

A Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Hsü Yün

By Venerable Master Hua

177. People Receive the Precepts and a Tiger Takes Refuge

During the winter, the Dharma protectors persistently requested that the Master transmit the Precepts; but the walls of the buildings had collapsed, and the dwellings were all but destroyed. They were uninhabitable, so makeshift structures of thatched palm and bamboo were put up for the guests to stay in. The gentry of Canton and Shao Chou arrived with their households, several hundred people in all, bringing soldiers for protection. A large number of people took refuge. On the seventeenth day of the eleventh lunar month, during the transmission of the Bodhisattva Precepts, night had fallen when suddenly a tiger arrived to take refuge. Everyone was aghast, but the Master transmitted the Refuges and the Precepts to him. The tiger bowed its head three times and was very tame. The Master said, "This tiger knows enough to take refuge with the Buddha. There are no two ways about it: the hearts of humans and the hearts of animals are equally endowed with a treasury of brilliance."

The gatha says:

The King of Beasts bowed down to
the King of Dharma,

Taking refuge and protecting the
Platform of the Precepts.

Every year it came to prostrate itself
in reverence,

Month after month being perfumed
with the fragrance of holding
Precepts.

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

Mar. 26 eve - Apr. 16, 17, or 18: Ten Thousand Buddhas Jewelled Repentance

Apr. 8: Sunday celebration of Chundi Bodhisattva's Birthday

Apr. 29: Sunday celebration of Shakyamuni Buddha's Birthday



傳畫尚和老雲虛

人受戒虎皈依
冬諸獲法堅請受戒類
垣破屋不能任眾如搭
葵蓬竹屋住客與龍官
仲眷屬來數百人常兵
保衛皈依者甚報冬月
十七入夜說菩薩戒時
虎來皈依大眾嘩然公
為說皈依三叩首馴然公
曰虎識皈依正心無動
樣今與畜同一無明藏
宣化偈曰
獸王禮法王皈依獲戒
壇年年來朝拜月
月持戒香