

Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Hsü Yün

By Venerable Master Hua

167. Praying for Snow Near the End of Spring to End Diphtheria

Yunnan Province had seen serious disasters for several years in a row. The diphtheria epidemic continued, and there had been no rain for several months. Members of the military, public officials, and citizens perished in large numbers. Remembering the excellent administration of ex-governor Tang, the community met and invited him to return and resume his former duties. Tang went to the monastery and requested the Master to set up an altar to pray for rain, and as a result, it poured for three days. The diphtheria epidemic continued, however, because only a snowfall could bring it to an end. Spring was drawing to a close, and Governor Tang requested that the Master pray for snow to end the disease. An altar was set up, and when a large snowfall ensued, all the people believed in the inconceivability of the Buddhadharmā.

The gatha says,

Towards the end of spring, auspicious snow floated everywhere.

It totally stopped the diphtheria and saved our countrymen.

The honorable Tang was good at governing, influencing heaven to change its mind.

The Buddha's strength lends its aid to the Elder Master's compassionate vows.

*Upcoming Special Events
at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas*

July 4 Recitation for the Welfare of the Nation

July 16 Celebration of Gwan Shr Yin Bodhisattva's Accomplishing the Way (Actual day July 21)

Aug. 13 Celebration of Ullambana (Actual day Aug. 16)



虛雲和尚畫傳

暮春祈雪消喉疾
 滇連年災異迭興喉病
 大作數月不雨死亡軍
 官民無數群思唐公政
 德請決浪請唐回任督
 滇唐詣寺請公設壇祈
 雨未大雨三日而喉疾
 未除須雪治方可時在
 暮春唐仍請公祈雪治
 喉設壇日未大雪盈尺
 衆信佛法難思
 宣化偈曰
 暮春瑞雪紛如乳消除
 喉疫救同胞唐公善政
 天心轉長老慈願佛
 力昭