

The Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs

by the Venerable Master Yun and the Venerable Master Hua



Thirty-eighth Dhyana Master Sywan Jyan
("Proclaim and Examine")
of De Shan ("Mountain of Virtue")

The Master was a son of the Jou family of Jyan Jou. He attended upon the Master Lung Tan ("Dragon Pool"). Once, in the deep of night, Master Lung Tan said to him, "It's getting late. Why don't you leave?"

The Master went out, but he came back directly and said, "It's pitch black outside!"

Master Tan lit a paper lantern and gave it to him. When the Master was just about to reach out for the lamp, Master Tan blew out the light. Instantly Master Sywan Jyan had a great enlightenment. Thereupon he made obeisance to his teacher.

Master Tan said, "What have you seen?" The Master answered, "From now on I will no longer doubt the tongues of all the elder masters in the world!"

The next day, Master Tan ascended the

Dharma seat and said, "In our midst is a fellow whose teeth are like the tree of swords and whose mouth is like a basin of blood. With a single blow he rebounded. He will stand on the summit of Lonely Peak and establish my Way."

Then Master Sywan Jyan stacked the Exegesis (*The Green Dragon Exegesis* on the *Vajra Sutra*) in the front of the Dharma-Hall, lit it afire, and burned it to ashes. Afterwards, in the month of *tsou*, during the sixth year of the Syan Tung reign of Emperor Yi Dzung of Tan (865), the Master Sywan Jyan told his assembly: "To grope for emptiness and run after echoes is just taxing to the spirit. Once you awaken from your dream and enlighten to your mistakes, what else is there?" Thereupon he sat upright and entered the stillness. His posthumous title is Dhyana Master "Seeing the Nature." A verse in praise says:

Light from the paper lantern
was extinguished;
The brightness was penetrating.
The vital element was stirred up;
And there is no attachment
to the Three Minds.
In a single breath, he could
gulp down Buddhas and Patriarchs.
He even called the Bodhisattvas
his servants.
Brandishing a white-colored
board:
"He he la la!"

Another verse in praise says:

The attachment to words obstructed
his original brightness.
Bloated with arrogance and self-
pride, he walked around with
a carrying pole.
The *Green Dragon Exegesis* he considered
a treasure trove:
The yellow crane soars up, surmount-
ing the nine levels of heavens.
A lamp was lit, then extinguished,
to reveal the true meaning.
Hit with a board, he rebounded,
startled from his dream of confusion.
On the summit of Lonely Peak,
he advocated the Great Teaching,
Transforming the dull and those
with sentience.

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