

Pictorial Biography of the Venerable Master Hsu Yun

by Tripitaka Master Hua

166. Turning Over the Gold to Aid Those Stricken by Disaster

The remodeling of Hwa Ting (Floral Pavilion) Monastery began in 1922, the Master's eighty-third year. In ancient times, the second son of King Ashoka saw a flock of jade phoenixes there, which is why the mountain was named Jade Bird Mountain. During the process of excavating for the reconstruction, a stone tablet was found, upon which was carved the words, "Yun Chi" (Cloud Abode). Also, in the mountain forest behind the monastery, a parcel of more than two hundred thousand dollars in gold and silver was found. The community had intended to donate it to the Permanently Dwelling, but the Master proposed giving it to the government instead in order to aid widowers, the destitute, orphans, and the solitary. That way the disasters and suffering of the masses would be relieved. Everyone agreed.

The gatha says:

What was left behind was not picked up in the time of the ancient sages. The Master knew propriety and did not keep the treasure.

He turned it over to the famine's victims to relieve the suffering masses.

Forgetting himself and pursuing the good, he was a greatly virtuous Master!



虛雲老和尚畫傳

拾遺金賑災黎
 去歲八十三歲重修華亭
 寺乃阿育太子見碧嵐一
 群而名碧瑪山掘土得碑
 有雲榜二字又於後山林
 中拾一包袱內有金銀幣
 等三十餘萬元報議款
 歸常住公則主張獻與
 政府賑濟饑寒孤獨災
 難困苦百姓眾稱善
 宣化偈曰
 路不拾遺古聖時財
 富義取斯人知飢饉
 布施能濟眾捨己從
 善大德師

UPCOMING SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS
 AT THE SAGELY CITY OF TEN
 THOUSAND BUDDHAS

May 7 Celebration of Shakyamuni Buddha's Birthday (Actual day May 12)

July 4 Recitation for the Welfare of the Nation

July 16 Celebration of Gwan Shr Yin Bodhisattva's Accomplishing the Way (Actual day July 21)