

Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Hsu Yun

by the Venerable Master Hua

#130: Meeting Dharma Master Chan Syou ("Chan Cultivation"), Who Cultivated Austerities

The Master immediately went to raise the money required to repair the broken-down temple. As he descended the mountain, upon reaching He Mu tree, he met a monk who was repairing the road. The Master bowed, but the monk did not respond. In the evening, they sat facing each other, and the next morning, the monk cooked some rice while the Master stoked the fire. When it was ready, the monk did not tell him to eat, but the Master did so anyway. The monk then shouldered his hoe and the Master carried the basket. They worked together in that way for more than ten days without exchanging a single word. Thus, in mutual harmony, they worked and rested together.

The Gatha says:

Rough and craggy for several hundred miles, the road was hard to travel.
The Monk Chan Syou (Chan Cultivation) vowed to make it passable,
So he bitterly toiled for several decades, and never once retreated.
Eminent indeed was Syou! The Master sighed at this strange encounter.

*translated, reviewed, and edited by the
Buddhist Text Translation Society*



路遇禪僧苦修道
公以修寺。志於募化。
乃下山行至和木樹
遇一僧修路。禮不答。
晚對坐。次晨作飯。公
為燒火飯熟。不招呼。
取餅食畢。僧荷鋤。公
負其。同脩路。十餘日
未造一語。相安同處
止與皆是。
宣化偈曰
捐葦數百路難行。楚
僧禪僧賴地平。苦行
數十永不退高矣。休
哉嘆奇逢。