

The Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs



The Twenty-Fifth Patriarch Venerable Purnamitra

The Venerable One was from southern India, the son of King "Heavenly Virtue." He went before the Fifteenth Patriarch Basiasita asking to leave home. The Patriarch asked him, "You want to leave home? What for?"

Purnamitra replied, "If I leave home, it won't be for worldly matters."

The Patriarch replied, "What matter will it be for?"

Purnamitra replied, "It will be for the Buddha matter."

The Patriarch transmitted the great Dharma to Purnamitra who then went about teaching living beings. In his travels he came to eastern India. The King there was named "Solid." He revered a person of an externalist sect, giving him a lofty position. This long-nailed Brahman made appear by transformation a huge mountain atop the Venerable One's head. The Venerable One flicked his finger and suddenly the mountain was on top of the heads of the people in the court. They were terrified and prostrated themselves before him. The Venerable One then flicked his finger again and the mountain disappeared entirely. He then proclaimed Dharma for the king, enabling him to go towards the True Vehicle. Later

he transmitted the Dharma to Prajnatarā and took his leave of the king saying, "I have transformed those with whom I have conditions. I shall now return to still extinction." Then he sat upon the Dharma Seat in full lotus and left the world.

A verse in his praise says:

Wisdom nurtured in former lives made the Master a Sage.
He conquered the demon hordes, for the deviant cannot overcome the
straight.
His auspicious protents were subtle, and the king believed and revered
him.
Unmoving in his majesty, he's a mountain of the Way for 10,000 aeons.

Another verse in his praise says:

You want to leave the home-life? What do you intend to do?
It's not for worldly concerns That I chose to be a dumb Sanghan.
It is to spread the Buddha's teaching And propagate the Dharma,
To create outstanding talent Who can perpetuate the Lamp of
Transmission.
A magic trick made a mountain But in the end he obliterated it.
Samadhi power can take one across; From the beginning he saw the
Truth.
The long-nailed one was subdued; The king believed.
When he had finished teaching those with Affinities, he said, "I'm
leaving."