

Report from South Mountain

Second Ancestor/ShaoLin/Kongxiang Temples
Join Zhaozhou's Temple Practice Week in 2009!
Presenting Light Ceremony Photos
Kuangjiao Temple Second Ancestor Nunnery

The relationship between China and the United States is in a critical period. During our visits there, the imagined distinction between practice and social action disappears as through our practice we demonstrate our respect for China's culture, especially Zen culture, and our genuine affection for the Chinese people. Many, many Chinese people love and cherish Bodhidharma, the Indian monk that brought Zen to China. Xenophobia is not endemic in China any more than in the USA. By going to China and practicing with our Chinese Zen brothers and sisters, we make a very visible and important statement about our peaceful unity with all the Buddhists in China and all people, all beings.

Efforts to rebuild the Second Zen Ancestor Huike's reliquary temple, Yuan Fu Si, continue. Many people have contributed to this effort and four tours of Western Zen practitioners have visited the site to learn about it and lend their support to this effort. The abbot Guole, the thirty-third descendent of the Linji (Rinzai) Zen line in China, continues his courageous efforts to rebuild this important symbol, a deep root of Zen; the very origin of our tradition in China.



Photos: Left: Presenting a gift made by Douglas Stream, a Wisconsin prisoner, demonstrating support for the rebuilding of the Second Ancestor's Temple. Right: Members of the Great Vow Monastery Pilgrimage examine the remains of a stone monument with text by Emperor Wu honoring Bodhidharma.

South Mountain will offer a low priced practice and education week at Zhaozhou's Dharma seat, the site of the Mu koan, the cypress trees in the courtyard, and other stories related to Zhaozhou. The date of this first practice week is March 16 to 27, 2009. Priced at \$999.00 for the land portion of the tour, with especially low priced RT air available from NY, SF, and LA, we offer an unprecedented chance to go deeply to the heart of Chinese Zen culture. Also, at least ten percent of the tour land price will be directly donated to the temples we visit over and above the payments South Mountain pays them for accommodating our groups. We will follow Zhaozhou's instructions to "go and drink tea" by going to his Dharma seat to drink tea, spreading our message of peace, and providing a new answer for this koan of the ages. We will also visit the Dharma seat of Linji, plus the important nunnery being built on the site of the Second Ancestor's Dharma seat Kuangjiao Temple under the direction of the wonderful Chinese Woman teacher Shi Huikong. We will honor the Second Zen Ancestor Huike as we also honor efforts to advance peace now undertaken in the West and in China as well.

On our tour we will learn about Chinese Zen of the past and today through lectures and practice. We will silently show our unity with our Chinese Buddhist brothers and sisters, with the Chinese people, and with all people of China and the world who seek peace and the advancement of Dharma.

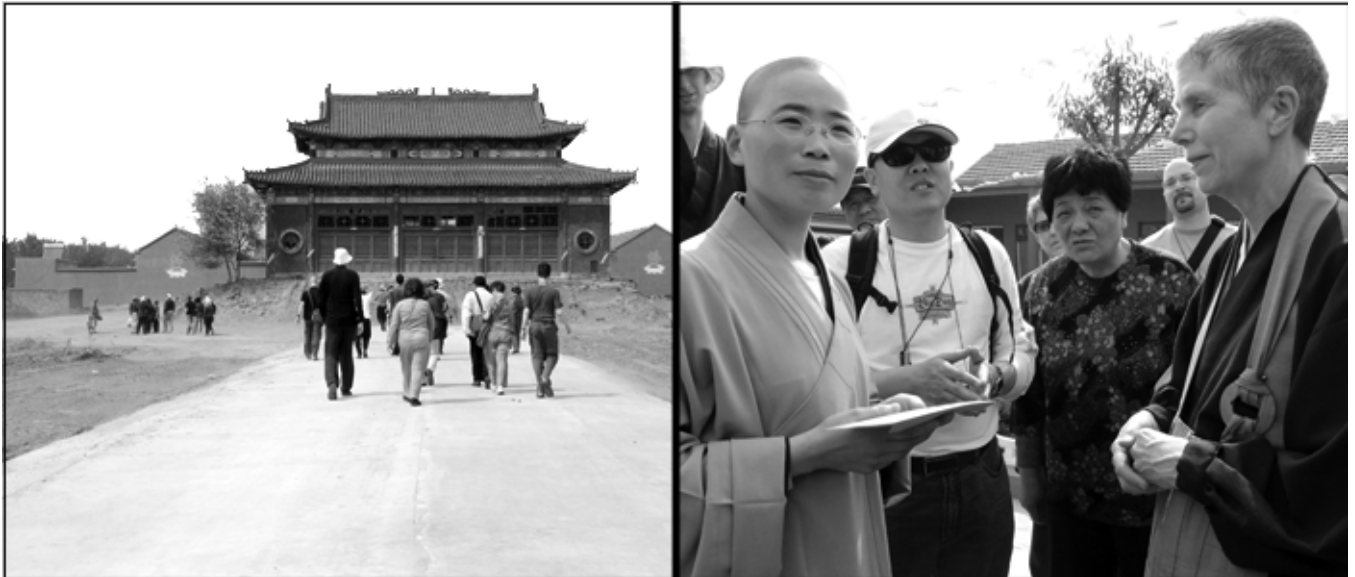


North American and Chinese Monks "Presenting Light" to Zen Master Zhaozhou's Burial Pagoda

Kuangjiao Temple – A nunnery under Abbess Shi Huikong

South Mountain's "Northern Zen" tour stops at Kuangjiao Temple, a legendary Dharma seat of the Second Zen Ancestor Huike (Eka) in

Hebei Province. Here we learn about women's practice in China and visit with the Abbess, Shi Huikong.



Photos: (left) Great Vow Monastery Pilgrimage visits Dharma Seat of the Second Ancestor, now a nunnery. (right) Abbess Shi Huikong is shown with Chozen Bays of Great Vow Monastery



Shaolin Temple Abbot, Shi Yongxin, Meets Great Vow Monastery Pilgrimage

ZCLA Pilgrimage to Moshan, Bodhidharma's Temple

A pilgrimage from ZCLA will be the first Western group to participate in the annual ceremony commemorating Bodhidharma at his burial temple, Empty Form Temple, in November. In addition, the group will be the first Western group to visit the ancient dharma seat of Moshan, the woman Zen teacher of the Tang Dynasty. Departing from Los Angeles Oct 23, 2009, the trip will also visit Zhaozhou's Dharma seat, Huike's temples, Shaolin, other sights of our Northern Zen tour.



(left) Monks and Lay Buddhists prostrate themselves as they approach Bodhidharma's Burial Temple for his annual ceremony. (right) Shi Yongxin officiates at the ceremony. In October we will visit China with the Zen Center of LA to participate in this astonishing event. Join us.

South Mountain

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