

The Bohdi Seal of the Patriarchs



THE THIRTY-THIRD GENERATIONAL PATRIARCH DHYANA MASTER HUI AN FROM SUNG YO

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The Master was from Chih Chiang, Ching Chou Province. His family name was Wei. During the K'ai Wang reign period (581 A.D.) of the Sui Dynasty, left-home people were punished privately. Consequently, the Master went to hide in the mountain valleys. During the Ta Yueh reign period (605 A.D.), many citizens were recruited to dig a big canal and a tremendous number of them died of starvation and famine. The Master went begging for food and then gave it to the starving people, thereby saving their lives. Then he planted his staff on Heng Yo (one of the Five Peaks, located in Honan Province) and practiced asceticism.

During the Chen Kuan reign period (beginning 627 A.D.) of the T'ang Dynasty, he went to pay respects to the Fifth Patriarch Huang Mei ("Yellow Plum"), whereupon he attained the Mind Dharma. Then his tracks crisscrossed all the famous shrines and Way-places of the country. Later, when he arrived at Sung Peak (the central peak of the Five Peaks), he said, "This will be my final resting place."

Henceforth, Ch'an adepts flocked there in an incessant stream, like never-ending cart tracks. In the second year of the Shen Lung reign (706 A.D.), the Emperor Chung Tsung

bestowed upon the Master a purple robe and bowed to him with all honor as his teacher. The Emperor invited the Master into the palace where he made offerings to him for three years. At the end of that period, the Master took leave and returned to Sung Peak. On the eighth day of the third month of the same year, he ordered his doors to be shut and in a reclining position, completed the stillness. He lived to be 128 years old. His disciples followed his orders and left his body in the forest. Suddenly a wild fire spontaneously arose as the Master consumed his own form through internal combustion. There were eighty sharira. A verse in praise says:

He occupied the seat at Shao Lin
And upheld the Seal of Huang Mei.
Reposing at the Southern Peak,
He responded to the ten thousand vehicles.
Entering ice, he knew the nature of water.
He rectified the present and remains unrivaled for all future ages.
People failed to recognize him,
Yet fire would listen to his commands.

Another verse in his praise says:

He hid from the world,
a hermit deep in the forest.
Leaving home to cultivate the Way,
he sought the Heaven-true.
Begging for food to rescue the people,
he saved many lives.
Wrapped in the robes of a monk,
he roused up his energy.
The Emperor bowed to him
and served him as his Master.
Huang Mei bestowed the Dharma upon him--
the Mind Transmission.
Lying down in repose,
he completed the stillness.
A wild fire consumed his body,
and the sharira's essence was revealed.

SAGELY CITY OF TEN THOUSAND BUDDHAS HOLDS GRAND CELEBRATION

The recent festivities at the Sagely City of Ten Thousand Buddhas brought over 2000 participants to the fresh green meadows and pine-protected walks of the Way-place. There were ceremonies to open the Mountain Gate, to Purify the Boundaries at the site of the magnificent Hall of Great Heroes, to open the light of the ten thousand Buddhas that grace the niches of the newly completed interior of the Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas, to dedicate the new Five Contemplations Dining Hall which can seat 1500, and to worship

before the 18' high statue of the Compassionate Kuan Shih Yin Bodhisattva who resides in gentle but commanding repose over the entire City. Liberating the Living and Dharma Talks completed the day's events and everyone rejoiced in the merit and virtue. See this issue's NEWS FROM THE DHARMA REALM.