

# A Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Hsü Yün

by Venerable Master Hua

## 181. Eliminating the Evening Meal to Relieve Disaster Victims

The Master was ninety-nine in 1938, and continued his annual transmission of the Precepts and lecturing of Sutras. In Hong Kong, he led a Great Compassion Dharma Assembly and then returned to Nan Hua in the fall.

In 1939, the Master's one-hundredth year, there were widespread hostilities during the spring Precept Period. The new preceptees were many in number, arriving from all parts of the country.

The Master recommended that everyone bow in repentance for two hours each day in order to end the disastrous plundering of the country, and also to cross over the many soldiers who died in the war against the Japanese. He further suggested that the people in the monastery not eat after noon, and that they turn over the food saved from their not eating dinner to the government to be used for relief. Everyone approved the Master's proposals.

The gatha says:

*He cherished compassion and benevolence and aided the endangered people,  
Just like elder Sudatta who provided for orphans and the poor.  
The grand old man of Buddhism, ever thinking of the masses,  
Urged the reduction of food and clothing to save his fellow beings.*

