

Water-Mirror Turning Back the Tide of Destiny

Essays and Verses by Venerable Master Hua

Dharma Master Lyau Ran

THE MASTER WAS THE FIRST-SEATED MONK (LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY) AT LING YEN (MAGIC GROTTO) MOUNTAIN MONASTERY OF SU JOU Province. He was a senior monk who entered seclusion. He did not come out to lead the assembly in cultivation; instead, he practiced on his own. HE WAS A NATIVE OF JYANGSYI PROVINCE. ALREADY AN ACCOMPLISHED CHAN CULTIVATOR, he had become enlightened through his Chan practice. HE THEN ASPIRED TOWARDS THE PURE LAND AS HIS FINAL PLACE OF REFUGE. After his enlightenment, he reliably and faithfully recited the Buddha's name. He settled his mind in the Pure Land Dharma door. HE UPHELD AND RECITED THE BUDDHA'S NAME, exclusively reciting the phrase "Namo Amitabha Buddha."

Thereupon HE ENTERED SECLUSION AT LING YEN Mountain, DETERMINED TO REMAIN IN SECLUSION UNTIL DEATH. Having entered seclusion, he never came out again or did he ever go anywhere else. Throughout his entire life, he remained in seclusion. THE MASTER RESOLVED TO BE BORN IN THE PURE LAND. He was determined to be born in the Land of Ultimate Bliss. HE WROTE THE VOLUME "ENTERING THE ROOM OF FRAGRANT LIGHT." I know that he wrote at least this one book, WHICH ADVOCATES THE DHARMA OF RECITING THE BUDDHA'S NAME. FROM THAT HE OBTAINED A RESPONSE WHEREBY SEVERAL TENS OF SHARIRA FELL FROM HIS LAMP. Because he advocated the Dharma door of reciting the Buddha's name in a very ultimate fashion, he obtained a response where several tens of gemlike sharira fell from his lamp.

PEOPLE WERE ASTOUNDED BY THIS MIRACLE. They thought it remarkable. SUBSEQUENTLY, IT HAD A GREAT INFLUENCE ON THOSE WHO BROUGHT FORTH THE RESOLVE TO RECITE THE BUDDHA'S NAME. Most people were convinced that the Dharma door of reciting the Buddha's name was inconceivable. Thereupon they all resolved to recite the Buddha's name, too.

THE DHARMA MASTER HAD AN AMIABLE AND YIELDING DEMEANOR LIKE THAT OF A GENTLE BREEZE AND A SOFT RAIN. He had a very gentle, compassionate manner. He was very compatible and easy to get along with. HE WAS ALSO SOMEONE WHO HAD TRUE CULTIVATION AND ACTUAL CERTIFICATION. Everywhere he stressed actual cultivation and certification, AND HIS DIGNIFIED BEARING ATTESTED TO HIS ATTAINMENTS IN THE WAY. The sincerity within was evidenced in his external bearing. Because he was pure inside, outside he inspired the respect of those who saw him. THE MASTER ENTERED THE STILLNESS AT LING YEN MOUNTAIN. FOREVER HE WILL ACT AS A LOFTY MODEL FOR US. He will serve as a standard, a good model, for later generations. HE IS EMINENTLY WORTHY OF OUR ESTEEM! Everyone can look up to him as an inspiring model.

A VERSE IN PRAISE SAYS:

THE MAGIC GROTTO OF SU JOU BROUGHT FORTH
DRAGONS AND ELEPHANTS.
THE ELDER MASTER YIN GWANG ERECTED THIS WAY-
PLACE.
MASTER LYAU RAN ENTERED SECLUSION, CULTIVATING
THE PURE LAND DHARMA,

WHILE THE SEA-VAST ASSEMBLY GATHERED LIKE
CLOUDS IN THE BUDDHA-RECITATION HALL.
"ENTERING THE ROOM OF FRAGRANT LIGHT" BECKONED
THE APPEARANCE OF SHARIRA.
TRANSCENDING THE WHEEL OF BIRTH AND DEATH, HE
ARRIVED AT THE LAND OF LOTUSES.
ENLIGHTENED TO NON-PRODUCTION, HE ASCENDED TO
SUPERIOR REBIRTH.
MAY THE MASTER NOT FORGET HIS ORIGINAL VOWS,
AND TURN THE BOAT OF COMPASSION AROUND!

THE MAGIC GROTTO OF SU JOU BROUGHT FORTH DRAGONS AND ELEPHANTS. That was a place where dragons coiled and tigers crouched. Many good knowing advisors went there to cultivate.

THE ELDER MASTER YIN GWANG ERECTED THIS WAY-PLACE. Dharma Master "Seal of Light" built this place of the Way for reciting the Buddha's name--for practicing the Pure Land.

MASTER LYAU RAN ENTERED SECLUSION, CULTIVATING THE PURE LAND DHARMA. He remained in seclusion until his death, exclusively cultivating the Pure Land Dharma door.

WHILE he remained in "birth and death" seclusion, THE SEA-VAST ASSEMBLY GATHERED LIKE CLOUDS IN THE BUDDHA-RECITATION HALL. People flocked from all directions, assembling like a great ocean. The pure, clear, sea-like assembly of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas gathered together like clouds in the Buddha-recitation hall to recite the Buddha's name.

"ENTERING THE ROOM OF FRAGRANT LIGHT" BECKONED THE APPEARANCE OF SHARIRA. After the completion of this book, there was a response whereby sharira fell from his lamp.

TRANSCENDING THE WHEEL OF BIRTH AND DEATH, HE ARRIVED AT THE LAND OF LOTUSES. Having put an end to birth and death, he arrived at the realm of lotuses--the Land of Ultimate Bliss.

ENLIGHTENED TO NON-PRODUCTION, HE ASCENDED TO SUPERIOR REBIRTH. He enlightened to patience with the non-production of dharmas, wherein he did not see the slightest dharma arise and did not see the slightest dharma cease to be, and yet could endure it in his mind. By means of this kind of skill, he attained superior birth of the superior grade--the highest rebirth.

MAY THE MASTER NOT FORGET HIS ORIGINAL VOWS, AND TURN THE BOAT OF COMPASSION AROUND! He won't go against his former vows. Having accomplished Buddhahood, he will return to teach and transform living beings. Having been reborn in the Land of Ultimate Bliss and become a Buddha, he will turn the boat of compassion around, come to the Saha world, and save living beings.