

## ***The Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs***



### ***THE SECOND PATRIARCH OF THE T'IEN T'AI SCHOOL, VENERABLE HUI SSE OF NAN YAO***

THE VENERABLE ONE, WHOSE LAYNAME WAS LI, WAS FROM WU JIN province. HE LOVED THE *DHARMA FLOWER*. HE WOULD TAKE THE SUTRA TO A CHARNEL FIELD AND WEEP OVER IT. Why did he cry? He was crying out of happiness at having been able to encounter this Sutra again. He was also crying because although it was such a profound Sutra, most living beings didn't recognize it or investigate its principles. And he was crying for joy that this was a time when the Buddhadharma would prosper and the T'ien T'ai would flourish.

ONE NIGHT IN A DREAM UNIVERSAL WORTHY BODHISATTVA CAME AND RUBBED THE CROWN OF HIS HEAD. PRIOR TO THAT HE HAD BEEN ILLITERATE, BUT AFTER THAT HE SPONTANEOUSLY UNDERSTOOD. When Bodhisattvas come to rub one's head, it's a sign of their protection and their compassion. AT THE PLACE WHERE THE CROWN OF HIS HEAD WAS RUBBED, A FLESH COWL EMERGED. It wasn't all that big--you'd have had to pay attention to notice it--but it was there. WHEN HE WAS FIFTEEN, HE LEFT THE HOME LIFE.

MASTER WEN--Hui Wen, the First T'ien T'ai Patriarch--TRANSMITTED TO HIM THE ESSENTIALS OF THE MIND-CONTEMPLATION. INSTANTLY HE HAD A GREAT AWAKENING AND ATTAINED THE DHARMA FLOWER SAMADHI. He also entered an ocean of additional samadhis. AFTER THAT WHEN HE HEARD THE SUTRAS, HE HAD NOT A SHREAD OF DOUBT. His faith was impeccable. He deeply entered the Sutra Store and has wisdom like the sea. HE TOOK UP RESIDENCE IN A GRASS HUT ON SHU MOUNTAIN. It was a simple dwelling. There were no sanitary facilities nor was there a stove. It just kept out the wind and rain. WHEN TURMOIL AROSE MARKING THE END OF THE CH'I DYNASTY, HE WANTED TO AVOID ANY PROBLEMS SO HE PLANTED HIS STAFF ON NAN YAO mountain AT AN EXCEPTIONALLY EFFICACIOUS PLACE. The environment pulsed and reverberated with a special sort of crystal clarity. THERE WERE SEVERAL PURE YOUTHS FROM THE HEAVENS WHO CAME TO PROTECT HIM. WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE THE WORLD HE CALLED TOGETHER HIS DISCIPLES AND SPOKE DHARMA FRANKLY TO THEM. He was straightforward and open and told them exactly how things are. THEN HE ADMON-ISHED THEM SAYING, IF THERE ARE EIGHTEEN AMONG YOU WHO ARE WILLING TO SACRIFICE BODY AND LIFE AND DO NOTHING BUT CULTIVATE THE DHARMA FLOWER REPENTANCE, THEN I WON'T LEAVE YET. IF THERE AREN'T, THEN I SHALL GO. NO ONE SPOKE UP. SO THE MASTER SAT ERECT AND SAID, "THE BUDDHA HAS COME TO WELCOME ME," AND HE WAS GONE. A VERSE SAYS:

CRADLING THE SUTRA, HE WENT TO AN EMPTY FIELD.  
THE TEARS HE WEPT WERE HONEST AND TRUE.  
UNIVERSAL WORTHY BODHISATTVA RUBBED HIS HEAD  
AND SILENTLY SPOKE TO HIM.  
HE WAS BEQUEATHED THE CONTEMPLATIONS BY  
NORTHERN CH'I.  
AND SUDDENLY FATHOMED THE DHARMA FLOWER.  
OPENING WIDE THE DOOR INTO THE MEANINGS,  
HE FOREVER GUIDES THOSE WITH WISDOM.

When he cried in the field over the Sutra, it was because the text was simply too true. When the Bodhisattva rubbed the top of his head, he also spoke the *Dharma Flower Sutra* for him in a silent way. "Northern Ch'i" refers to Great Master Hui Wen, the First Patriarch, who transmitted the Mind Seal to him. The meanings he discovered he then passed on. He disclosed the profoundest principles for all beings to come who have the wisdom to comprehend them.

ANOTHER VERSE IN HIS PRAISE SAYS:

THE PULSE FROM A SINGLE VEIN AT LING SHAN BEGAN TO  
THROB IN CHUNG CHOU (CHINA).  
EVERYONE COULD GATHER AT THE DHARMA FLOWER  
ASSEMBLY.  
HE CRIED OVER THE SUTRA EXPRESSING HIS DEEP  
EMPATHY.  
HEARING OF THE WAY, HE JUMPED FOR JOY AND BROUGHT  
FORTH THE BODHI MIND.

AMONG THE MULTITUDE WHO GATHERED FOR HIS  
EXPLANATIONS, ONE WHO KNEW HIS SOUND WAS  
SCARCE,  
SITTING UPRIGHT HE DEPARTED. SUCH A HUMANE ONE IS  
RARELY FOUND.  
UNIVERSAL WORTHY BODHISATTVA RUBBED HIS HEAD  
AND GAVE HIM A PREDICTION OF SAGEHOOD.  
IN THE DRAGON ASSEMBLY OF THE SHAKYAN, THE BUDDHA  
PROCLAIMED HIM REMARKABLE.