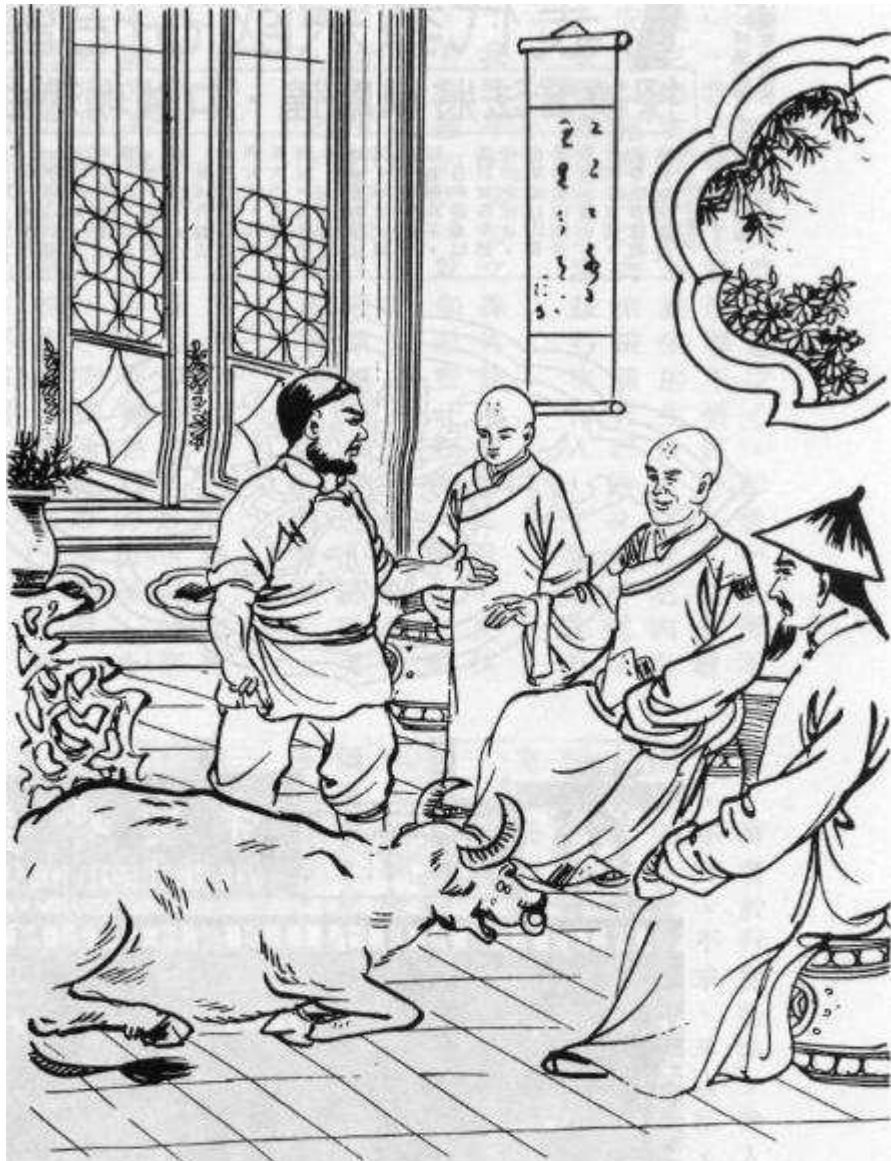


Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Hsu Yun

by the Venerable Master Hua

#145. An Ox Seeks Deliverance, And the Butcher Changes Profession



虛雲老和尚畫傳集

牛求救屠改業
當抵騰越。寓萬壽寺。
典提督張松林坐談。
忽來黃牛跪面前。眼
垂淚。旋揚腸。昌屠者
多人至。公向牛曰。汝
欲生。須皈依三寶。牛
點頭。為說三皈依。牛
主誓改業。皈依長齋。
軍門台為屠備。
宣化偈曰
以羊易牛。宣王心。思
及禽獸。政施仁。孟軻
南此千里至。黃牛皈
依萬古新。

Reaching the town of TengYweh, the Master stayed in WanShou ("Ten Thousand Years") Temple. One day, as he was sitting and talking with the Provincial Governor Jang Sung Lin, a yellow ox suddenly appeared. It knelt down before the Master, shedding tears. Following it was a butcher named Yang Sheng Chang, and several others. The Master said to the ox, "If you wish to live, you must take refuge with the Triple Jewel." The ox nodded its head and was given the Three Refuges. The owner of the ox, the butcher, vowed to change his profession, took refuge, and became a vegetarian. The governor recommended him for a job in a store.

The gatha says:

Substituting an ox for a sheep, Emperor Sywan Glorified showed a princely heart.
With empathy reaching to even the birds and beasts, he governed with humaneness.
If Mencius had heard about this event, he would have come a thousand miles.
A yellow ox had taken refuge--a rarity in ten thousand years!

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HEREIN LIES THE TREASURE-TROVE, Volume One. 1983, \$6.50. An anthology of Dharma Talks given by the Venerable Master Hua at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. Titles include:

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