

# *The Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs*

*by the Venerable Master Yun and the Venerable Master Hua*

*The Forty-third Generational Patriarch,  
Dhyana Master Shan Jau of Fan Yang*



The Master's family name was Yu, and he was a native of Tai Ywan County. Having paid his respects to seventy-one good and wise teachers, he went to Dhyana Master Shou Shan, and inquired from him, "What is the meaning behind the story of Dhyana Master Bai Jang rolling up the bowing mat?" (Note: Once Patriarch Ma "Horse" Dzu came into the hall to speak the Dharma. Before he had time to bow, Master Bai Jang made off with the bowing mat).

Master Shan told him, "Once the dragon sleeve is unfurled, the entire substance manifests."

The Master further asked, "Well, what is the Venerable Master's opinion about this?"

Master Shou Shan answered, "In the place where the elephant king roams, fox tracks disappear." The Master became profoundly enlightened at those words. He said,

Inside an ancient azure pool is a moon floating in empty space.  
You'd have to salvage it again and again to know what it's all about.

Someone asked him, "What truth have you perceived that you are so confident in yourself?"

The Master answered, "This is the very place where I can put down my body and life."

Afterwards, he went to live at Fan Jou. He sat upright on a cot, and for thirty years his feet never went past the threshold. Both left-home and lay-people called him "Master of Fan Jou," and didn't dare to address him by his personal name.

One day, the Master ordered a meal to be prepared, and then, getting dressed as if prepared to set out on a journey, he said, "I am going on ahead." Then he put down his chopsticks, and entered the stillness. That was the first year of the Tyan Sheng reign of the Sung emperor Ren Dzung. After the Master's body was cremated, his sharira were gathered together, and a stupa was built to commemorate him. A verse in praise says,

Two betting tickets for one race,  
Master Bai Jang rolled up the bowing mat.  
A full moon hovers in empty space,  
Completely without a trace.  
He went to visit over seventy teachers,  
Like trying to savor the juice of flat cakes.  
His Way shone with great splendor,  
Flowing on and on without cease.

Another verse says,

He roamed throughout the world, seeking bright teachers.  
Selecting what was wholesome, he adhered to it.  
Dragon sleeves were unfurled to reveal the original face.  
The elephant's trunk wipes out fox tracks.\*  
"What truth have you perceived that you are so confident?"  
"The place where I can let go of my body and life is the source's  
foundation."  
He put down his chopsticks and serenely went off to rebirth.  
The azure pool is empty and quiescent—arrive at Tsau Creek!

\*Meaning all unorthodox chan practices will disappear.