

The Song of Enlightenment

by Great Master Yung Chia

with commentary by Tripitaka Master Hua

continues from Issue #190

TEXT:

IN THE RIVER THE MOON SHINES;
IN THE PINES THE WIND SIGHS,
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE CLEAR, LONG NIGHT?
THE BUDDHA-NATURE'S PRECEPT-PEARL IS THE MIND-GROUND SEAL.
FOG AND DEW, CLOUDS AND MIST ARE THE BODY'S CLOTHING.

江月照，松風吹，永夜清宵何所為。
佛性戒珠心地印，霧露雲霞體上衣。

COMMENTARY:

IN THE RIVER THE MOON SHINES; IN THE PINES THE WIND SIGHS. When the moon appears in the water of the clear mind, and in the sky of concentrated thought there are no clouds, then there is a state of naturalness. Nothing further is done in this natural and rustic existence. One's happiness is inexhaustible and transcendental.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN THE CLEAR, LONG NIGHT? Nothing is done, and yet nothing is left undone. There are great creations and great transformations, great penetrations, and Great Enlightenment. Beginning and end are connected, and the myriad existing things are contained.

THE BUDDHA-NATURE'S PRECEPT-PEARL IS THE MIND GROUND SEAL. One's inherent nature is pure, clean, undefiled, and its light shines everywhere, neither internal or external. All flows forth from the Dharma door of the mind-ground; therefore it is called the mind-ground seal."

FOG AND DEW, CLOUDS AND MIST ARE THE BODY'S CLOTHING. Fog and dew are illusory and temporary. Clouds and mist are vacuous and false. They have no inherent substantive nature. Like the clothes on our bodies, they do not last. This is an analogy for the poisons of greed, hatred, stupidity, arrogance and so forth. Although they can veil our Buddha-nature and cast a shadow over it, they are yet like fog and dew, like clouds and mist. Although they can screen out the clear sky, they are nothing more than temporary phenomena.

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