

About Your Dharma Name

(by Fa Jiàn)

The Buddhist name given at Jukai is considered a gift from one's teacher. Thus, dharma names are always given from master to disciple and typically not revealed until the Jukai ceremony. In the Zen Buddhist Order of Hsu Yun (ZBOHY) I am held to follow a particular sequence when giving dharma names. Once the list has been completed, it returns to the beginning and repeats. For example, Jy (Zhi) gives the first name "Chuan" (56th generation), Chuan gives the name "Fa" (57th generation), Fa gives the name "Yin" (58th generation), and Yin gives the name "Zheng" (59th generation).

In addition to the first part of your name *Yin*, you will receive a second part which then comprises your full dharma name. Both, along with a literal translation will be on your Precept Certificate.

You are free to use your Buddhist name as you wish in both English transliteration or Chinese Characters. You can also use your Buddhist name in addition to your birth or legal first name, like your middle name; or you can use your dharma name replacing your first name entirely.

Unless you request otherwise, I will address you by your dharma name after the Precept ceremony. So should everyone else in the sangha.

A word about membership: The purpose of Buddhist hierarchy is to enable a structure in which accountability trickles up. In other words, you are accountable to Lotus Zen Temple (LZT), I am accountable to the Order. I am a sangha member of ZBOHY, you are a sangha member of LZT. The Order as a whole is accountable to the highest echelons of Chinese Buddhism in China. In light of this, you are a (lay) ordained member of LZT and considered affiliate member of ZBOHY.

Notes: