

Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Hsü Yün

By Venerable Master Hua

163. "Water and Land" Way-Place Responds with Auspicious Omens

In 1918, when the Master was seventy-nine, the Military Governor Tang Ji Yau respectfully invited him to come to Kunming to perform Buddhist ceremonies. The Master set out with a disciple named Syiu Ywan ("Perfect Cultivation"), but en route they encountered bandits whom the Master convinced to desist. Arriving in Kunming, he met with Tang, who stated his three intentions, as follows: 1) Convene a large Buddhist assembly to seek the support of the Buddhas in eradicating disasters and misfortune, and in crossing over the spirits of the dead; 2) establish a large monastery in order to propagate the Buddhadharma; and 3) set up a college for the education of the young. The Master told him, "I also have three suggestions: 1) prohibit the slaughter of animals for meat; 2) proclaim a general amnesty; and 3) send relief for those in distress." It was done, and in 1919, when the Master turned eighty, the Dharma assembly began. The flames of the candles took on the shape of lotus blossoms, and their rainbows of colors dazzled the eye. At the completion of forty-nine days, during the Sages Ceremony of Sending Off, jeweled canopies appeared in the sky, along with banners and flags.

It was said:

An inconceivable response!



傳畫尚和老雲虛

水陸感應祥瑞
 戊午年七十九歲。唐維
 堯督軍。禮請赴昆明。作
 佛事。公偕徒脩圓徑。途
 遇匪。洗服。至滇見唐。云
 敬行三事。一。作一場大
 佛事。求佛加被。消災免
 難。超荐亡靈。二。建大叢
 林。宏揚佛法。三。辦一完
 善大學。教育青年。公曰
 我亦定三事。禁屠。大赦
 賑濟。皆照辦。己未八十歲
 法會開始。塔皆獻蓮花。霞
 彩奪目。七七圓滿。送聖堂
 中。獻幢幡寶蓋。
 宣化曰。感應難思。