

民國元年，雲南錫峨縣於正月初二夜十二時，發生劇烈地震。城舍房屋，一時倒塌，死人甚多。官方與佛教會協同救護，余亦隨去，掘土挖屍。經五日，共出屍體大小八百餘具，內有夫婦同宿之雙屍八十四對。極奇者，有夫婦二人壓在瓦礫中，歷數日而毫未損傷，亦異也。民國三年，大理府所屬四縣發生地震，以大理為最劇。屋舍城垣，悉倒塌無餘；惟寺宇寶塔未倒，仍矗立如故。地動時震開巨隙，火燄噴燒。人爭逃命，足下地裂，身即陷墮；甫欲出時，地又復合。有截斷腰肢者，有僅露一頭於地面者；儼如生陷火燄地獄，慘不忍睹。城中住民數千戶，多及於難，存活寥寥。時有二家金箔舖，一趙姓曰萬昌號，一楊姓曰湛然號，火至其居自熄，其處亦未地震。二家人口各數十，竟安然無事。此二姓者，數代持齋念佛，樂善好施。

幸與不幸

The Fortunes and the Disasters

// The Fortunate Ones V.S. the Unfortunate Ones

節自虛雲老和尚年譜

EXTRACTED FROM THE BIOGRAPHY OF VENERABLE MASTER HSU-YUN



在今年5月12日，中國四川省發生一場7.9級的大地震，目前已知有超過1.4萬人傷亡。——

On May 12, 2008, a 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck the sichuan province of China, taking more than 14,000 lives,-----

A severe earthquake occurred at 12:00AM on January 2nd of 1912 in County Xi-Er of Yuan Nan Province China. Houses and huts collapsed at once. Many lives were lost. Officials and Buddhist Associations collaborated in the rescue work. I followed to help, digging up the earth for corps. Five days passed. The total count of the corpses, young and old, were more than eight hundred, including eighty-four couples dying in their sleep. The most amazing case, in addition to being unusual, was one couple whom were buried under the rubble remained entirely unhurt after a number of days.

In 1914, an earthquake also happened at the four counties under the prefecture of Da-li (in China), the city had the worst damage. All the houses and city walls collapsed completely except Buddhists temples and stupas, all of which still stood like before. When the earthquake occurred, the grounds were shaken open with enormous gaps and fire spewed out. People were fighting to fleet for their lives. As the earth cracked underneath their feet, their bodies would fall into the cracks. When they were just about to crawl out from the cracks, the gap closed up on them. Some were chopped in half from waist down; some only had their heads remained above the ground level. This sight was just like a vivid scene from the hell of blazing fire - too horrible to look. Citizens more than a few thousand dwelling in the city were affected by this disaster. Very few survived. At that time, there were two gold stores: one with the last name of Zhao, the store name is Wan-chang(Forever-Prosperous); the other one with the last name of Yang, the store name is Zhan-ran(Crystal-Clear). When the fire reached their houses, it went out by itself and the earthquake did not happen there, either. Each family had more than a few dozen people. To one's surprise, they were not hurt at all. These two families, who love to give and practiced benevolence, were vegetarians and Buddhists for many generations.