

VERSE FOR THE NEW YEAR

by the Venerable Master Hua

*Now we greet the year 1982,
Assembled from the ten directions to investigate dhyana.
Return the light, look within, contemplate self-presence.
In Ten Thousand Buddha City are picked Sages and Worthies.*

Now it's the year 1982, and people have come here from the ten directions for the Ch'an sessions. Everyone should return the light, reverse the illumination, and see if they themselves are present or not. To be present means to be here applying effort. Not to be present means sitting there running after false thinking. In the Sagely City of Ten Thousand Buddhas Sages and Worthies are selected, that is, people who truly cultivate the Way. Just to be able to come here means you have great good roots. Otherwise you'd find it very hard to get here, and wouldn't be able to take it if you did and run away. There isn't anyplace else in the world where the going is so rough and people work so hard with no fear of the difficulty. So you who have come here should certainly obtain genuine and ultimate wisdom of proper knowledge and proper views.

CALENDAR OF BUDDHIST HOLIDAYS, 1982

Solar date	Lunar date	Holiday (* = full celebration; + = incense praise A.M.)
Jan. 2	12/8	*Shakyamuni Buddha's Accomplishment of the Way.
Jan. 9	12/15	+Full Moon Day.
Jan.23	12/29	+Avatamsaka Bodhisattva.
Jan.25	1/1	*Maitreya Bodhisattva; First of Lunar New Year--New Moon Day.
Feb. 8	1/15	+Full Moon Day.
Feb.24	2/1	+New Moon Day.
Mar. 3	2/8	*Shakyamuni Buddha's Leaving Home.
Mar.10	2/15	*Shakyamuni Buddha's Nirvana; Full Moon Day.
Mar.14	2/19	*Gwan Yin Bodhisattva's Birthday.
Mar.16	2/21	*Universal Worthy Bodhisattva.
Mar.25	3/1	+New Moon Day.
Apr. 5	---	Caring for Ancestors' Graves.
Apr. 8	3/15	*Gt. Master Ch'ang Jen's Birthday; Full Moon Day.
Apr. 9	3/16	*Birthday of Chundi Bodhisattva.
Apr.10	3/17	*Gt. Master Ch'ang Chih's Leaving Home.
Apr.24	4/1	+New Moon Day.
Apr.27	4/4	*Manjushri Bodhisattva.
May 1	4/8	*Shakyamuni Buddha's Birthday.

May 8	4/15	+Beginning of Summer Retreat for Sangha; Full Moon Day.
May 21	4/28	*Medicine king Bodhisattva.
May 23	(4/1)	+(intercalary) New Moon Day.
June 6	(4/15)	+(intercalary) Full Moon Day.
June 21	5/1	+New Moon Day.
July 3	5/13	+Ch'ieh Lan Bodhisattva.
