

The Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs

by the Venerable Master Yun and the Venerable Master Hua

*The Forty-fifth Generation of Patriarchs
Dhyana Master Fang Hwei of Yang Chi Mountain*



The Master was a son of the Lang family of Yi Chywun of Ywanjou District. He went to study with Dhyana Master Tz Ming. Once when Master Tz Ming had entered the hall to speak the Dharma, the Master approached him with this question: "The fledgling chirps softly. He leaves the clouds and enters the thicket of peaks. At this time, what should be done?"

Master Tz Ming replied, "I walk among the rushes; you enter a deeply-secluded village."

The Master then said, "This matter does not allow the slightest deviation. Can I ask you one more question?"

Master Tz Ming uttered a loud yell.

The Master remarked, "What a fine yell!"

Master Tz Ming yelled again, at which point the Master also responded with a yell of his own. Then Master Tz Ming let out another two yells in a row. The Master bowed to him.

Master Tz Ming said, "One has to be a truly worthy person in order to shoulder this responsibility." Whereupon the Master shook his sleeve and walked away.

Later, left-home and lay people invited the Master to teach at Yang Chi Mountain. In the first year of the Hwang You reign (1049) of the Sung Emperor Ren Dzung, that is, the cyclical year of Bing Syu, the Master entered the stillness. His stupa was erected at Yun Gai (Cloud Canopy) mountain.

A verse in praise says:

Coming face to face on a narrow path,
With a single push, everything was smashed to bits.
The lion roams about
In the "Sprint" samadhi.
A fledgling chirps softly,
But his claws and teeth are replete.
The entire substance is revealed.
The spring breezes make ten thousand sounds.

Another verse says:

One yell came after another, and he understood the principle of non-production.
Turning away from confusion and returning to enlightenment, he recognized his own Master.
Our original face does not belong to the myriad existing things;
Our true home is pure emptiness.
The eye would not accommodate a single grain of sand—this you should understand.
The ear can take in sounds, but do not become attached to the dust.
Free and liberated, one leaves impediments.
Transcending material things, the golden body is revealed.

