Land and Air Dharma Assembly held here last summer. Regarding the internal development of Buddhism, he has the following opinions:

Buddhism can be a powerful catalyst for world peace. However, the first requirement is that Buddhists themselves give up their sectarian views and biases, and rather think about Buddhism as a whole. As it is said, "Unity of purpose is a formidable strength." If we always keep the big picture in mind and not become attached to personal differences and preferences, then Buddhism can make a genuine contribution to world peace.