

Pictorial Biography of Venerable Master Hsü Yün

Composed by Venerable Master Hua

ROUGH GOING ON THE RUGGED ROADS OF SZECHUAN #81

(see illustration in Chinese section each issue)

The Master stayed on Chung Nan Mountain for two years, and when he was forty-eight years of age, came down the mountain during the second month of that year. He paid his respects at Huang Yü Monastery, and bowed to the stupas of Patriarch Tao Hsüan at Hou An Mountain. Then at Ts'ao T'ang Monastery, he paid his respects in the Bodhimanda of Venerable Kumarajiva. From there he proceeded to Ta Pan Monastery in Erh Pan, and on to Po Yü Monastery. The Master then went to Nan Hsiu District of Kuang Han. He spent New Year's at Pao Kuang Monastery. During that time, he carried nothing but the three robes and the bowl of a bhikshu. This greatly simplified matters.

The Gatha says:

The water atop Ta Lung Ch'ih Peak is split in a double flow.
And the snow-capped summit of T'ai Pai Mountain is eight hundred yojanas high.
The rough and winding precipice roads appeared cleaved by a giant sword.
A single soldier at this narrow pass can stave off ten thousand attackers.