

Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Hsü Yün

By Venerable Master Hua

169. The Vegetable Plants and Plum Trees Bloom with Lotuses: An Auspicious Omen

As the Abbot of Yün Ch'i (Cloud Abode) Monastery, the Master prepared construction materials, assembled workmen, and himself joined in the painstaking labor of reconstruction. A new monastery was built. Upon its completion, the Precepts were transmitted every year, the teachings of the Sutras were explained, and there was practice of dhyana meditation. During the Precept ceremony of 1926, the old and withered plum trees in front of the main hall blossomed with a large number of white lotus flowers. Throughout the vegetable garden, the plants bloomed into green lotuses. In each of the flowers was a majestic transformational Buddha, reenacting the following Sutra passage:

Now I, the Buddha Nishyanda, sit here atop the lotus dais.

All around, upon a thousand flowers appear a thousand Shakyam Lords.

The gatha says:

The withered plum trees bloomed with lotuses,

Appearing through the aid of the forest-ruling spirits.

Buddhas came to protect the location.

There were thousands of Shakyamunis upon thousands of lotus petals!



虛雲老和尚畫傳

萊梅開蓮北瑞
公住持雲棲寺。備材鳩工
親操勞役。建尊僧坊。完
成後。每年皆傳戒法。誨
經教。坐禪香。丙寅戒期
中。殿前老枯梅樹。開白
蓮花數十朵。前後菜園
中。青菜皆開青蓮花。華
中皆有化佛。儼然如梵
今盧舍那。方坐蓮華台。
周匝千華上。復現千釋
迦。宣化偈曰
枯梅開蓮華。主林神
助茲。諸佛來加護。千
葉千釋迦。