

The Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs

by the Venerable Master Yun and the Venerable Master Hua

*The Forty-fifth Generation of Patriarchs Dhyana Master Dzung Ben
(Purport of the School) of Ywan Jau (Perfect Illumination) Monastery*



The Master was a son of the Gwan family of Wu Syi county of Chang Jou District. He traveled to Chr Yang and bowed to Master Hwai Shen of Tyan Yi Monastery. Master Hwai brought up the following account: "When Bodhisattva Vasubhandu came back down from the inner courtyard of the Tushita Heaven, his brother Asanga Bodhisattva asked him, 'One day and night in that heaven is equal to four hundred years in the human realm. Within an hour, Maitreya Bodhisattva was able to bring five hundred kotis of gods to maturity so that they were certified to the patience with the non-production of dharmas. What dharma did the Bodhisattva speak?' Vasubhandu Bodhisattva replied, 'He spoke only this dharma.' What is this dharma?"

The Master pondered the question for a long time and then became enlightened. Master Hwai asked the Master, "The mind is just the Buddha -- then what?" The Master replied, "Killing people and setting fires -- what's difficult?" Afterwards his reputation spread throughout the world. His body is housed in a stupa built on Ling Yan (Magic Grotto) of Sujou province.

A verse in praise says:

He spoke this dharma—
Profound and wonderful pure sound.
The Buddha is just the mind:
Meriting only a smile.
Setting fires and killing people,
He strummed the lute and switched the tune;
Joy moved the universe.
The Dharma lamp is suspended on high.

Another verse says:

With expedient means Asanga taught Vasubhandu
To turn from the small to the great by employing
his tongue faculty.
Five kotis of gods together were certified to the
path of Dharma-patience.
The six consciousnesses all belong to the nature's
pure brightness.
Since you haven't examined the subtly wonderful
doctrine within this.
Scrutinize the monsters who commit murder in the
world.
The Master's sound rocked the universe, alarming
beings throughout the four seas.
Dzung Ben's virtuous work can cross over those
within heaven and earth.

