

Hyeil (慧日)

(1890-1965)

Head of the Chogye Order.

His monk name was Tongsan, and his names before becoming a monk were Ha Bonggyu and Ha Tonggyu. He was born in Chungbuk Province, Tannyang County, Tanyang Ŭp, Sabang Ri on February 25th, 1890. A year after graduating in 1912 from the Kyōngsang Medical Professional School, he went to Pōmōsa in Tongnae and became a follower of the monk, Yongsōng Chinjon, taking his Bodhisattva vows from the monk Sōngwōl. After this he received instruction at Paekyangsa in Changsōng from the monk, Chinjong. This study focused on *Record of the Transmission of the Lamp* (傳燈錄 *Chōndūngnok*), *Compilation of Examinations and of Verses on Ancient Precedents* (禪門拈頌 *Sōnmunŷōmsong*), *Brahmajala Sutra* (梵網經 *Bōmmanggyōng*), *Vinaya of the Four Categories* (四分律 *Sabunyul*), and other Buddhist writings. In 1917 at Pomosa's Monk's College he studied the *Flower Garland Sutra* (華嚴經 *Hwaōmgyōng*) under the monk, Kangbaek Yōngmyōng. And in 1923 he received his monk's vows from the monk, Sōngwōl, at the *Kūmgangkyedan* at Pōmōsa. Later he completed three years of study at Chikjisa's Thousand Buddha Zen Meditation Center. He returned to Pōmōsa as the Dharma Preceptor Abbot (*Chōngye Hwasang*) of the *Kūmgangkyedan*. In August of 1937 he advanced important fundamental doctrines at the Zen Meditation School's Dharma Talk. In September of the same year he collected the sayings of the monk, Chinjong, and published them in a collection of spoken teachings. In 1954 at the age of 65, he took the lead in the Buddhist Reformation Movement and was selected to be the first leader of the newly reformed Chogye order, but resigned after one year. In 1956 he attended the 4th World Buddhist Congress in Nepal as a representative from Korea. In 1959 at the age of 69, he was elected as head of the Chogye order and attended the World Buddhist Congress in Thailand as the main Korean representative. He resigned as head of the order in 1962. He died at Pōmōsa on April 23, 1962 at the age of 76, having been a monk for 53 years.