

Shurangama Mantra

commentary and verses by Tripitaka Master Hsüan Hua

MANTRA: 11. SAN MYAU SAN PU TWO

VERSE:

*ALL BUDDHAS IN THE TEN DIRECTIONS AND THE THREE PERIODS OF TIME
RENOUNCE THEIR LIVES FOR THE DHARMA AND AMASS MERIT AND VIRTUE.
FOR MANY KALPAS THEY THEMSELVES PRACTICED THE BODHISATTVA WAY,
FEEDING THE TIGER, RESCUING THE EAGLE, IN PURSUIT OF DHARMA.*

COMMENTARY:

SAN MYAU SAN PU TWO refers to the Buddhas of the ten directions and three periods of time. *ALL BUDDHAS IN THE TEN DIRECTIONS AND THE THREE PERIODS OF TIME/ RENOUNCE THEIR LIVES FOR THE DHARMA AND AMASS MERIT AND VIRTUE.* The Buddhas of the ten directions and the three periods of time, at the time when they cultivated, gave up their bodies for the sake of the Dharma and accumulated merit and virtue. *FOR MANY KALPAS THEY THEMSELVES PRACTICED THE BODHISATTVA WAY.* How does a Buddha become a Buddha? He becomes a Buddha because life after life, at all times, he cultivated the Bodhisattva Path. He always benefitted other people, not himself. He always wanted to help out others. And so he went about *FEEDING THE TIGER, RESCUING THE EAGLE, IN PURSUIT OF DHARMA.* He gave up his whole life for the sake of seeking the Dharma. He renounced his whole life for half a verse. Because he sought the Dharma, he gave up his life to a tiger. And, because he sought the Dharma, he cut off his flesh and fed it to an eagle. This was all done in search of the Dharma.

-continued next issue

FORTHCOMING FROM BTTS

WATER MIRROR REFLECTIONS ON AVERTING CALAMITIES. AVAILABLE DEC 1982.

PICTORIAL BIOGRAPHY OF VENERABLE MASTER HSU YUN. Bilingual with woodcut illustrations. AVAILABLE DEC 1982.