

# *The Song of Enlightenment*

*by Great Master Yung Chia  
with commentary by Tripitaka Master Hua*

TEXT:

THE ALMS-BOWL SUBDUES THE DRAGONS;  
THE TIN STAFF VANQUISHES TIGERS,  
AND THE GOLDEN RINGS OF ITS TWO  
PARTS SOUND IN CLEAR SUCCESSION.  
IT IS NO SYMBOLIC FORM UNSUPPORTED  
BY REAL EVENTS;  
IT IS THE JEWELED STAFF OF THE THUS  
COME ONE, WHICH HE HIMSELF PASSED DOWN.

降龍鉢，解虎錫，兩鈷金環鳴歷歷。  
不是標形虛事持，如來寶杖親蹤跡。

COMMENTARY:

THE ALMS-BOWL SUBDUES THE DRAGONS; THE TIN STAFF VANQUISHES TIGERS. When the nature is concentrated, dragons are subdued. When one's way of life is right, tigers are tamed. Once the dragons and tigers of one's own nature are conquered, external dragons and tigers, too, are naturally subdued.

AND THE GOLDEN RINGS OF ITS TWO PARTS SOUND IN CLEAR SUCCESSION. The staff which vanquishes tigers has two sections, which represent the two kinds of truth: the genuine and the common. Suspended from each section are three golden rings, which represent the Six Paramitas.

IT IS NO SYMBOLIC FORM UNSUPPORTED BY REAL EVENTS. This staff is not just a symbol, an empty show with no real basis.

IT IS THE JEWELED STAFF OF THE THUS COME ONE, WHICH HE HIMSELF PASSED DOWN. The Thus Come One, Shakyamuni Buddha, transmitted in person to his assembly of disciples the method of practicing, cultivating, and maintaining the Way, and bequeathed to them the Dharma-Jewel of his tin staff.



*translated, reviewed and edited by members of  
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