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**Modern Zen Master Releases Dance-Pop Album.**

# *The Formless Track by Arman Ray + Hyon Gak Sunim* is a unique album. A modern Zen Master and a UK producer have created *"12 rhythmic dharma seeds. Like rolling prayer wheels spinning admonitions for practice, for waking up and travelling the Buddha Way - Hyon Gak Sunim."*

The journey began in 2020 when Arman Ray (Chris Taylor) came across Hyon Gak Sunim's "What is Zen" Youtube video and asked if he could turn it into a music video. The video was well received and led to permission to sample his talks to make into an album. He spent six months transcribing those talks from which to craft the lyrics and a further two years producing the music itself.

**A thought-provoking combination of philosophical insights and electronic music, t**he melodies oscillate between electronic beats and experimental sounds. The words are the focus of the compositions and reflect Sunim's deep understanding and insight into Zen Buddhism and the path to enlightenment.

***SUNIM "These songs are for anyone who is seeking the nature of mind, which is the very nature of reality itself. I think of a person somewhere, lingering in their confusion, who might hear one word from this and be inspired to look deeper into their own mind. "***

Hyon Gak Sunim is often cited in Korean media with leading a revival of interest in Buddhism in Korean society in the 21st-century, especially among the young and educated. He was ordained by the legendary Zen Master Seung Sahn in 1992 in China, at the Temple of the Sixth Patriarch, on Chogye Mountain. He was the first Westerner to be ordained in the People’s Republic of China since the Communist Revolution and has trained in many remote mountain places in Asia, including 3 intensive 100-day solo retreats and some forty 3-month intensive meditation retreats. His multi-million bestselling book, *From Harvard to Hwa Gye Sah Temple* (1999), is regarded as the first major Buddhist bestseller in Korean Buddhist history and made him one of the most recognized and influential voices in modern Korean Buddhism. Since his ordination in 1992, three temples in Korea were donated to Sunim; he gave all three temples to other monks and nuns. Sunim receives no personal financial benefit from this music project.

Due to his renown, Sunim became overwhelmed with demands in Korean society and so, burdened by excessive expectations and perceiving an institutional rigidity which he felt to be incompatible with the edgy, spontaneous heart of Zen, Sunim left Korea for the West in 2009/10, and settled in Regensburg, Germany, where he is based today.

The album has twelve tracks, lasts around forty minutes and has a companion EP of 5 Club Mixes. Please check out https://www.theformlesstrack.armanraymusic.co.uk/