

A Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Hsü Yün

By Venerable Master Hua

178. Withered Cypresses Joyously Revive

The Master turned ninety-six in 1935. In the spring, General Li Han Yun was transferred to regions in the east, and so there was a lack of people to aid with the reconstruction projects. Following the Precept period, the Master responded to an invitation by the Tung Hua Institution of Hong Kong to lead ceremonies to benefit those who had died on land or water. Upon its completion, he returned to Ku (Drum) Mountain and asked Dharma Master Yuan Ying to replace him as Abbot. On his return to Nan Hua Monastery, the Master renovated the Hall of the Patriarchs, built a new Kuan Yin Hall, and also built some dormitories. Around the eleventh lunar month, three ancient cypress trees north of Fu Hu Pavilion and south of Cho Hsi Spring, which had been planted during the Sung Dynasty and had been dead for several hundred years, suddenly sprang to life.

The gatha says:

The withered cypresses once again
gloriously revive,
Flourishing in a burst of life, exuding
joyfulness.

The author personally witnessed this
strange and wonderful event:

The Master's ultimate virtue always
evoked responses from all living
things.

Dharma Realm Buddhist University

The Dharma Realm Buddhist University intensive summer session will begin on July 9 and extend through August 10. There will also be a series of four weekend courses on the theme

"Buddhism and the Modern World." For more detailed information, write or call Summer Programs, Dharma Realm Buddhist University, Talmage, CA 95481-0217, (707) 642-0939.



虛雲老和尚畫傳

枯柏欣欣向榮
乙亥九十六歲春漢魂李
公調任東區興建令人
相助戒期後應港東華
三院請建水陸畢轉鼓
山請圓瑛法師任住持公
回南華備祖殿觀音堂
寮房工程冬月寺後伏
虎亭北車錫泉南有老
柏三株宋代植枯數百
年忽發新枝
宣化偈曰枯柏欣欣又
向榮生氣勃之樂意濃
筆者祝觀斯奇跡至
德威物靡不應