

# Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Hsu Yun

by the Venerable Master Hua

## #112: Spending the Night on a Coffin Cover; Meeting a Beggar But Not Being Frightened

Continued from issue #173

The Master walked west-ward and, at nightfall, he came upon a dilapidated temple in which there was nothing but a coffin, its cover upside down. Assuming that no one was inside, the Master slept on top of it. At midnight, however, he felt something moving around inside the coffin. "Let me out!" said the voice. The Master asked, "Are you a man or a ghost?" "I'm a man" was the answer. "Who are you?" asked the Master. "I'm a beggar." The Master chuckled and got up, letting out a man who was ugly as a ghost. The beggar went out to urinate, and then went back to sleep. At dawn, the Master left.

The Gatha says:

When the nature is in  
samadhi, the demons  
are quelled, and  
every day is joyful.

When false thoughts do  
not arise, every place  
is peaceful.

Bright and imposing was  
the Master's light--  
there was not a thing  
to fear,

If one treats people as  
oneself, what  
distinction is there?

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### 虛雲和尚畫傳集

宿棺蓋遇老人不懼  
西行途中夜宿破廟  
祇一棺蓋仰知無人  
宿蓋上半夜棺中大  
動數次有聲曰我要  
出來問你是人是鬼  
曰是人向是甚麼人  
曰是討飯的公笑起  
今出狀醜如鬼小解  
復睡天曙公行  
宣化偈曰  
性定魔伏朝夕樂妄  
念不起處處安正大  
光明無所畏待人如  
己有何分