

Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Hsu Yun

by the Venerable Master Hua

#151. Commander Ken Ywan Destroys Buddhist Temples



虛雲老和尚畫傳集

根源協統毀佛寺
 辛亥革命。宣統遜位。
 到虛毀寺拆廟。滅像
 逐僧。滇省協統李根
 源領導軍隊。毀像拆
 寺。殺僧屠尼。尤以公
 乃窮和尚。竟能深得
 民心。群眾擁護。豈非
 怪事。故指名捕之。禍
 將不免。危乎哉
 宣化偈曰
 諸寺僧逃公不然。如
 厲業報何避焉。以身
 殉佛比丘志。眾悅誠
 服願患難。

The *Shin Hai* Revolution started in 1911, and the last Manchu Emperor, Sywan Tung, abdicated the throne. Everywhere monasteries and temples were laid waste, images were destroyed, and members of the Sangha were expelled. The Yunnan Provincial Commander, Li Ken Ywan, led his infantry troops in the destruction of monasteries and statues, murdering bhikshus and butchering bhikshunis. That the Master, a poor monk, could profoundly win the heart of the common multitude and be venerated and protected by them, seemed very strange. Therefore, Commander Li ordered his arrest. A catastrophe was imminent—dangerous indeed!

The gatha says:

All the monks of the monasteries fled, but the Master did not do so.

From one's own karmic retribution how can one escape?

To sacrifice one's body for the Buddha is a Bhikshu's aspiration.

The masses took delight in complying with him and willingly suffered hardships.