

Mystery of the Chinese Totem

Prepared according to the holy revelation of **Holy Zhi-Ji Vimalakirti Ahdharma Buddha Patriarch Master** to share the Dharma joy with world-wide vajra brothers and sisters

Editorial Note

At the start of the twenty-first century, the annual Christmas Pageant of Hobart in Tasmania of Australia publicly invited community groups to participate.

According to the holy revelation of **Holy Zhi-Ji Vimalakirti Ahdharma Buddha Patriarch Master**, Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism decided to exhibit the dragon, a unique Chinese traditional totem, to participate in this peaceful, harmonious, joyful, and happy activity.

Introduction



According to the holy revelation of **Holy Zhi-Ji Vimalakirti Ahdharma Buddha Patriarch Master**:

Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism originated from ancient India, and developed in China. The dragon

has been the totem of China. The dragon symbolizes China and the Chinese people.

Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism is Chinese Tantra Buddhism. Chinese Tantra Buddhism grew up in the breeding ground of Chinese culture. Therefore, this totem of dragon has also been a component of the culture of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism.

Dragon culture has existed in China for over five thousand years.

The blending of the culture of dragon into the culture of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism has taken place for the long period of at least twelve hundred years.

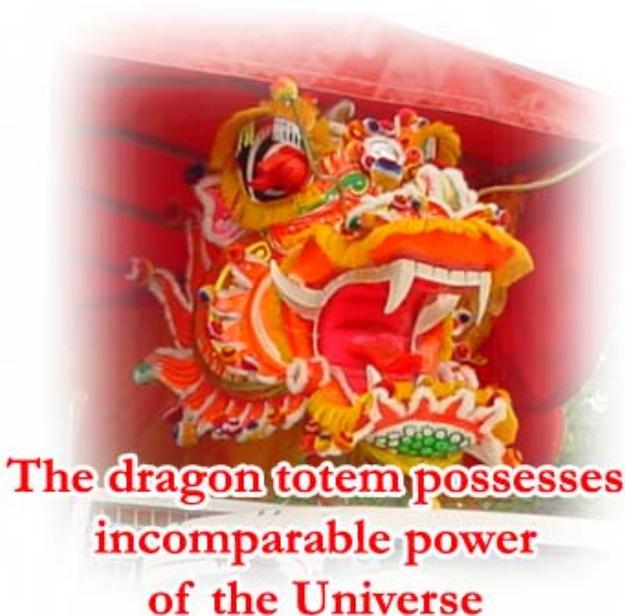
If we collect all the mysterious phenomena of the Chinese culture, and explore into the interacting relationship between human lives, mental lives and spiritual lives in the Universe.

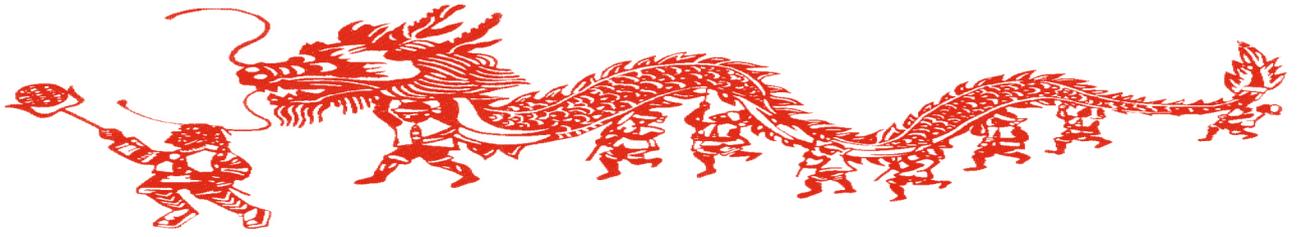
Scanning their countrywide application, the regular pattern of the up and down changes of human affairs, careers or economies, vicissitudes of national destiny, celestial and geographical phenomena etc. ..., all have clues and basis to be found from the Chinese totem - the dragon.

The fact that the Chinese totem, the dragon, is able to parade in the city of Hobart, this southern most island of the southern hemisphere, is the kind bestowment of the multicultural policy of Australia.

If multiculturalism does not exist in Australia, this holy dragon of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism might not possibly be able to dance in the streets of Hobart. Therefore we are wholeheartedly grateful to the Australian government and the multicultural policy.

The holy dragon totem applies His mysterious great power of the Universe, with a view to bringing harmony, joy, peace, happiness, and economic prosperity to Australia.





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Mysterious Power

The totems of recognized ancient civilizations all possess great mysterious powers. Therefore, they have been worshipped by various peoples of the world.

However, the totem of China differs from totem cultures of all other ancient civilizations of the world.

Most recognized totems of the world are drawn with the simplest graphic images.

The totems of some peoples are merely a piece of tree leaf, a blade of grass, or a bird. Slightly more complicated ones may include a baby's head, a bird's wing, a bird's beak, a bird's claw, or a withered tree, deities symbolizing nature such as heaven and earth, mountain and water, grass and trees, the sun and the moon etc. or a physical object of the above.

Although primitive totems have been so simple and crude in their form when revealed to people, all peoples consider their own totem to carry infinite messages, and possess enormous mysterious powers which are inconceivable and cannot be rationalized.

These mysterious powers are all supernatural and inconceivable.

Ultimately speaking, the square shaped Chinese hieroglyphic writing are precisely “totems”, to the extent that it can be described as a totem in every character. Therefore, wherever there is Chinese

writing, all forms of Chinese totem are everywhere. Chinese characters themselves possess inconceivable mysterious power.

Chinese dragon totem is especially supernatural and inconceivable.

Spirit of the Universe

The totem that adopts the appearance of a dragon is a very perfect, complete, and flawless artistic form appearing in the world.

The dragon is a gigantic “creature” which can perform in the Universe all kinds of subjective, dynamic, creative, complex actions which are colourful and varied in postures. It can also perform various transformations in the Universe. These mysterious transformations reveal that the dragon exists in the Universe in multifunctional forms.

The totems of all the peoples around the world possess their unique artistic features and incredible and profound principles. However, they do not have such a high level of perfection, or such ultimately attained beauty, like that of the dragon the Chinese totem, in reaching and penetrating the inner mind of people.

Hence, Chinese people throughout the ages believe that the dragon totem possesses incomparable power of the Universe.

The dragon culture and the dragon form totem have enabled the Chinese people to generate great coherence. Thus, the spirit of the Chinese people embodies the enterprising spirit of the dragon, it embodies the dragon moral integrity. It has been venerated as the “dragon” moral integrity because It embodies a moral spirit of entirety of the Universe. It embodies the brilliance and pride of the culture of the Chinese people.



Symbol of Correct Dharma

From an observation of its appearance, the dragon is a very special "creature". It has the horns of Chinese unicorn and reindeer, scales and skin of fish, whiskers of lion, claws of Chinese phoenix and vulture (front claws are those of the vulture, back claws are those of the phoenix), body of *pi-xiu* (a fierce mythical panther type Chinese beast), eyes of *qi-lin* (a fabulous Chinese animal resembling the deer), nostril hair of leopard, moustache of tentacles of squid, tail of shark, beard of mountain goat, teeth of tiger etc.

It can ascend to the nine heavens, descend into the five oceans, and travel unhindered across the Universe.

Tantra Buddhism seems to have special connections with the "dragon". The dragon is also the symbol of correct Dharma.

The great holy titles of many ancestral masters of Tantra Buddhism have included the name of dragon. Their holy names seem to be endowed with certain mystery. Some examples include Long Shu Buddha (Dragon Tree; Nagarjuna), Vajra Long Zhi (Dragon Wisdom; Nagarjuna), Vajra Sheng Long (Holy Dragon), and Vajra Long Sheng (Dragon Holiness). The holy names of ancestral masters of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism have all subsumed as totem-like and standardized. Holy great holy jewels, reveal outwardly the dragon appearance, and hold inwardly the spiritual strength for the right and just. Their brilliance illuminate the whole Universe.

When many of our ancestral masters hong hua (rainbow transforming) or parinirvana, or even when ordinary vajra brothers and sisters of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism hong hua, it has been Amitabha Buddha who sends dragons from the heavens above to receive them and let them ride the dragon to ascend to Buddhagarbha heavens.

Kindness, Compassion and Tolerance

For Tasmania, a dragon dance in the year of the dragon appeared in the first Christmas pageant of the twenty first century.

This dragon dance on 18th November, 2000 could well be:

The first Buddhist group to participate at a Christmas pageant in Tasmanian history;



the first dragon dance performance in Tasmanian history; and

the first time in Tasmanian history to have Holy Tantra practitioners to perform silent Dharma dissemination publicly in the form of participating in a parade joined by the whole of Hobart.

This could also perhaps be the first time in Tasmanian history to see Buddhist representatives from countries around the world to arrive in Hobart to celebrate the holy birth of Jesus Christ. Even more of them were standing among local citizens as spectators, sharing the joy of the birth of Christ with Christians.

Except for the police and city council vehicles leading the way at the front, the dragon dance team of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism led the parade as the first group among seventy teams of community parade participants. The entire pageant lasted from ten in the morning to twelve noon; and the government also assigned the first half hour to Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism for the ceremony of dotting the eyes of the golden dragon.

At the Christmas dragon dance of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism on 17th November, 2001, Honourable Mr. James McCormack, the State Director of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Rob Valentine, and Mrs. Lyn Andresch, the Manager of Multicultural Tasmania, personally dotted the eyes of the holy dragon. The outstanding performance of the dragon dance team of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism resulted in the team being selected as the runners up in the pageant.

From such an arrangement we can appreciate the tolerance and acceptance of the Australians in Tasmania to foreign cultures, and the friendship and welcome afforded to the participation of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism's dragon dance team in the pageant.

Holy Revelations by Holy Zhi-Ji Vimalakirti
Ahdharma Buddha Patriarch Master (abstract)

Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism Dharma principles related to Dragon Dance

**Prepared according to the abstracts of holy revelations of
Holy Zhi-Ji Vimalakirti Ahdharma Buddha Patriarch Master
related to dragon dance, to Holy Tantra practitioners,
at Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism University.**

The Dragon dance of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism is having Its extremely distinctive doctrinal principles.

Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism's rationale of the Dragon dance, in short, is that Holy Tantra practitioners' purpose of publicly performing dragon dance is to commemorate Holy ancestral master Nagarjuna Buddha and to benefit sentient beings.

Nagarjuna Buddha is the ancient Indian holy ancestor of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism. He was also called Long Meng or Long Sheng; He was born a Brahmin caste in ancient south India. He was the actual founder of the theoretical system of Mahayana Buddhism. Buddhism was transmitted into China from India. Various schools of Buddhism like Holy Tantra, Tian Tai, Chan, Jing Tu, Lu, San Lun, Xian Shou, Fa Xiang schools were since founded and spread in China. They commonly venerate Nagarjuna Buddha as their ancestor.

Nagarjuna Buddha originally practised *wai dao* (non-Buddhist), learned various techniques and excelled in the four Vedas, astronomy, geography, supernatural techniques, fortune charting skills, esotericism, magic etc. and attained great achievement. Nagarjuna excelled in all aspects of performance including levitation and invisibility. He could fly up to heavens and submerge deep down in oceans, carefree, joyful and omnipotent. Subsequently He woke up to the reality that *wai dao* was not ultimately ideal. He abruptly awoke, changed His faith and dedicated in studying Buddhism.

Nagarjuna holy ancestor was recommended by Giant Dragon Bodhisattva who was the transformation of Vajrasattva, to the dragon



palace at the South Ocean. He received immeasurable Mahayana Buddhist teachings, studied deeply in detail, and ingeniously gained harmony with Dharma nature. Nagarjuna extensively wrote commentaries on Mahayana Buddhist scriptures to the extent

that the whole India was disseminated with the Mahayana doctrine of prajna sunyata nature.

Nagarjuna holy ancestor used seven white mustard seeds to open the steel pagoda at South India and obtained the *Vajrashekhara Sutra*. The root scripture of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism thus came into the world.

Nagarjuna holy ancestor classified all Buddhist Dharma into four approaches:

1. existence approach
2. sunyata * approach
3. existence and sunyata approach
4. non-existence and non-sunyata approach

He expounded on the profundity of Buddhist Dharma that all Dharma are “all existence being sunyata are non-existence”, “all sunyata being existence are non-sunyata” and “existence and sunyata” are mutually conflicting and harmonizing, as the foremost doctrinal principle

of Buddhist Dharma. He made a perfect preparation for the Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism’s doctrinal principle of *wei shi wu jing* (consciousness only without realm).

Nagarjuna Buddha obtained the Dharma nature transmission of Ahdharma Buddha. He was the transformation of patron Buddha Sakyamuni Buddha. He was the reincarnation of Akasagarbha holy ancestor of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism, foremost in Tantric practice – Rahula. Nagarjuna Buddha has generally been described as the second Buddha.

Within the tradition of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism throughout the expanse of China, characterized as *yin bi shi wei, she si rong su, she seng bao xiang, kou er xiang cheng*#, Nagarjuna Buddha has been revered as “Dragon Buddha”. “Dragon Buddha” has been



the most important esoteric language of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism.

Thus, dragon dance has since become the unique special distinctive unshared holy ritual of the tradition of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism for commemorating Dragon Buddha (Nagarjuna Buddha).

Nagarjuna Buddha extensively and thoroughly practised Mahayana Buddhism. His Madhyamika thoughts were profound; His writings on Buddhism were abundant. Nagarjuna Buddha has been provided with the glorious reputation of the Master of a thousand commentaries.



**To save and deliver sentient beings
with kindness, compassion and wisdom**

The dragon dance is no other than to disseminate the thinking of Nagarjuna Buddha to each and every time space of the Universe.

The holy dragon of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism, through the blessing of Holy Tantra Dharani

and proper procedure of Holy Tantra ritual, established innumerable mandala of the Universe on the body of the holy dragon. The three thousand and eight hundred volumes of akasagarbha sutra teachings of the foremost in Tantric practice - Rahula, are thus Tantrically filled in the Dharma body of the holy dragon by holy ancestor Nagarjuna Buddha.

Holy Tantra practitioners hold high the holy dragon, according to the traditional ritual of *long xing man tu luo tan chang bu gong sheng yi* (unshared holy ritual of dragon's movement in mandala site) and dance lightly. When the holy dragon freely spins and floats around, circling and spiralling up and down and hovering in the air, it is as if countless number of mani wheels are being turned in all time spaces to benefit sentient beings. The ultimate virtuous doctrinal principle of kindness, compassion and wisdom of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism and the teachings of attaining Buddhahood and realizing nirvana within the current lifetime, following the cyclic spirals and floating dance of the holy dragon, reverberate in all time spaces, thereby permeate into the mind of each and every sentient being to benefit them.

The dragon dance unshared holy ritual of Holy Tantra Jin-Gang-Dhyana Buddhism is the unshared grand holy ritual of *Bao Jia Fan jin gang fa jie gong yu zhou jie jie* (Bhagavan's vajra Dharma realm's demarcation of the Universe). The levitating dance of the holy dragon in Hobart will definitely bring immense benefits to Australia and Australians.

* sunyata – a Sanskrit term meaning “cannot be explained”. It has commonly been translated as “empty” or “emptiness.”

yin bi shi wei = concealed without revealing to others

she si rong su = relinquishing the temple to mingle with the ordinary people

she seng bao xiang = abandoning the Sangha jewel form

kou er xiang cheng = oral successive transmission

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