

*A Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master HsüYün*  
by Venerable Master Hua

*174. An Old Dragon Spirit Receives the Jeweled Precepts*

During the Spring Precept Transmission period of 1932, when the Master was in his ninety-third year, an old man with snow-white hair and beard and an unusual manner arrived and went directly to the Abbot's quarters. Kneeling before the Master, he said he had come to seek the Precepts. When asked his name, he replied that he was called Yang, and was a native of Nan T'ai Chiao in Fukien Province. At that time, there happened to be a newly precepted monk from Nan T'ai named Miao Tsung in residence. When asked, the latter said he did not know the old man who disappeared after the transmission of the Bodhisattva Precepts. Dharma Master Miao Tsung returned to Nan T'ai, and upon entering the Lung Wang (Dragon King) Temple, was startled to discover that the image of the majestic spirit showed he was none other than the old man who had just received the Precepts!



The gatha says:

The Dragon King, seeking the Precepts, turned into an old man.

The Bodhisattva Precepts once transmitted, he was gone without a trace.

But when Dharma Master Miao himself passed by the Dragon Spirit,

The latter held right in his hand a Precept Certificate!

虛雲和尚畫傳

老龍神受寶戒  
壬申九十三歲春戒期中有一老叟蓄髮雪白面貌清奇直入文室跪於前言來求戒問其姓氏云南台橋人姓楊時有戒我師宗上南台人詢之不識此老者菩薩戒畢即失蹤妙宗回南台進龍王廟神像儼然受戒老者宣化偈曰  
龍王求戒化老翁菩薩戒畢影无踪妙師經過龍神側戒牒端然在手中