

# SHURANGAMA MANTRA

Commentary and Verses by Tripitaka Master Hua

Explanation of this Issue's Cover Verse

MANTRA: SU CHYE DWO YE

VERSE:

*Not coming, not going, the illusion of flowers in a mirror.  
Neither emptiness nor form, the obliqueness of moonlight in water.  
Apart from dust, cut off from marks, where does one dwell?  
Adding a head on top of a head is to be like Yajnadatta.*

COMMENTARY:

The second line of the Mantra is SU CHYE DWO YE, which is translated as "Tathagata"-- "Thus Come One." Why is the Buddha called the "Thus Come One"? It's because he

...does not come from anywhere,  
nor does he go anywhere...

Therefore he is called the Thus Come One. It seems that he comes, and yet it seems that he does not come. Thus he comes; thus he does not.

*Not coming, not going, the illusion of flowers in a mirror.* With no place which he comes from and no place which he goes to, he is just like a flower reflected in a mirror. Now you tell me--where does the flower reflected in the mirror come from? And where does it go to? *Neither emptiness nor form, the obliqueness of moonlight in water.* The moon in water doesn't have any substance of its own. It's just a reflection shining on the water.

*Apart from dust, cut off from marks, where does one dwell?* You must leave all defilements and sever the appearance of all attachments. What can you be attached to, anyway? What is there to be attached to, I ask you? Be free of all attachments. If there is no appearance, to what can you be attached?

*Adding a head on top of a head is to be like Yajnadatta.* Don't imitate Yajnadatta. One morning he got up and looked in the mirror and exclaimed, "Hey! There's a head in that mirror, but where's my own head?" He could see a head in the mirror and wondered why he couldn't perceive his own head. So he ran out on the streets and asked everyone he met, "Have you seen my head?" People did not have any idea what he was talking about. See how wonderful that is? If you add a head on top of a head, it's to be like Yajnadatta. Don't be so upside-down. Don't be so crazy.

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