

Venerable Master Hsü Yün

Composed by Venerable Master Hua

(illustration in Chinese section)

BOW TO SHURANGAMA STUPA

The Master once again set out to pay his respects to various holy sites. He went to *T'ien Chu* Summit, the highest point of the entire mountain. It was a thirty *li* walk from the foot of the mountain to the top, where the Shurangama Stupa, as well as a copper shrine, were located. It has been recorded that at one time, there were 360 temples, and 72 larger monasteries on the mountain. By the time the Master made his visit, there were not even 10 monasteries remaining. It had degenerated to the point that the monks were no different than laymen, and the ownership rights to the monasteries were dominated by nepotism. The Master sighed, as he wished to restore the monasteries to their former greatness.

The gatha says:

The Shurangama Stupa can be found
upon Heaven's Pillar Summit
And the angular peak of Chicken
Foot Mountain
Reaches up into space sadly, sadly,
recalling the flourishing past
in light of the present decay.
The Master stood and silently wished
to restore the former grandeur.