

宣公上人偈讚集序

Preface for the Anthology of Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's Verses

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（編按：為紀念宣公上人涅槃三周年，法界佛教總會將出版「宣公上人偈讚集」，楊富森教授特為序以誌。）

一九九二年，是我生平最值得紀念的一年，因為就在那年，我和「宣」化上人結了善緣！從多次談話中，我雖然知道上人才上過兩年半的鄉塾，可是深深佩服他的古書修養。無論是四書五經、古文古詩，上人不但讀過，而且都能背得滾瓜爛熟。俗語說得好：「熟讀唐詩三百首，不會作詩也能吟。」上人不但能吟，而且能作；這是一般人——尤其是佛門弟子，所不能的。

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我從虛空來，回到虛空去。

I came from empty
space, and I will
return to empty space.

[Editor's note: To commemorate the Third Anniversary of the Venerable Master's Nirvana, Dharma Realm Buddhist Association is publishing an *Anthology of the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua's Verses*, for which Professor Richard Yang has written this Preface.]

1992 was the most memorable year of my life, for that was the year I met the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua. Through numerous conversations, I realized that although the Master had only studied for two and a half years in a village school, he was admirably well-versed in the ancient Chinese classics. Whether it was the Four Books, the Five Classics, or other ancient prose and poetry, the Master had not only studied them, but was able to recite them from memory just like that. An old proverb puts it well: "Having thoroughly studied the three hundred Tang poems, even if you can't write poetry you can at least recite it." The Master could not only recite, but also compose. This is something most people cannot do.

