

## *The Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs*



### **THE THIRTY-NINTH GENERATIONAL PATRIARCH DHYANA MASTER HSING HUA (*Flourishing and Transforming*) OF TS'UN CHANG**

The Master first went to study with Patriarch Lin Chi. Then he went to Three Sages Temple and was head of the assembly there. Later, when he was studying with Master

Ta Chueh (Great Enlightenment) he awakened to the meaning behind his former teacher Lin Chi who took the blows from Patriarch Huang Poh.

Once, on a day they started a session, the Master lit a stick of incense and said, "This stick of incense is basically for the Dharma brothers at Three Sages Temple. The people at Three Sages are too cold toward me; it should be for Ta Chueh. Dharma brother Ta Chueh is too indulgent toward me. Therefore I should make offerings to my former teacher Lin Chi."

The Emperor Chuang Tsung of T'ang summoned the Master to come to the Palace and said to him, "I have obtained a jewel which nobody has been able to value."

The Master said, "Will the Majesty show me his jewel?"

The Emperor unfurled his imperial headband.

The Master said, "Who would dare value Your Majesty's jewel?"

As the Master was about to enter into the stillness, he asked his assembly, "Do you recognize this old monk?"

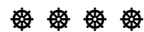
The assembly was at a loss for words. The Master tossed his walking stick aside, sat upright, and passed away.

He was granted the posthumous title Dhyana Master Kuang Chi, (Vastly Saving), and his stupa was named T'ung Chi (Penetrating Stillness).

A verse in praise says:

*He took off his monk's robe,  
And turned over the skin on his face.  
He bore straight to the bones and marrow, while  
Upholding his hua-t'ou with proper mindfulness.  
How the Hu T'uo River billows!  
How the waves of Hsing Hua soar!  
From this naked body  
Emerged a true lion!*

\*The Hu T'uo is a river in Hopei province.



-from the BUDDHIST TEXT TRANSLATION SOCIETY FLOWER  
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