

Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Hsu Yun

by the Venerable Master Hua

#148. Udumbara Flowers Bloom on the Old Chestnut Tree

The Master responded to an invitation by various members of the Sangha and benefactors to explain the *Shurangama Sutra*. When the Master had ascended his seat and was speaking the Dharma, the old chestnut tree in the front of the hall suddenly blossomed, sending forth several tens of clusters of Udumbara flowers. They were big as basins and had the form of peonies, with a golden-yellow hue. Rare fragrance exuded from them; and they were empty in the middle, reflecting their purity of form. They bloomed lushly for several months and did not wither. Everyone who saw them pronounced it a marvel and exclaimed that there had never been anything like it before.

The gatha says:

A little magic by the old tree
brought forth miraculous
offerings.

As the youngsters turned their
heads to gaze at the
supernatural blooms.

All the Sanghans together agreed
on the flowers' propitious rarity.

While respectful donors took
refuge with sublime Bodhi.



集傳畫尚和老雲虛

老栗樹開曇華
公應名僧伽及檀越
請講楞嚴經昇座說
法際庭前老栗樹忽
湧開優鉢曇華數十
朵大如盆形如芙蓉
色如黃金含香吐蕊
中空體潔感開教月
而不萎謝見者皆稱
奇異嘆未曾有
宣化偈曰
老樹通靈獻妙供。稚
童仰首望仙華。僧伽
咸說奇華瑞檀越皈
敬勝菩提。