

Star and Cloud

Venerable Master Hsing Yun

1

Buddhist Legends of
Adventure and Courage

1 Star and Cloud BLP Venerable Master Hsing Yun

Star and Cloud

The Biography of Venerable Master Hsing Yun



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Translated from the Chinese by Madelon Wheeler-Gibb

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A Relaxed and Easy Way to Learn Dharma

I like to read biographies, especially those of ancient sages and wise, virtuous individuals. From their life events, thoughts, and actions, I can see the bigger picture of the historical environment in which they lived. It is also interesting to see what kind of individuals human beings have looked to for their spiritual examples. Biography serves not only to record the events of one person's life, but also to edify society at large and to benefit future generations.

When a person has spent a lifetime following a religious vocation, giving up personal affections and any desire to be rich or famous, there is a warmth and integrity that emanates from his or her upright behavior that has the capacity to evoke the truth, goodness, and beauty in human nature. Throughout the history of Buddhism in India, China, Korea, and Japan, there have been countless Buddhist monastics who have embraced great vows of compassion and have left behind an eternal, magnificent light for all human beings.

Fo Guang Cultural Enterprise Co. Ltd. has already published the *Anthology of Eminent Chinese Buddhist Monastics*. Their newest project has been the rendering of the lives of eminent monastics in a modern comic strip format of one hundred volumes. Everyone knows that pictures are more direct than words in conveying a message and making a lasting impression. Comic strips are an especially effective means of communication for teenagers since they are already familiar with them and enjoy them. Actually, I think wholesome and interesting comic strips are appealing to all ages, not just teenagers. Comic strips that are beautifully written and illustrated can be enjoyed again and again. This comic strip anthology of eminent masters can, on the one hand, join the popular trend of comics as literature while, on the

other hand, it can actually guide people in their spiritual lives. Therefore, this entire anthology is worth collecting and appreciating.

The following features can be found in this set of books:

1. Warm and touching stories of eminent monastics:
The personalities, speech, and actions of these spiritual leaders no longer seem strange and remote. These stories tell the life journeys of these great masters without any preaching or rigidity. The words flow elegantly and are easy to understand, helping the readers to experience the true spirit of these individuals.

2. Lively, humorous illustrations:
These books bring together famous illustrators of all ages from Taiwan and Southeast Asia. Each strip has been rendered in the artist's own style. This format allows their wonderful gifts and talents to blossom and to be enjoyed by countless people.

3. Providing abundant and accurate information:
All the artistic details such as architecture, clothing, and Buddhist statues are rendered in an accurate, authentic fashion, which helps the reader gather historical information while reading in a relaxed manner.

4. Complete and thorough structural arrangement:
In addition to wonderful illustrations, each book contains mini-biographies, lineage history, and words of wisdom from each of the eminent monastics, helping the reader to have a better understanding of each monastic's life as well as Buddhist history and teaching.

The *Buddhist Legends of Adventure and Courage* covers a hundred monastics representing the various lineages and spans from early Indian Buddhism to contemporary Buddhist masters, all of whom have greatly contributed to the dissemination and teaching of

Buddhism. Presenting their conduct and integrity in such a lively, energetic, and fresh manner really has a positive and meaningful impact on the dissemination of Humanistic Buddhism. As a sutra says: "Offer sentient beings what they desire first so that you will be able to share the Buddha's wisdom with them."

I hope that we can make Buddhism available to more people by using this relaxed and easy format. Particularly, I hope that the presentation of role models such as eminent monastics can touch the hearts of young, impressionable teenagers and allow everyone to enjoy a beautiful, wholesome life.

Venerable Master Hsing Yun

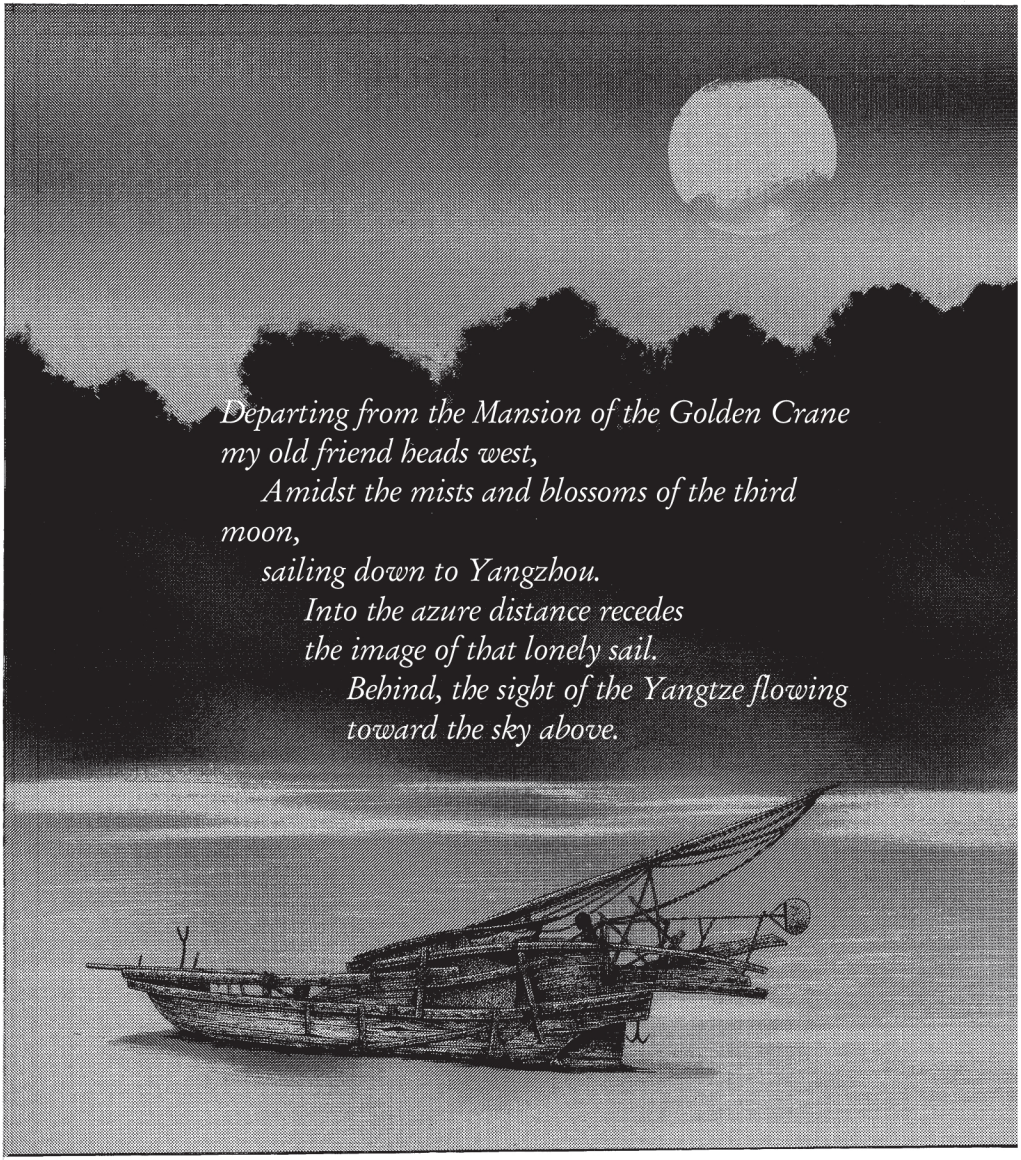
A Master Different from Public Perception

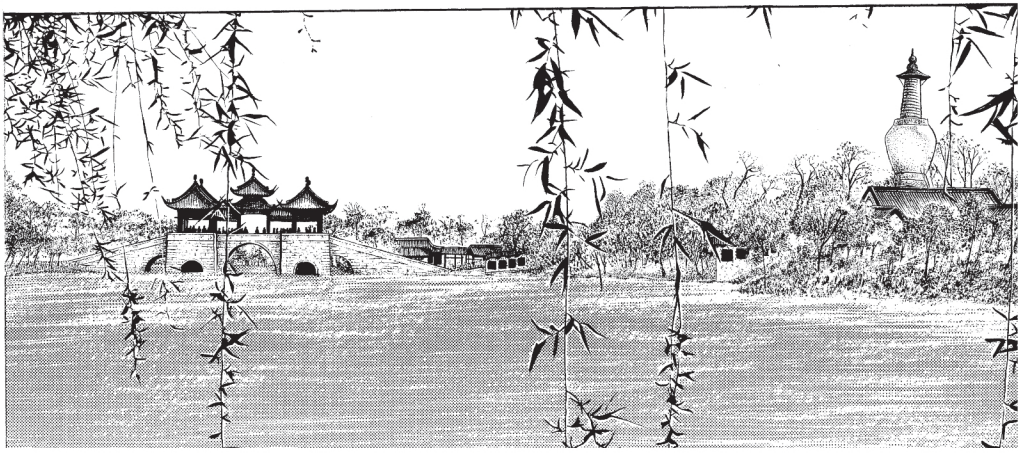
I am very happy to have this opportunity to render Master Hsing Yun, a Humanistic Practitioner, in a comic strip biography. I specialize in rendering historical figures, so I seldom get a chance to work on contemporary topics. Therefore, when considering how to do this book, I really gave it a lot of thought, particularly when I realized that I would be drawing someone as important to Buddhism as Master Hsing Yun. I felt the responsibility and challenge was truly great. This is also the first time in my illustration career where I have actually spent more time on digesting the material and preparing the script than on the actual drawing of the scenes. As I collected the Master's books and the biography about Venerable Master Hsing Yun, I found him to be a very approachable, interesting, and tolerant individual, quite different from his portrayal in newspapers, magazines, and on television surrounded by devotees and flashing cameras.

I hope that this book provides you with a different perspective on Venerable Master Hsing Yun.

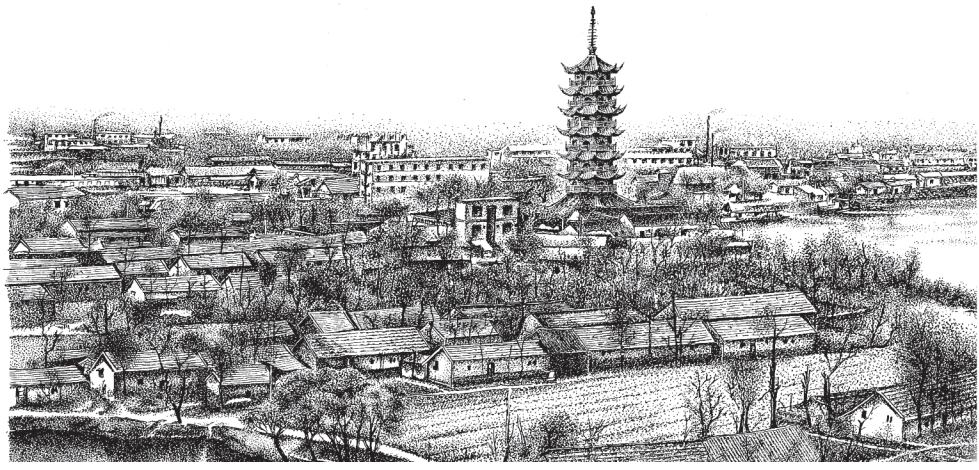
Zheng Wen
Shing Dian, Taiwan
2000


Part I
MANY HAPPY RETURNS
Lifetimes Spent with Buddhas

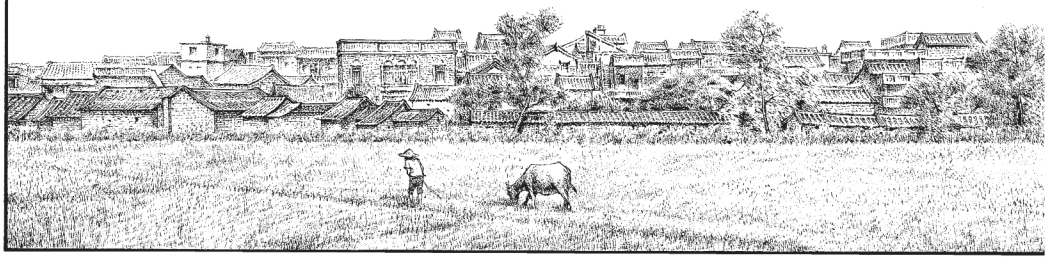

Departing from the Mansion of the Golden Crane
my old friend heads west,
Amidst the mists and blossoms of the third moon,
sailing down to Yangzhou.
Into the azure distance recedes
the image of that lonely sail.
Behind, the sight of the Yangtze flowing
toward the sky above.



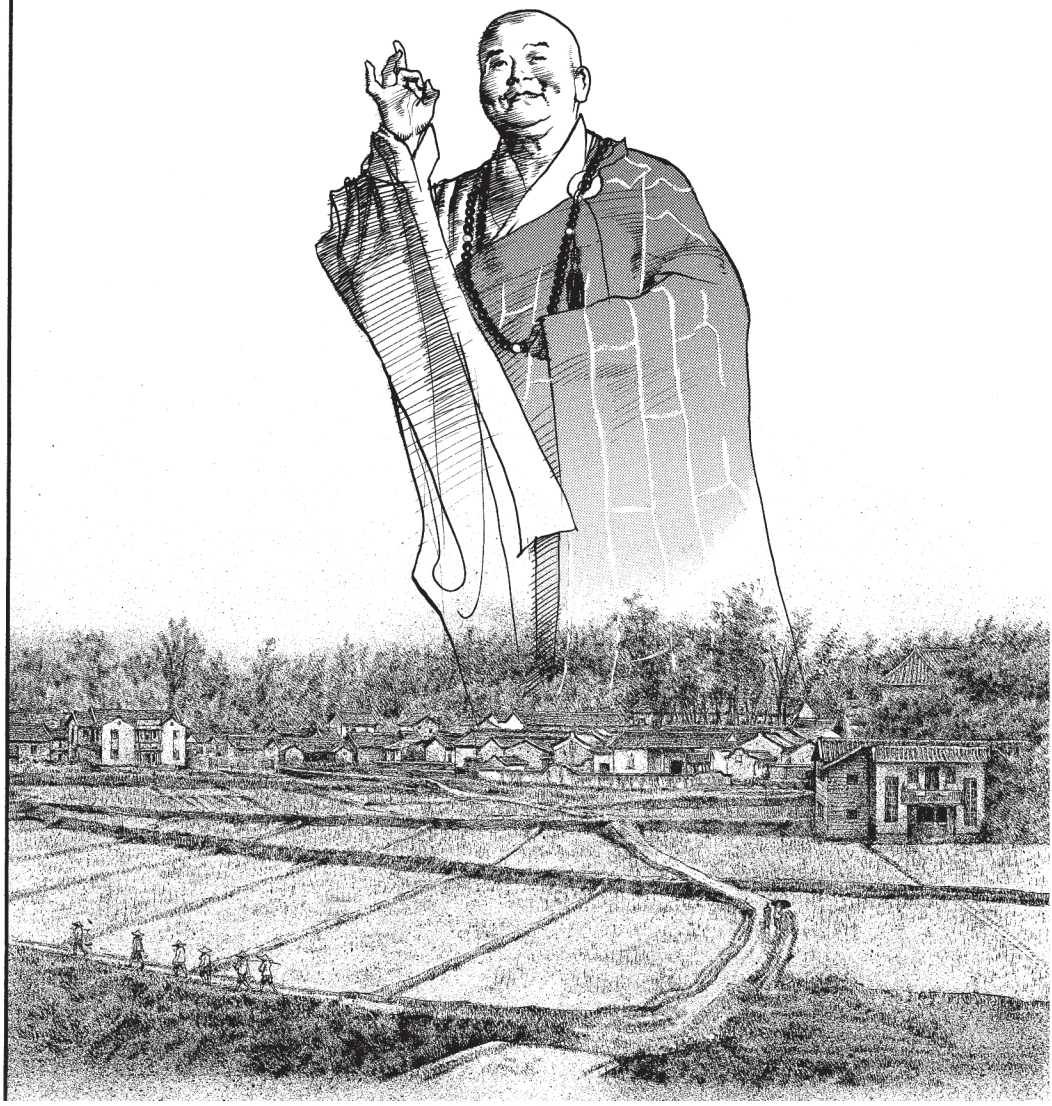
Yangzhou, city of dancing weeping willows, has been famous since ancient times. Literati from many dynasties have been attracted to its beauty. Writing and reciting poetry, and enjoying tea, they often linger in the city's lovely atmosphere, with no thought of returning home.

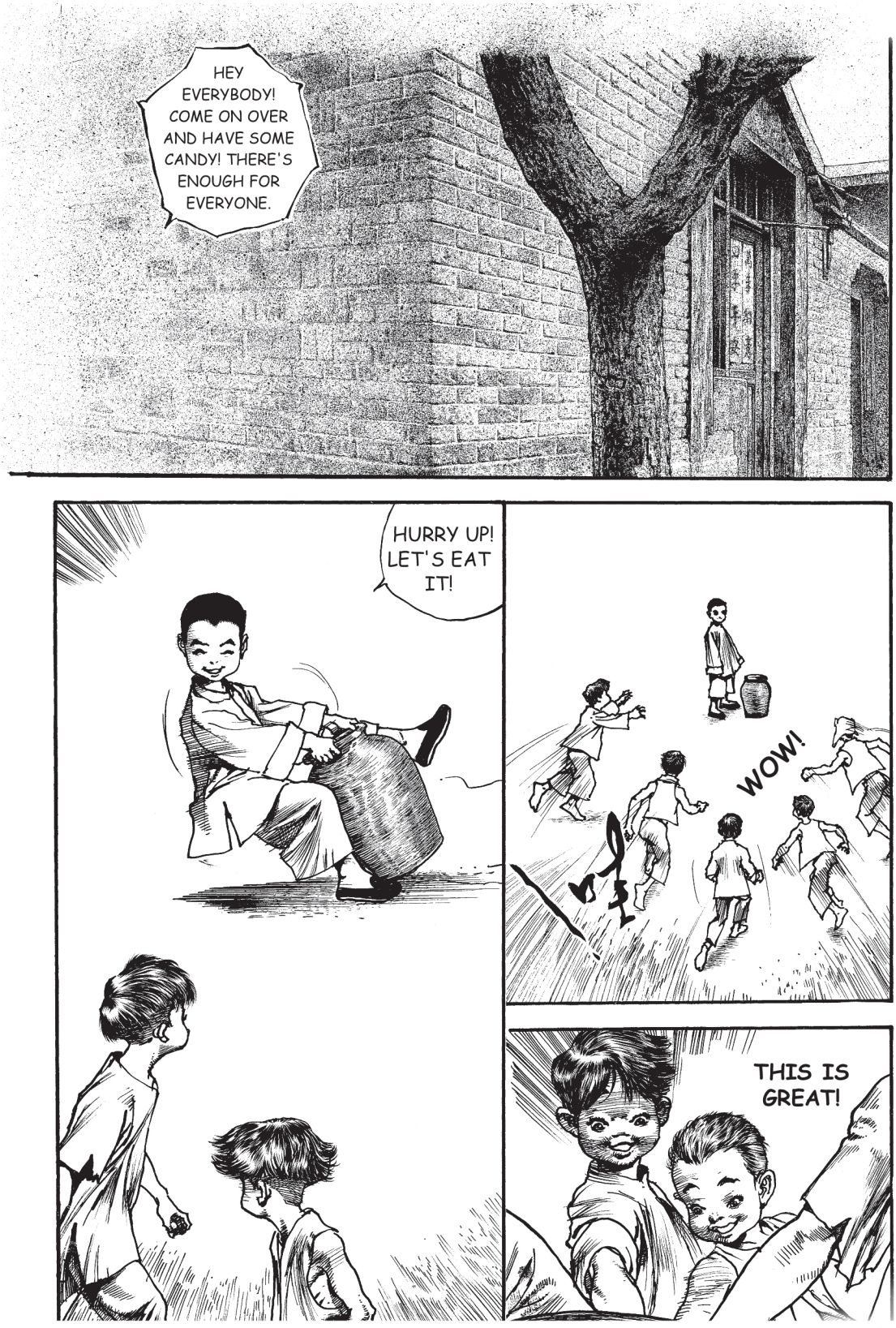


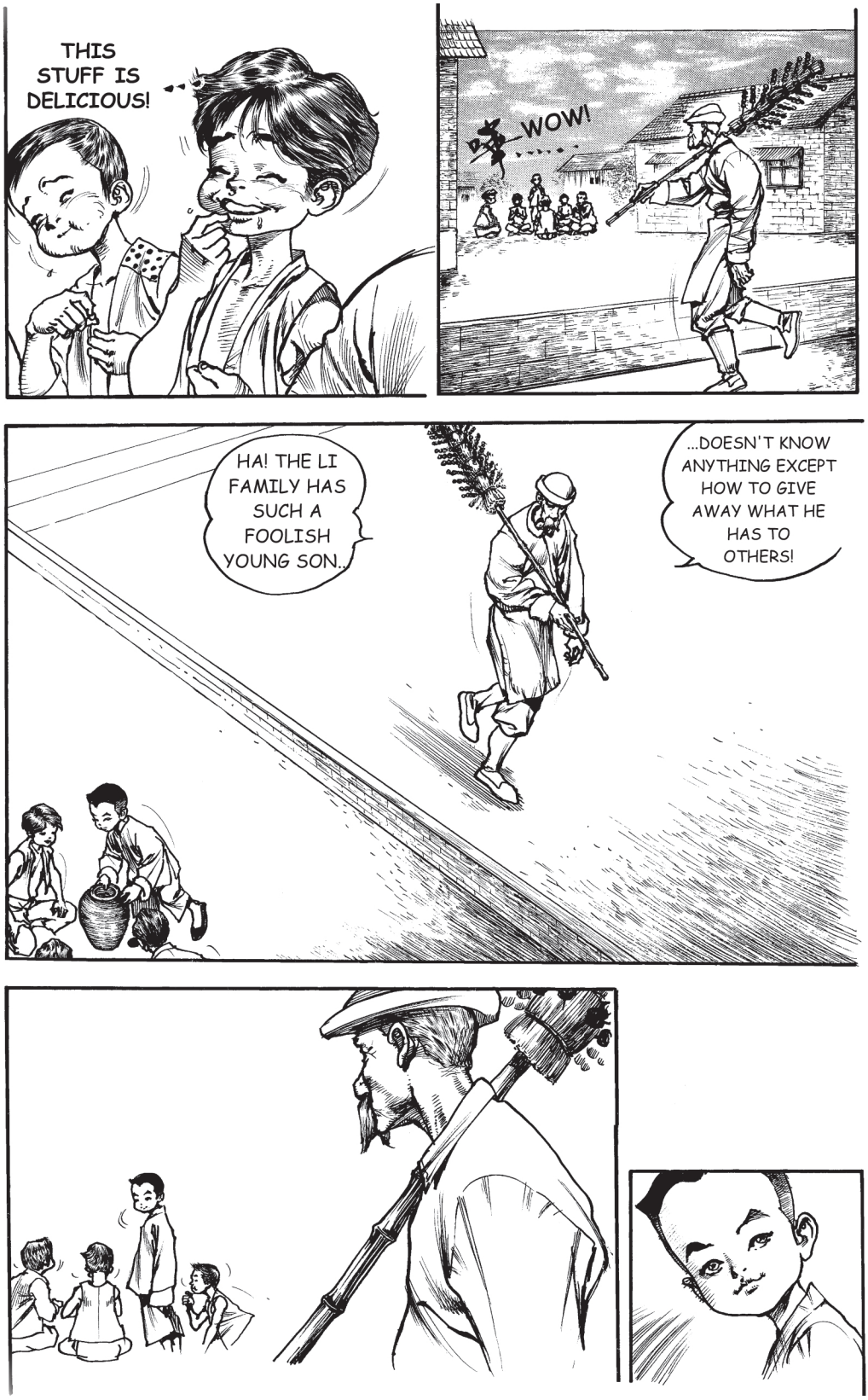
Yangzhou has a county nearby called...*Jiangdu.*

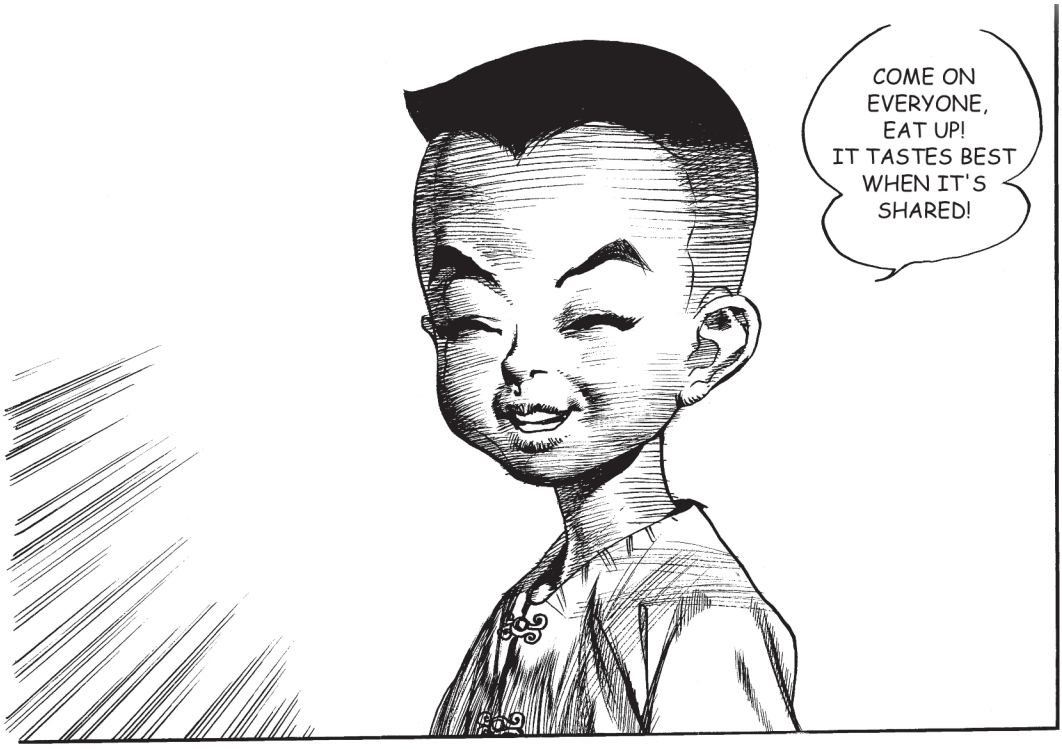


The spirit and vitality of this little-known place has contributed to the nurturing and cultivation of the outstanding spiritual leader, Hsing Yun.

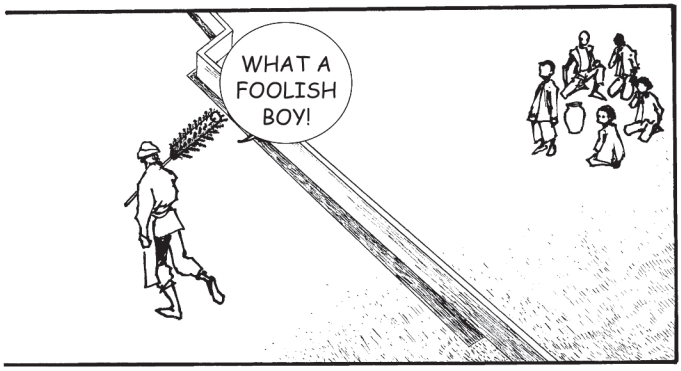


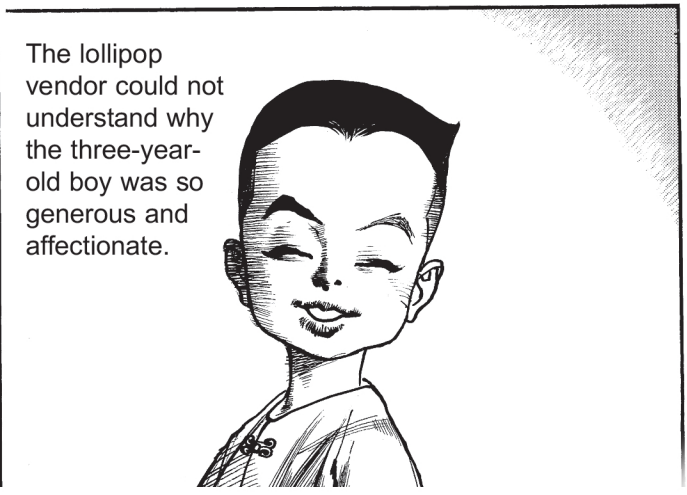

HEY EVERYBODY! COME ON OVER AND HAVE SOME CANDY! THERE'S ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.
HURRY UP! LET'S EAT IT!
WOW!
THIS IS GREAT!


THIS STUFF IS DELICIOUS!
WOW!
HA! THE LI FAMILY HAS SUCH A FOOLISH YOUNG SON..
...DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING EXCEPT HOW TO GIVE AWAY WHAT HE HAS TO OTHERS!


COME ON EVERYONE, EAT UP! IT TASTES BEST WHEN IT'S SHARED!


OH MY WORD!

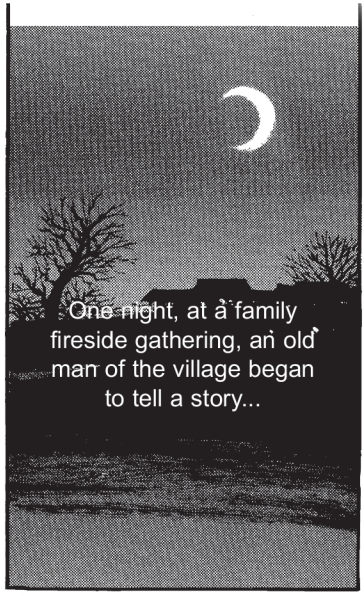

WHAT A FOOLISH BOY!

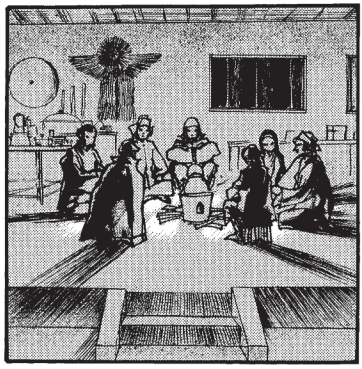

The lollipop vendor could not understand why the three-year-old boy was so generous and affectionate.

Li Guoshen

He didn't know that this young boy would become the world famous Venerable Master Hsing Yun. This boy's name was Li Guoshen, which meant "Profound Benefit to all Countries."



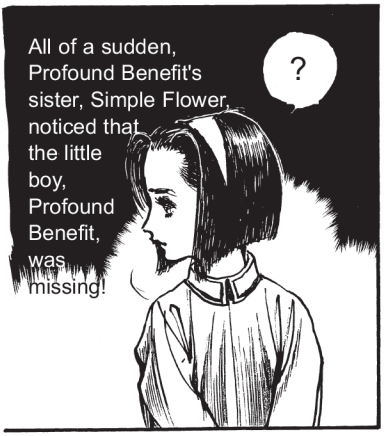


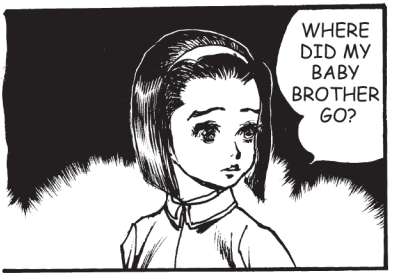


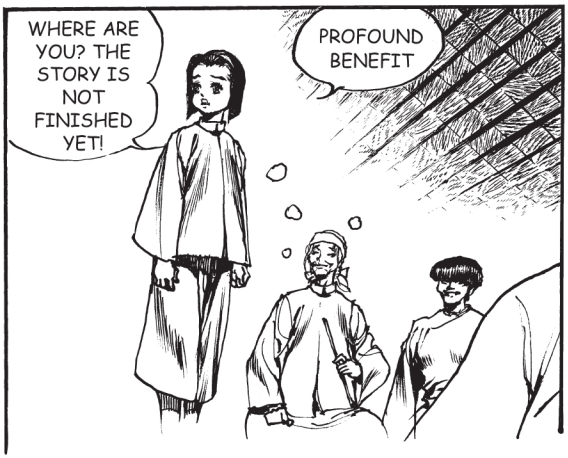


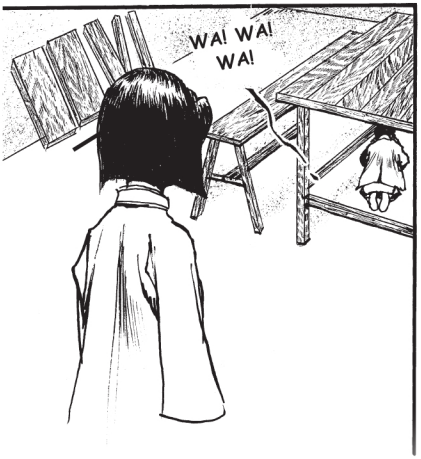

...THE POOR MAN WAS VERY LONELY AND HUNGRY.

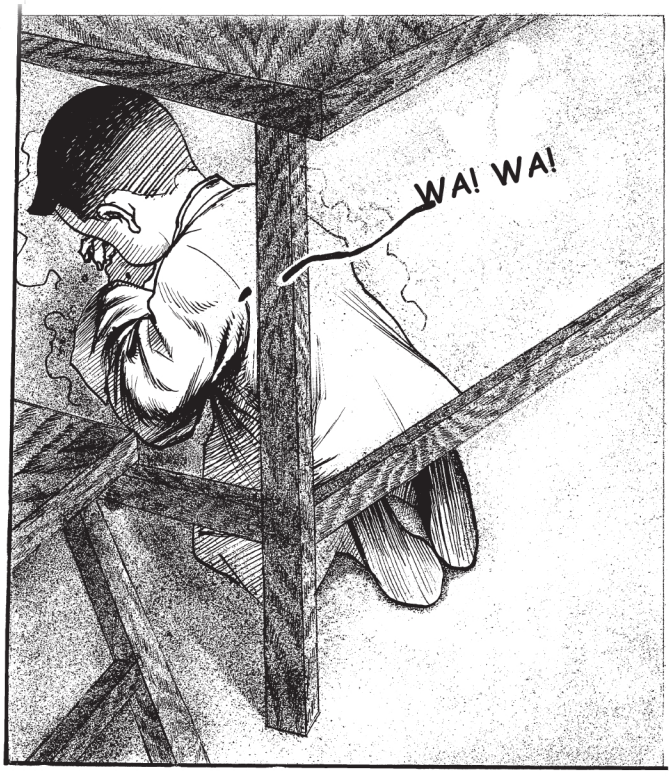

ONE WINDY, SNOWY NIGHT THE OLD MAN BECAME VERY SICK.

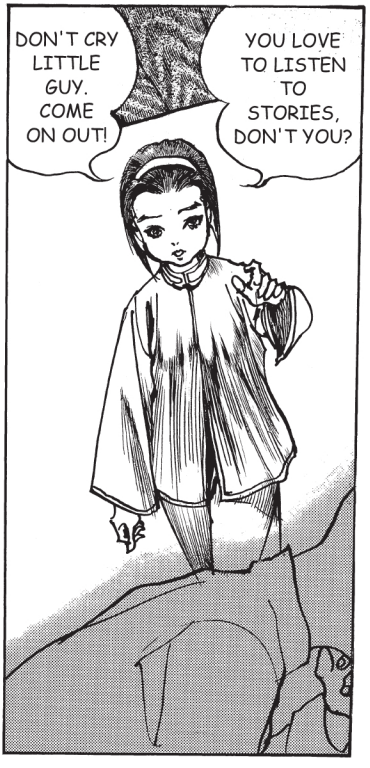

All of a sudden, Profound Benefit's sister, Simple Flower, noticed that the little boy, Profound Benefit, was missing!
?


WHERE DID MY BABY BROTHER GO?


WHERE ARE YOU? THE STORY IS NOT FINISHED YET!
PROFOUND BENEFIT

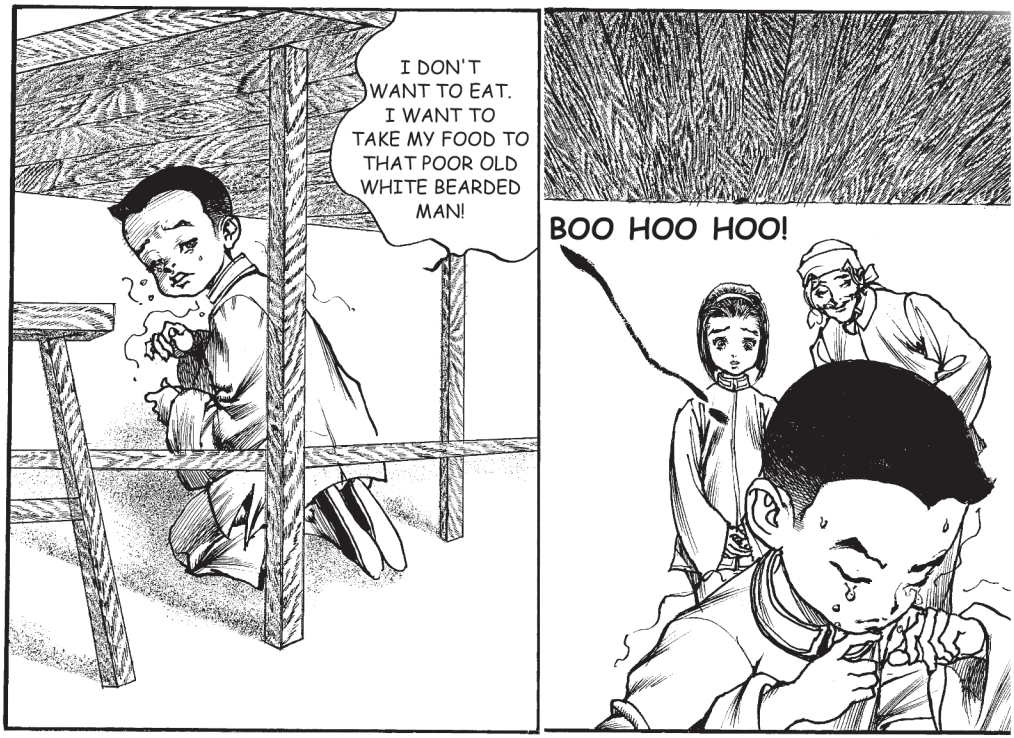

WA! WA! WA!

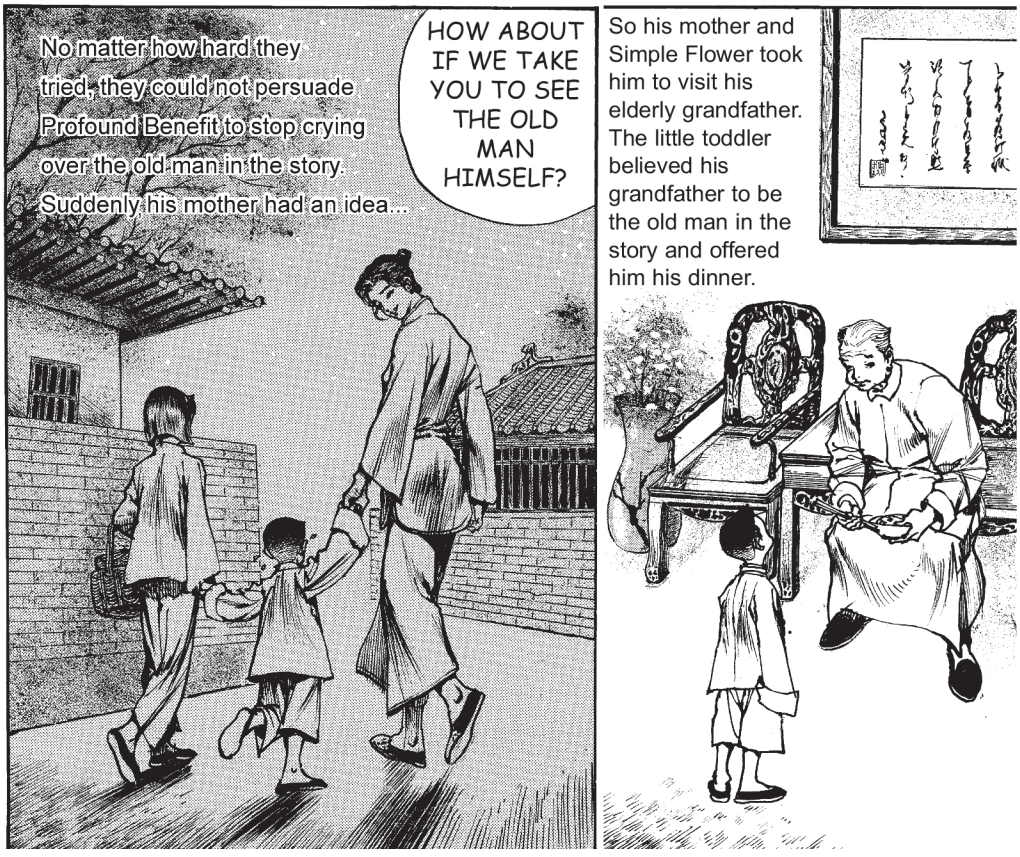

WA! WA!

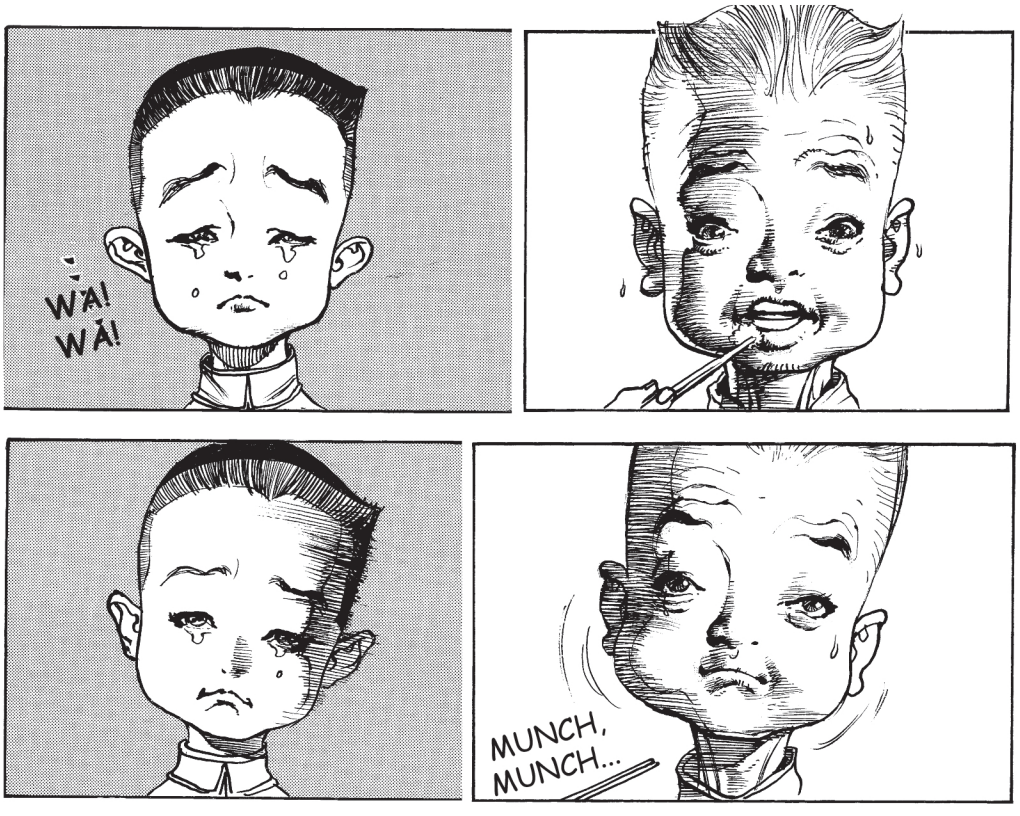

DON'T CRY LITTLE GUY. COME ON OUT!
YOU LOVE TO LISTEN TO STORIES, DON'T YOU?

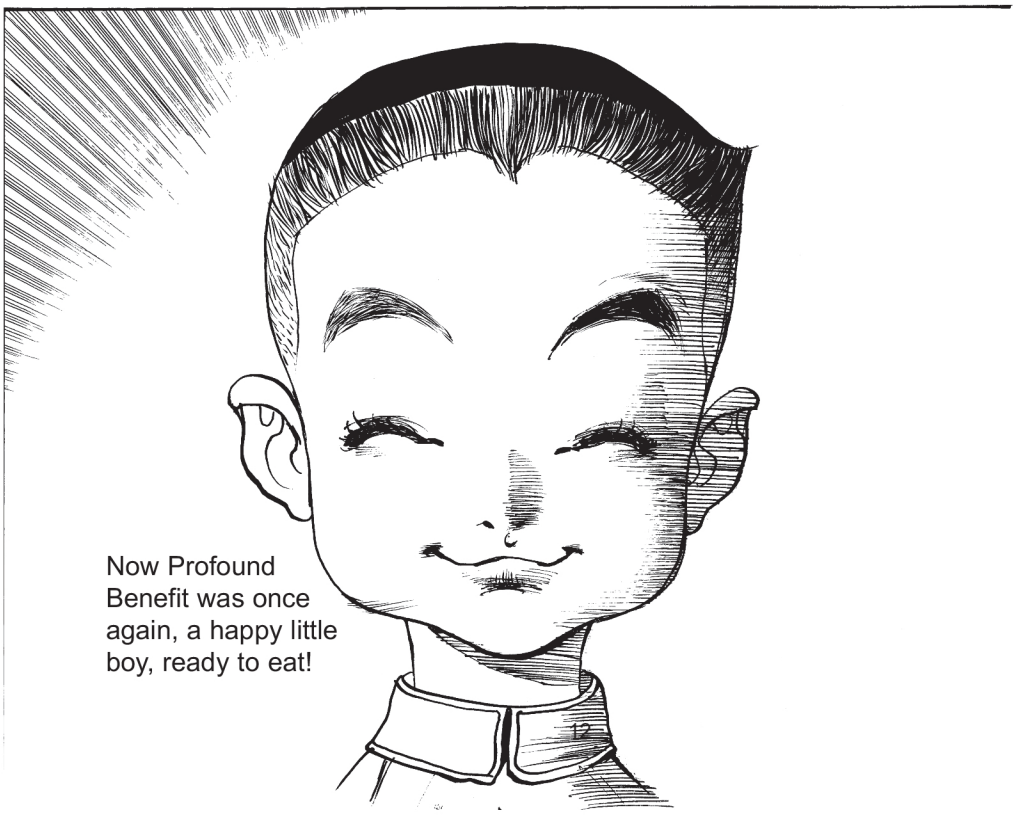

I FEEL SO SORRY FOR THE POOR LONELY OLD MAN. I DON'T WANT TO LISTEN ANYMORE!

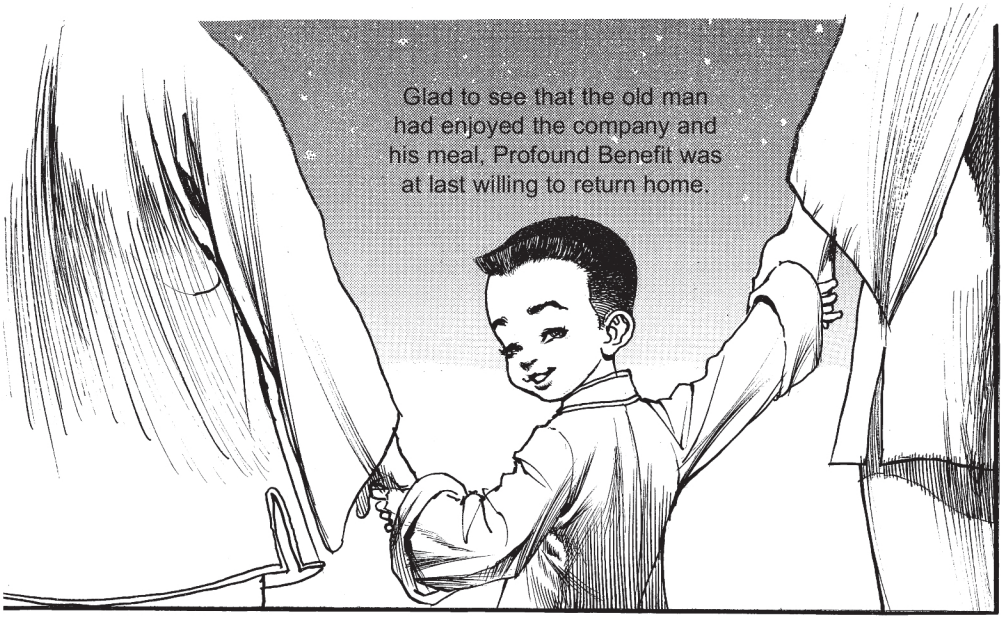

IT IS JUST A STORY, DEAR! IT'S NOT TRUE.
COME ON, LET'S GO EAT!

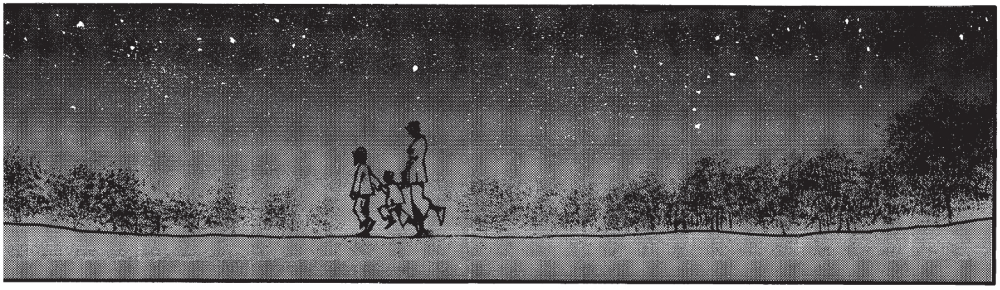

I DON'T WANT TO EAT. I WANT TO TAKE MY FOOD TO THAT POOR OLD WHITE BEARDED MAN!
BOO HOO HOO!

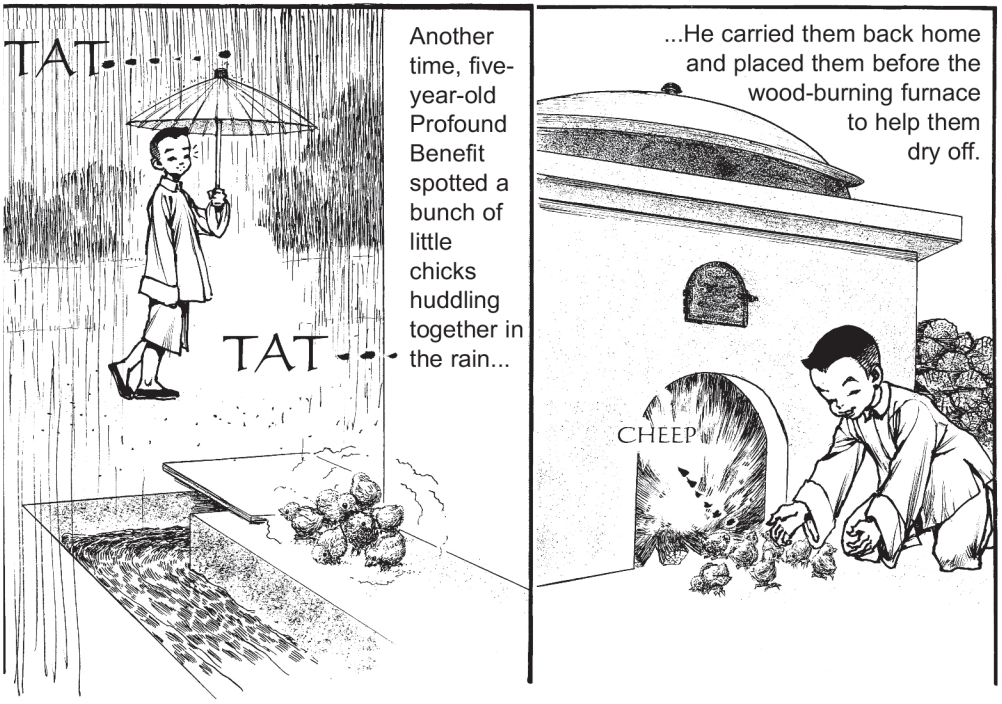

No matter how hard they tried, they could not persuade Profound Benefit to stop crying over the old man in the story. Suddenly his mother had an idea...
HOW ABOUT IF WE TAKE YOU TO SEE THE OLD MAN HIMSELF?
So his mother and Simple Flower took him to visit his elderly grandfather. The little toddler believed his grandfather to be the old man in the story and offered him his dinner.

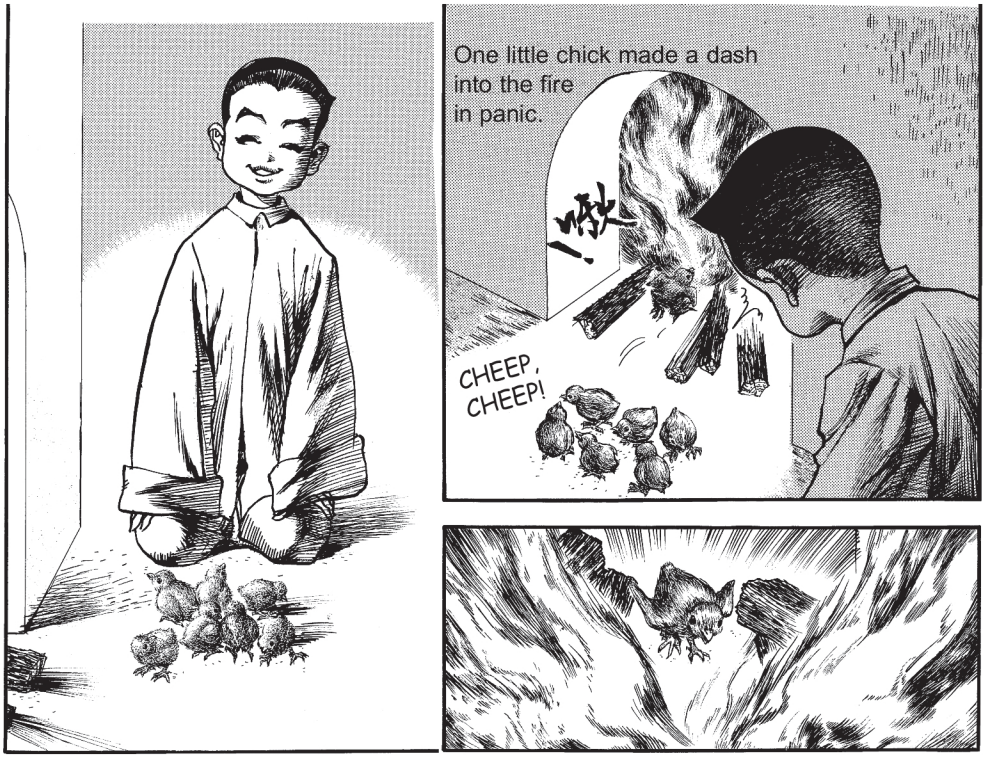

WA!
WA!
MUNCH,
MUNCH...

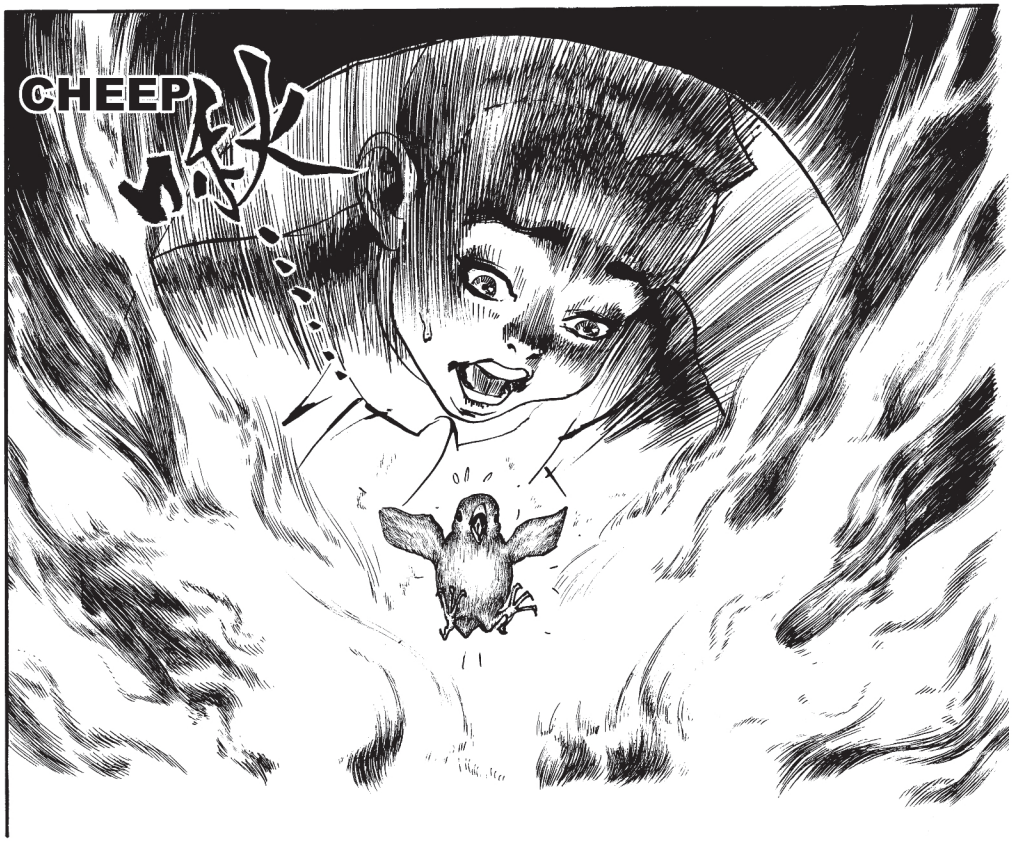

Now Profound Benefit was once again, a happy little boy, ready to eat!
12

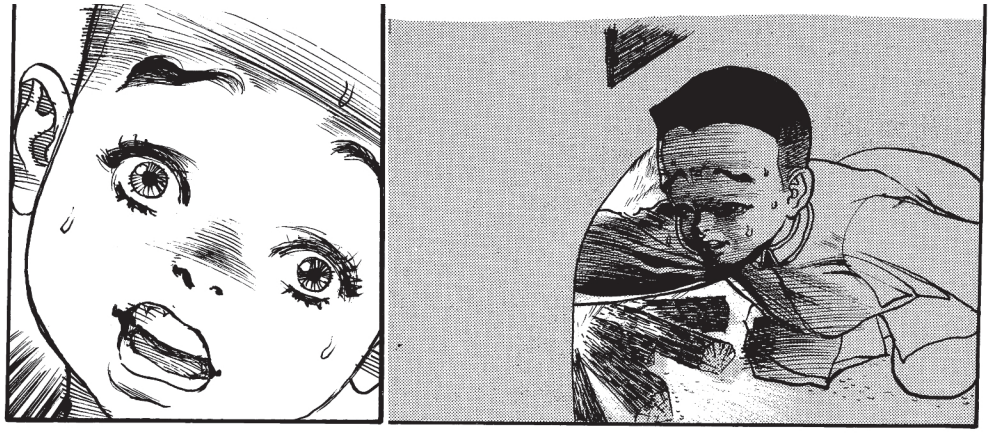

Glad to see that the old man had enjoyed the company and his meal, Profound Benefit was at last willing to return home.

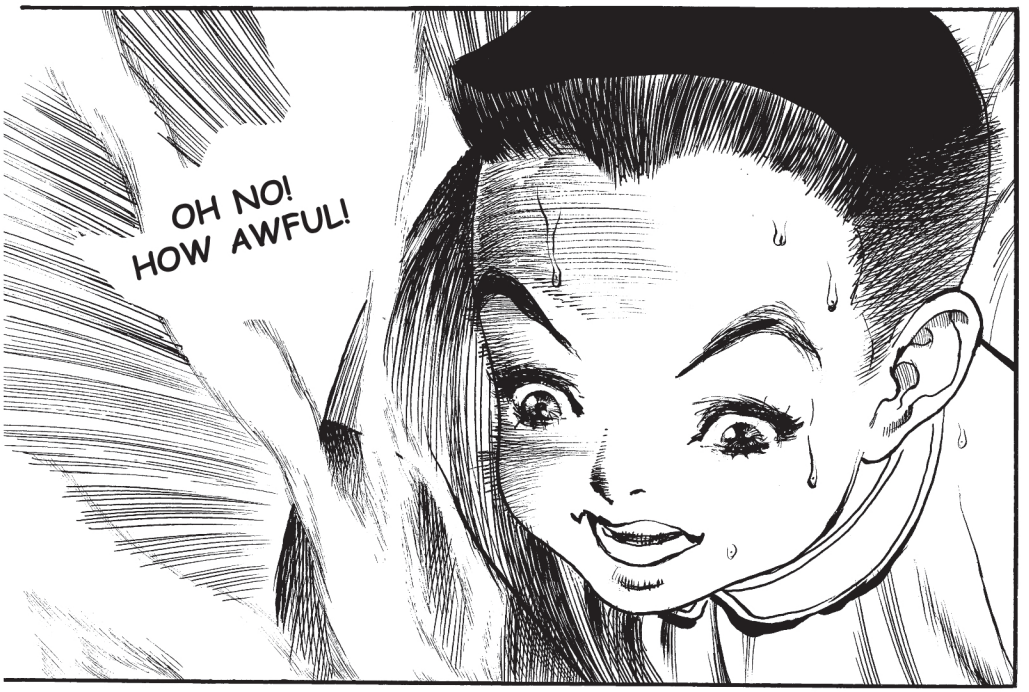


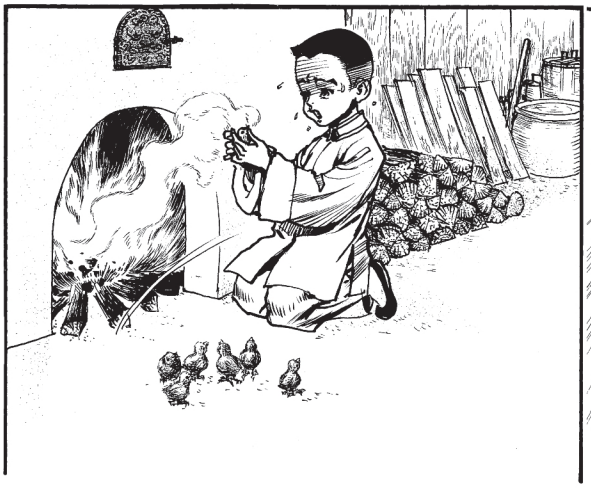

TAT- - - - -
TAT- - -
Another time, five-year-old Profound Benefit spotted a bunch of little chicks huddling together in the rain...
...He carried them back home and placed them before the wood-burning furnace to help them dry off.
CHEEP


One little chick made a dash into the fire in panic.
!
CHEEP, CHEEP!


CHEEP
!




OH NO!
HOW AWFUL!




CHEEP,
CHEEP!

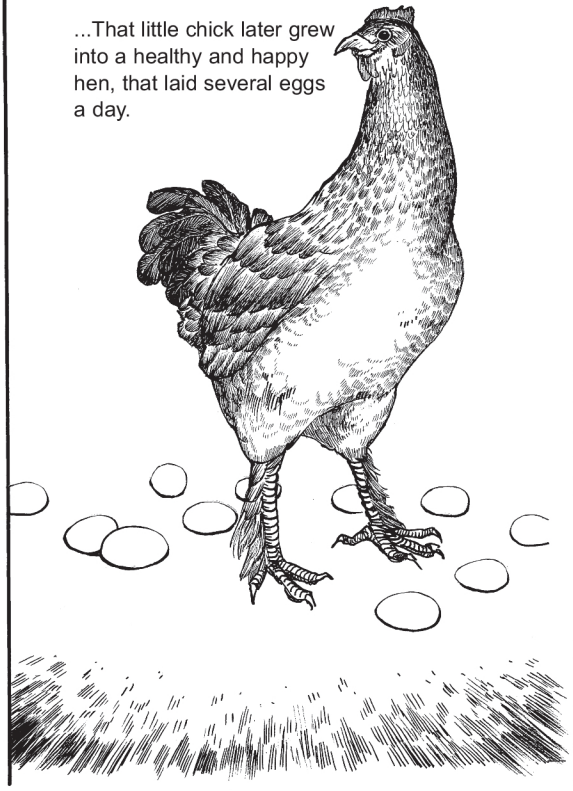
When Profound Benefit snatched it back, he found its lower beak had been burnt quite badly.

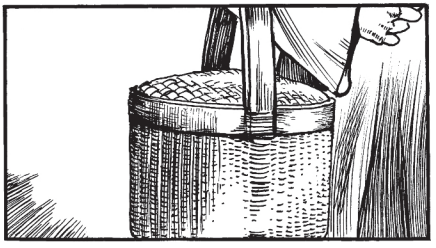


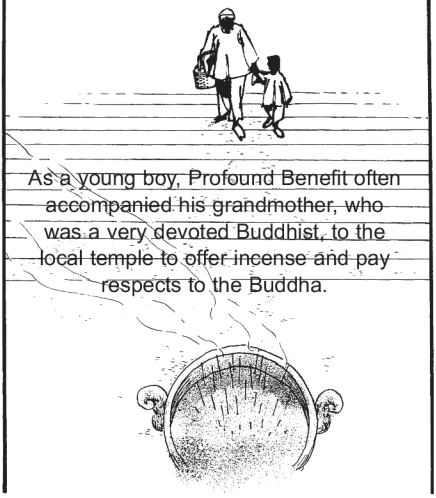
From then on, Profound Benefit tenderly nursed the little chick...



...That little chick later grew into a healthy and happy hen, that laid several eggs a day.







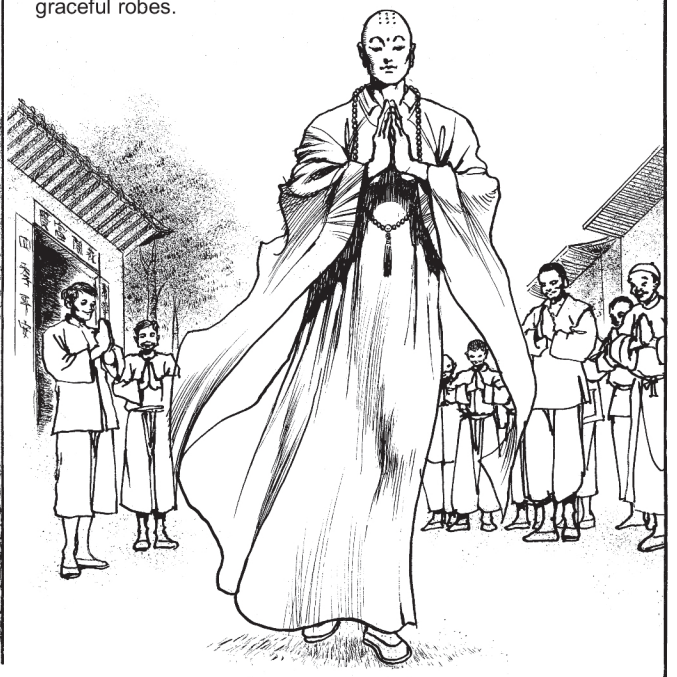
As a young boy, Profound Benefit often accompanied his grandmother, who was a very devoted Buddhist, to the local temple to offer incense and pay respects to the Buddha.

After Grandmother had offered fruits, candies, and cookies at the temple...

...she would return home with a portion of the offerings, allowing the children to enjoy them along the way. This was the beginning of Profound Benefit's deep connection to Buddha.



Some time later, China found itself in the midst of war, and the everyday lives of its village people were turned upside down. One day, as a Buddhist monk walked by, Profound Benefit was greatly impressed with the calm and peaceful presence of the dignified monk in his graceful robes.



A spontaneous smile broke over the face of the young boy as the monk passed by...

WHAT A GREAT IDEA IT WOULD BE TO BECOME A MONK!

Profound Benefit did not yet know that the bloodiest chapter in contemporary Chinese history had begun with Japanese gunfire...

-HMMMMMM

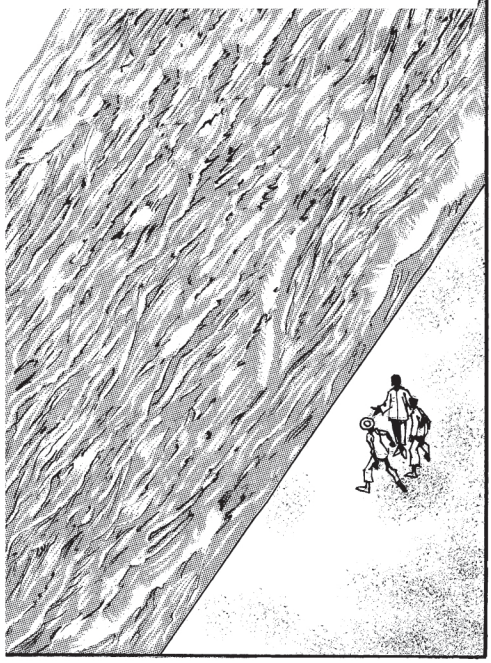
...at Rushing Waterways Bridge in Hebei on July 7, 1937.

轟 BAM 轟 POW

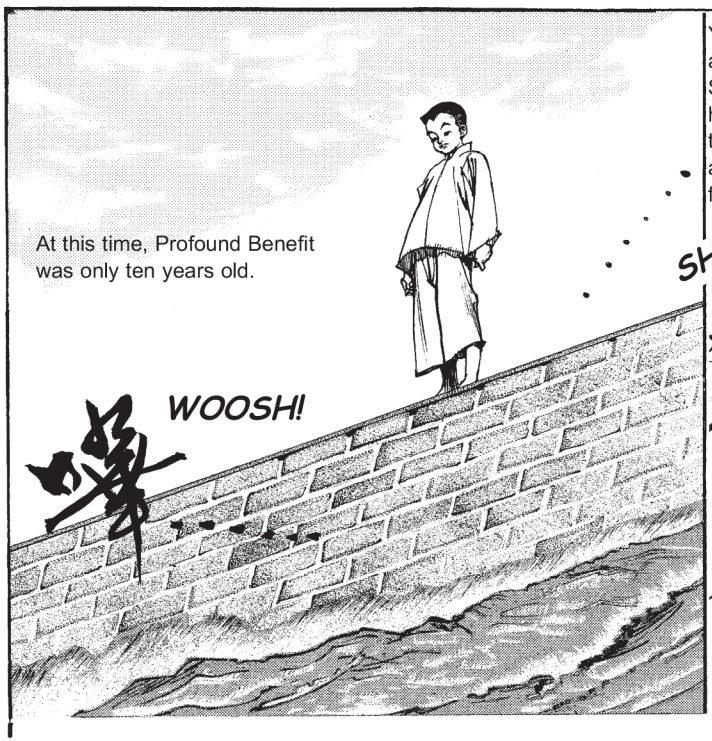
In those days, the people in Profound Benefit's village had to cross a canal to purchase their daily supplies. With no boats available, people would often carry others on their backs across the canal for a few pennies.



But when war broke out, no one wanted to risk their lives carrying others across just for a few cents. The rushing current of the canal was very dangerous and few dared to swim across.

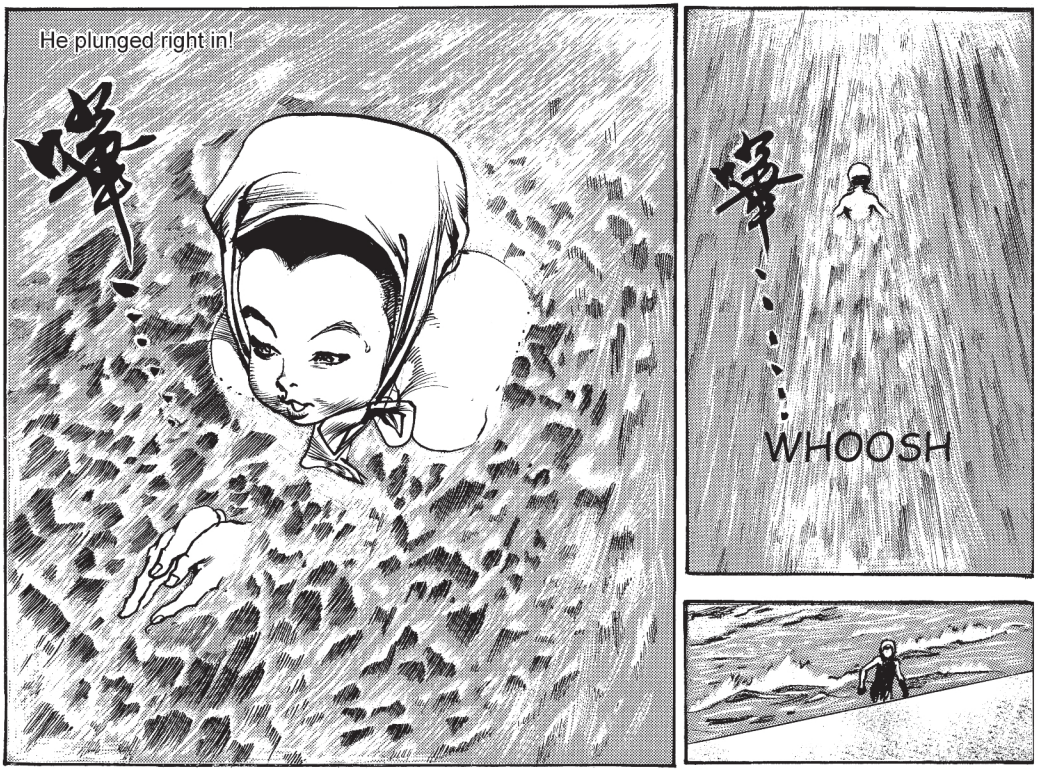


At this time, Profound Benefit was only ten years old.



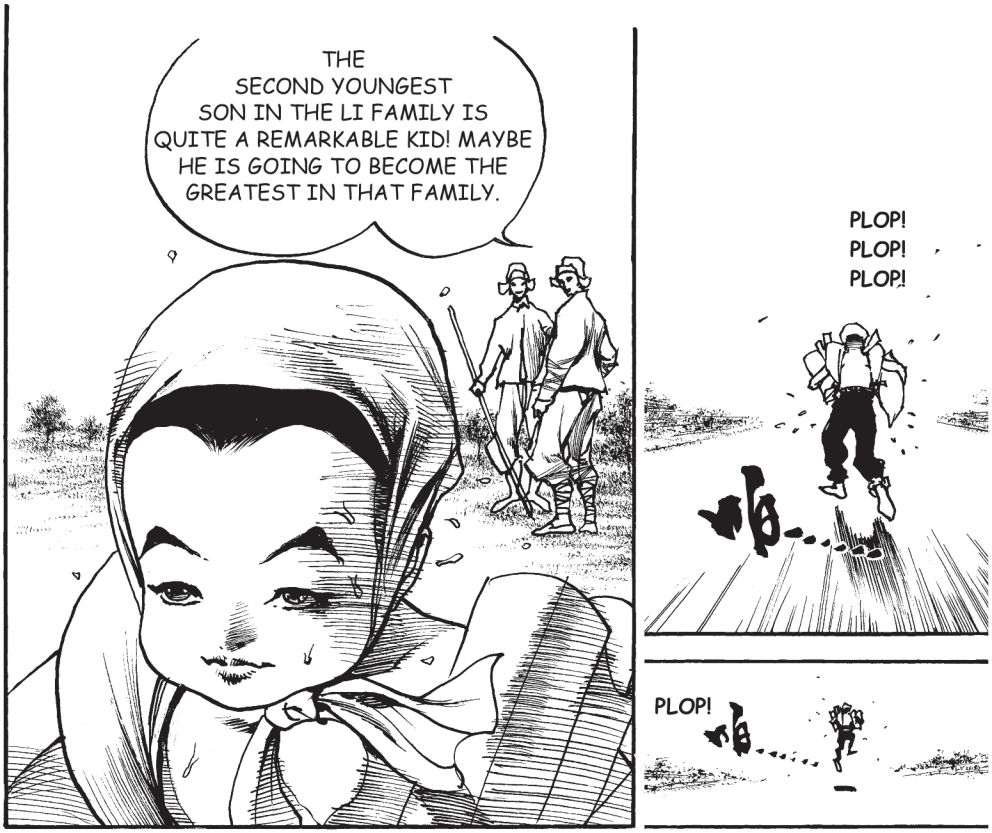
Yet his courage was already great. Stripping off his shirt and tying it around his forehead...





Each time he crossed, he would swim the canal in both directions, bringing home supplies for both his family and neighbors.



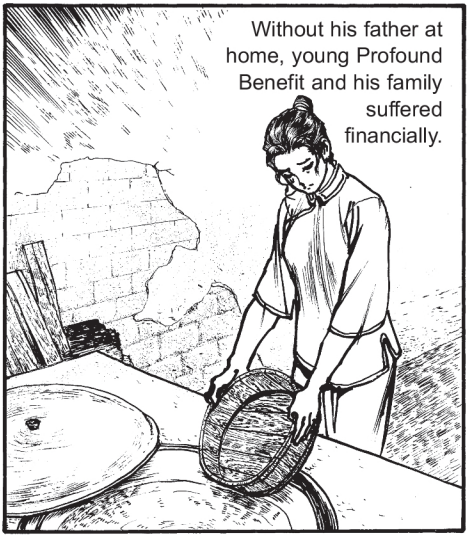

THE SECOND YOUNGEST SON IN THE LI FAMILY IS QUITE A REMARKABLE KID! MAYBE HE IS GOING TO BECOME THE GREATEST IN THAT FAMILY.
PLOP!
PLOP!
PLOP!
PLOP!

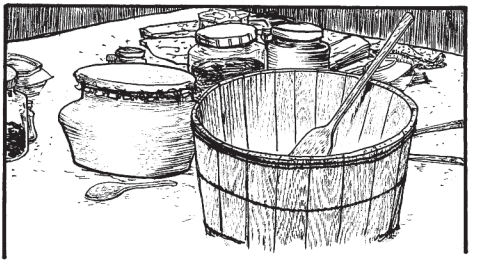

In the meantime, Japanese soldiers continued their invasion of China, creating havoc and destruction everywhere they went.

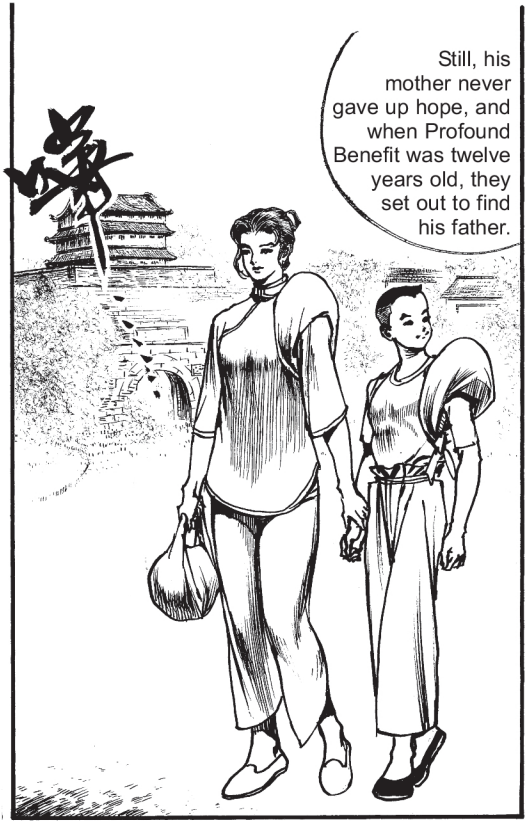


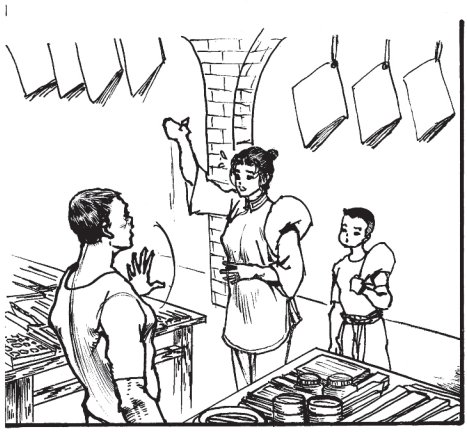


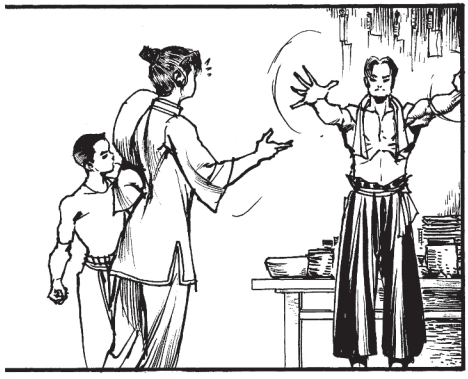
It was during these very dangerous times that Profound Benefit's father had to leave home on business. For over two years, the family received no news as to his whereabouts.

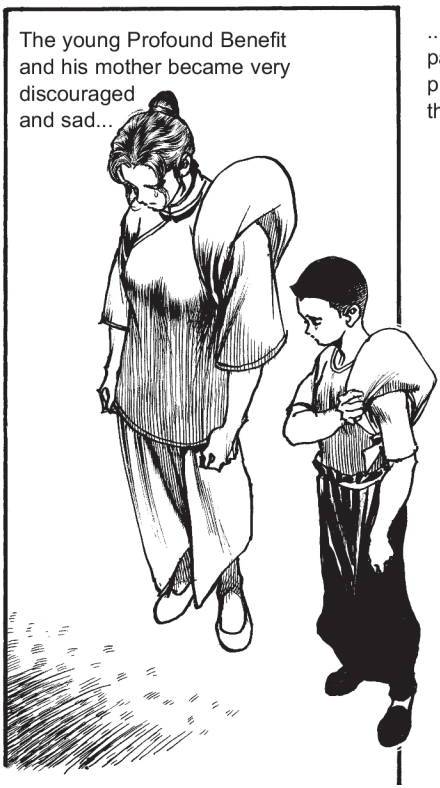


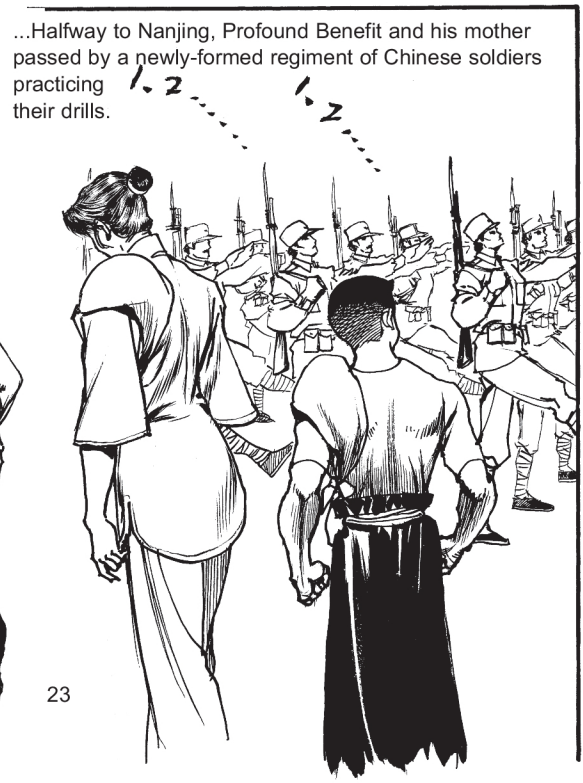


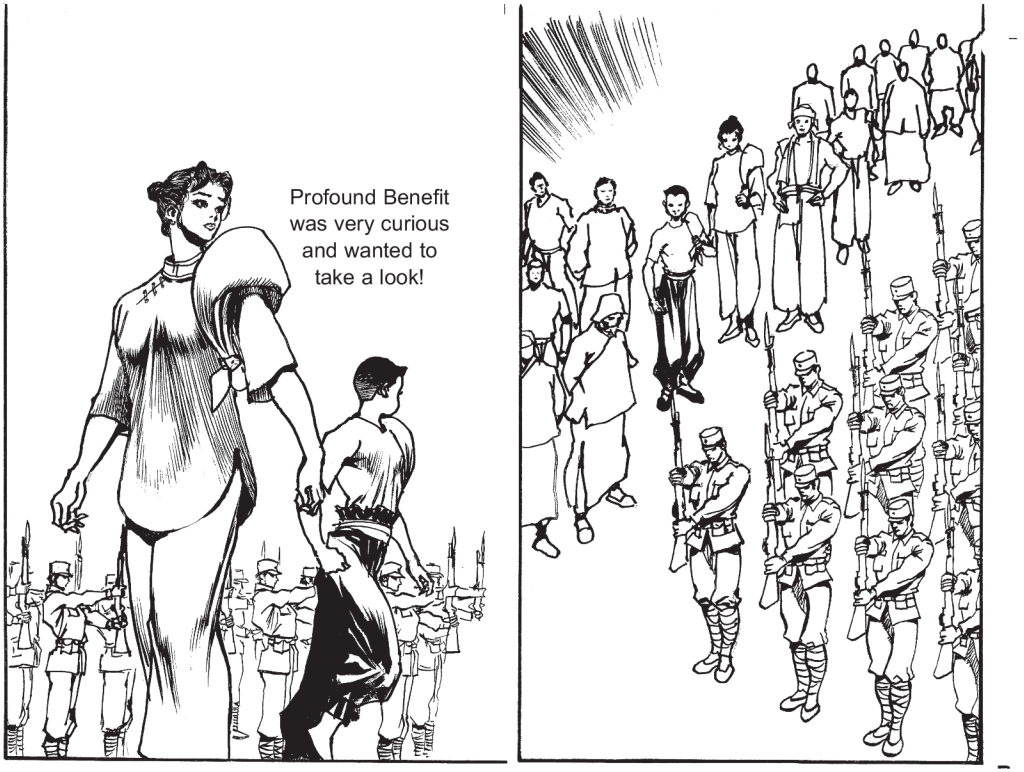

Still, his mother never gave up hope, and when Profound Benefit was twelve years old, they set out to find his father.

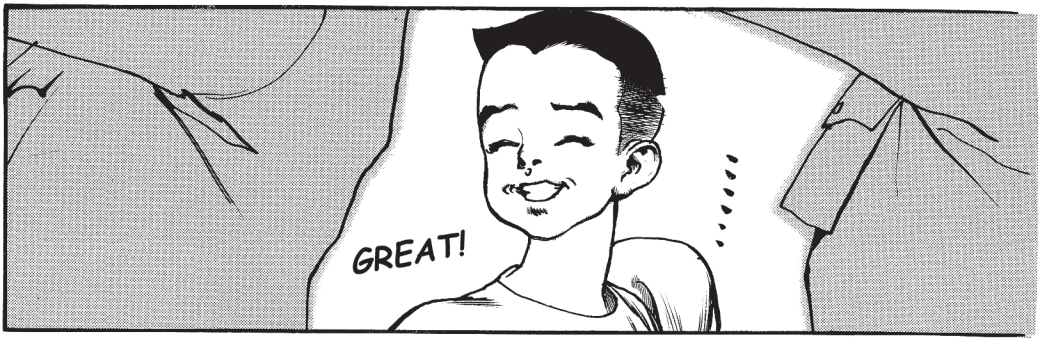


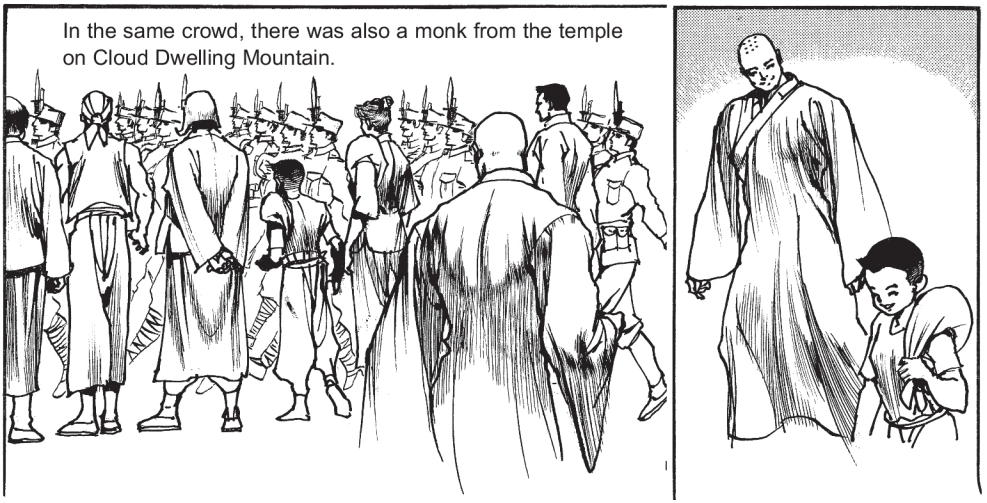



The young Profound Benefit and his mother became very discouraged and sad...


...Halfway to Nanjing, Profound Benefit and his mother passed by a newly-formed regiment of Chinese soldiers practicing their drills.
1, 2 ....
1, 2 ....

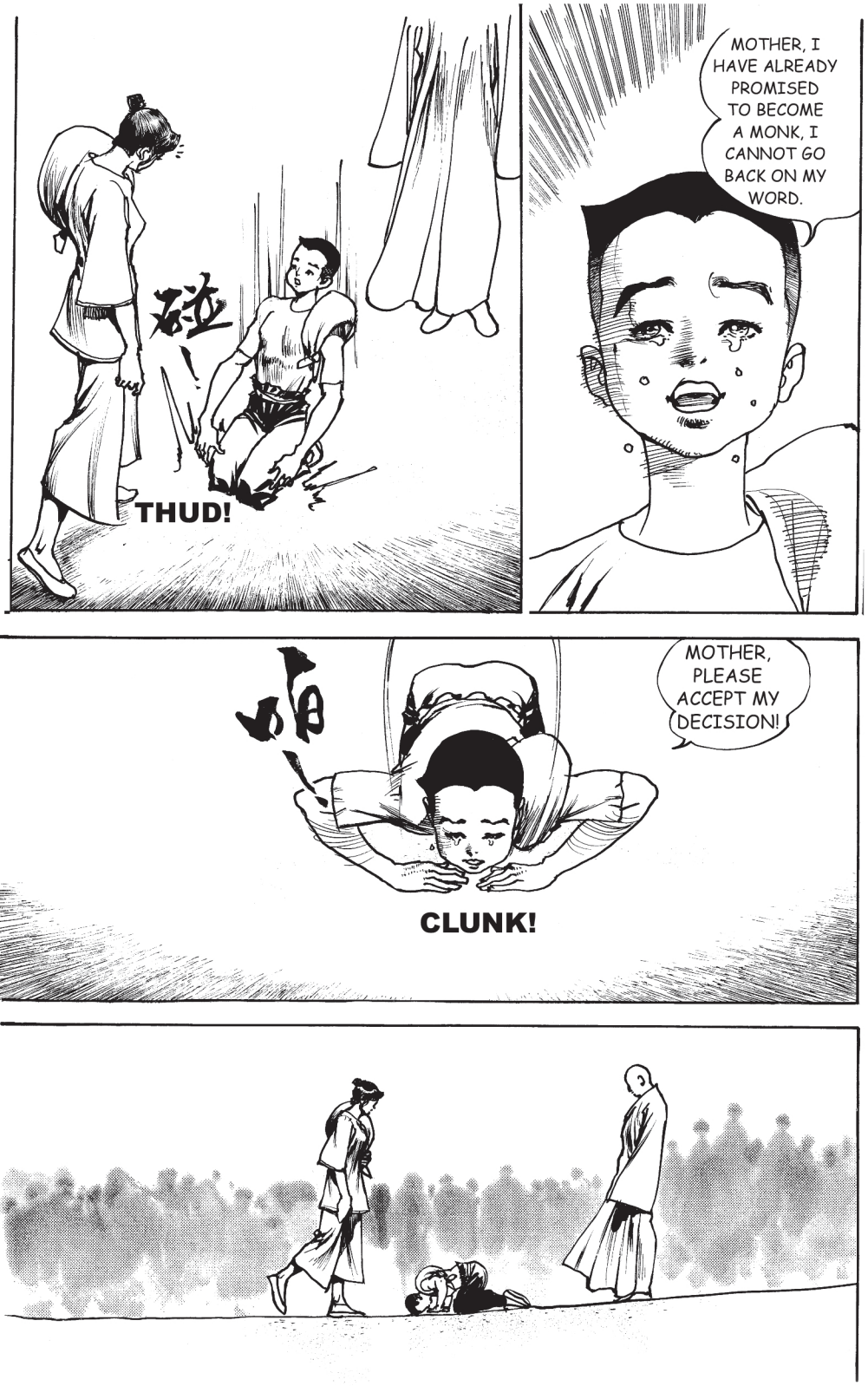

Profound Benefit was very curious and wanted to take a look!

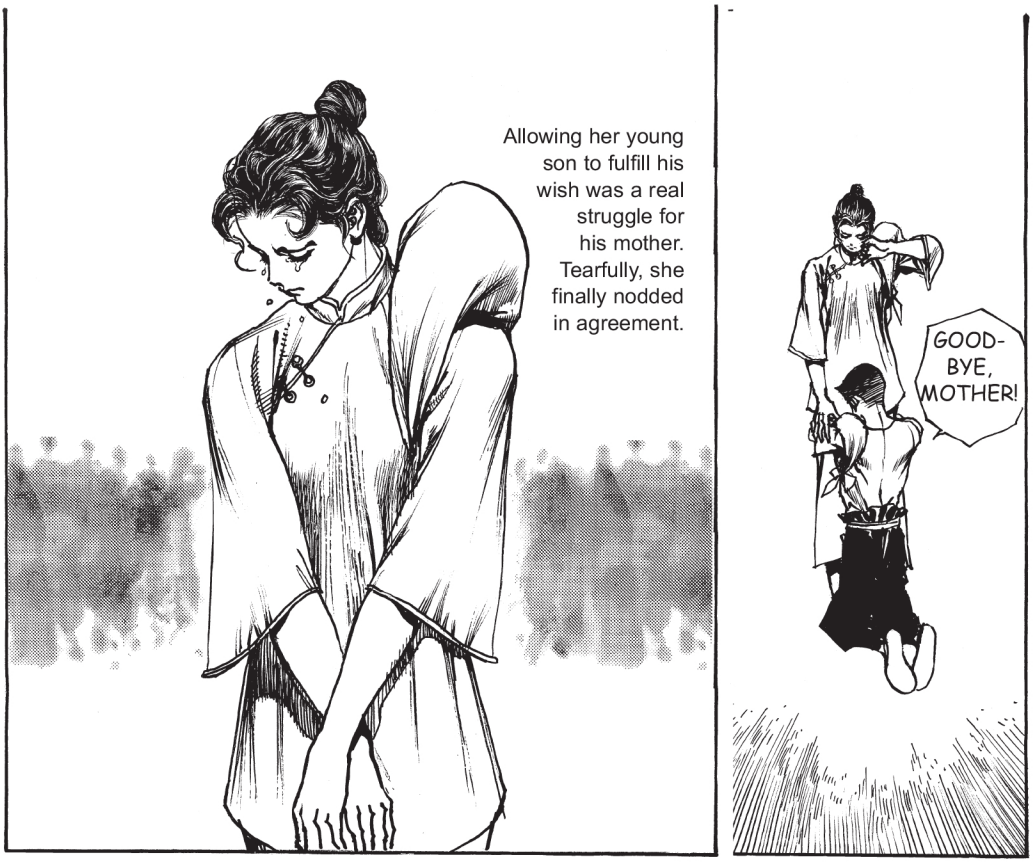

GREAT!

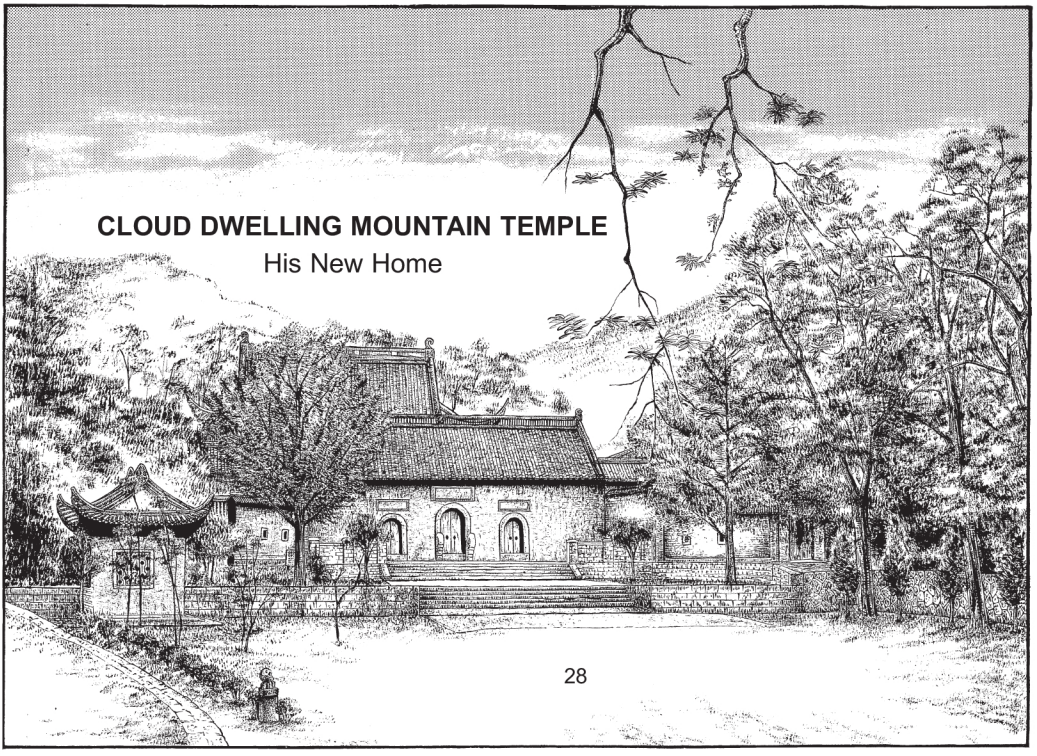

In the same crowd, there was also a monk from the temple on Cloud Dwelling Mountain.

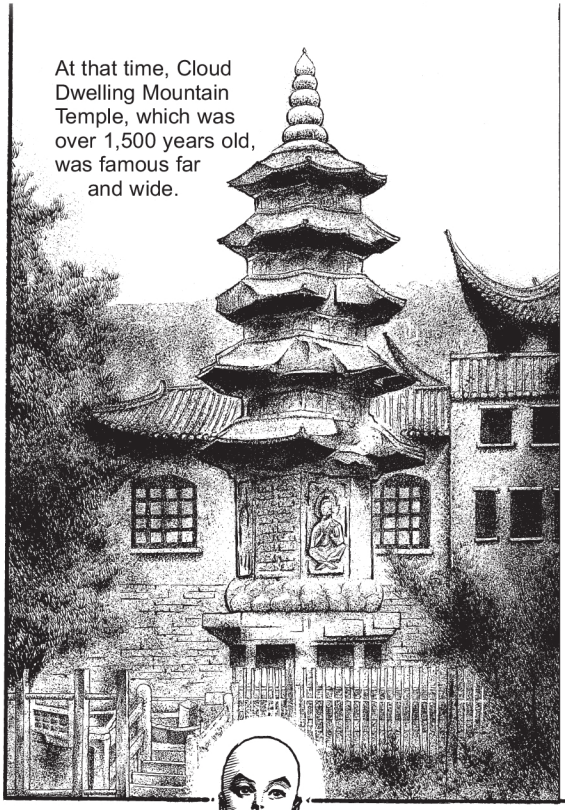

The monk noticed Profound Benefit's fresh face, ready smile, and curiosity as the boy watched the troops.
...COOL!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME ONE OF US?
SURE! O.K.!

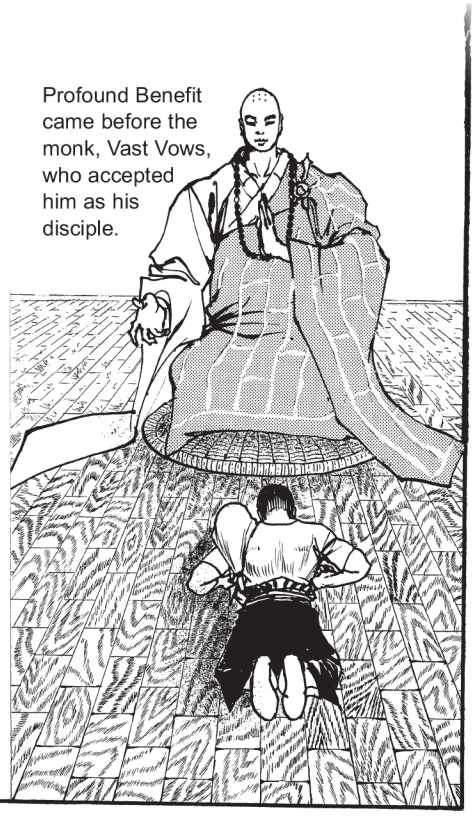

SON! WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU SAYING?
EXCUSE US VENERABLE, MY SON DOESN'T REALIZE WHAT HE IS SAYING.
MOTHER, I DO UNDERSTAND! TO BECOME A MONK IS A WONDERFUL THING!
SON, I DON'T AGREE WITH A WORD YOU ARE SAYING! YOUR FATHER IS STILL MISSING...
IF I LOSE YOU AS WELL, WHATEVER WILL I TELL OUR FAMILY MEMBERS?

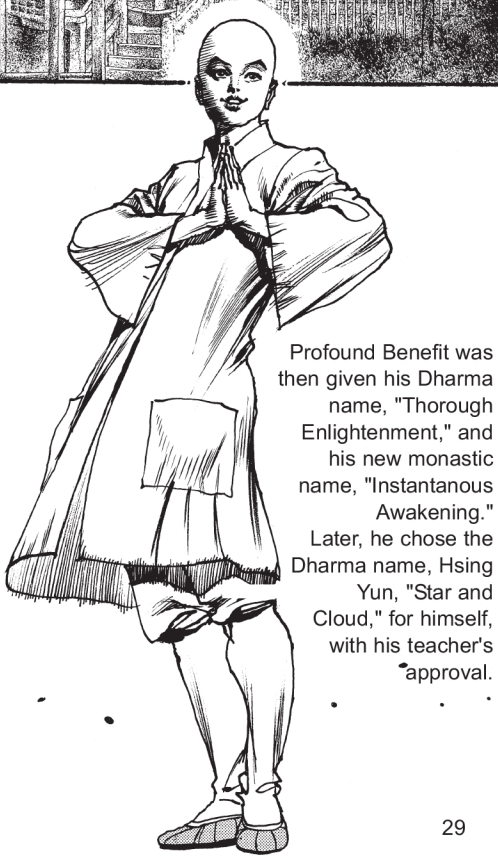

碰！
THUD!
MOTHER, I HAVE ALREADY PROMISED TO BECOME A MONK, I CANNOT GO BACK ON MY WORD.
咱
CLUNK!
MOTHER, PLEASE ACCEPT MY DECISION!

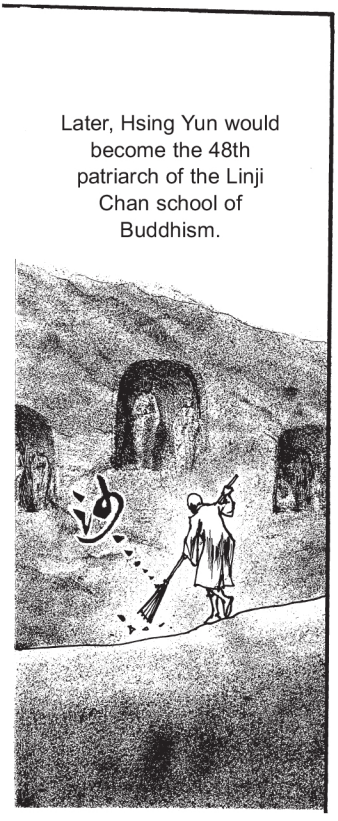

Allowing her young son to fulfill his wish was a real struggle for his mother. Tearfully, she finally nodded in agreement.
GOOD-BYE, MOTHER!


CLOUD DWELLING MOUNTAIN TEMPLE
His New Home

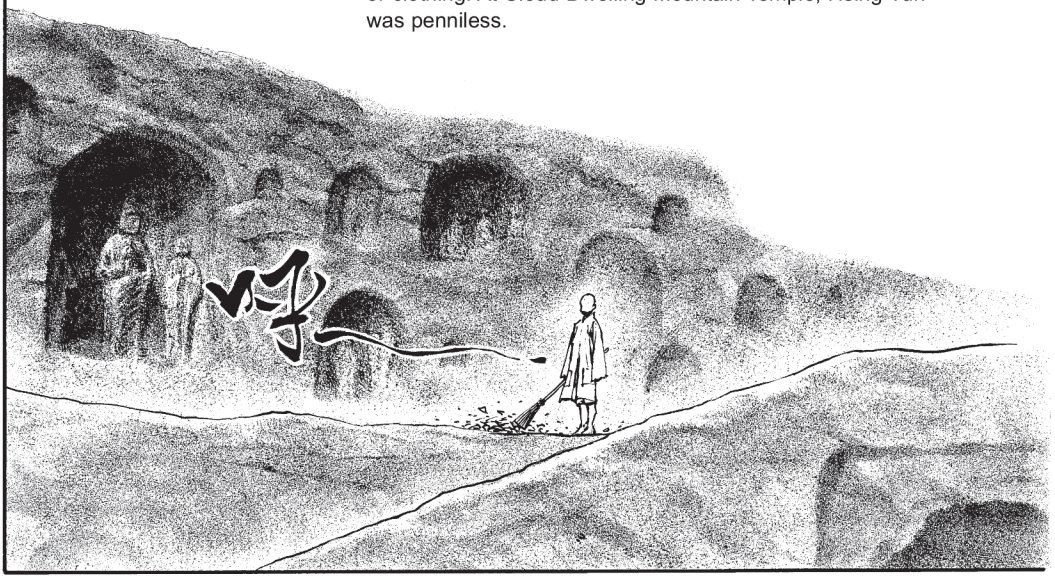

At that time, Cloud Dwelling Mountain Temple, which was over 1,500 years old, was famous far and wide.


Profound Benefit came before the monk, Vast Vows, who accepted him as his disciple.

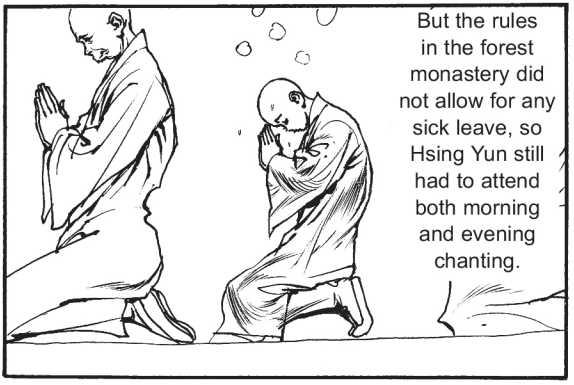

Profound Benefit was then given his Dharma name, "Thorough Enlightenment," and his new monastic name, "Instantanous Awakening." Later, he chose the Dharma name, Hsing Yun, "Star and Cloud," for himself, with his teacher's approval.

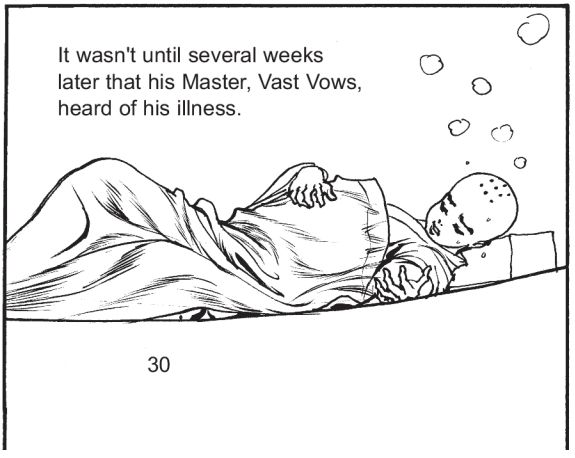

Later, Hsing Yun would become the 48th patriarch of the Linji Chan school of Buddhism.

During those days of war, no one had any extra money, food, or clothing. At Cloud Dwelling Mountain Temple, Hsing Yun was penniless.



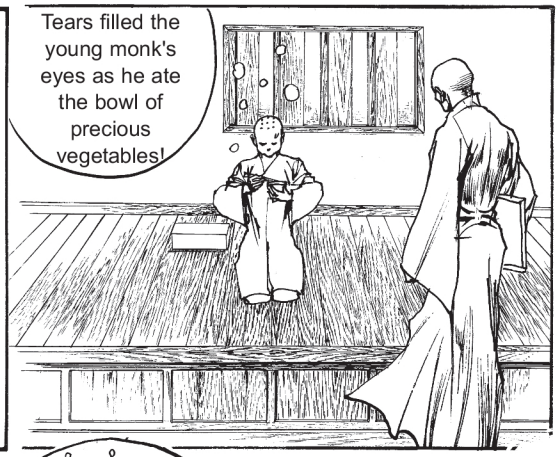




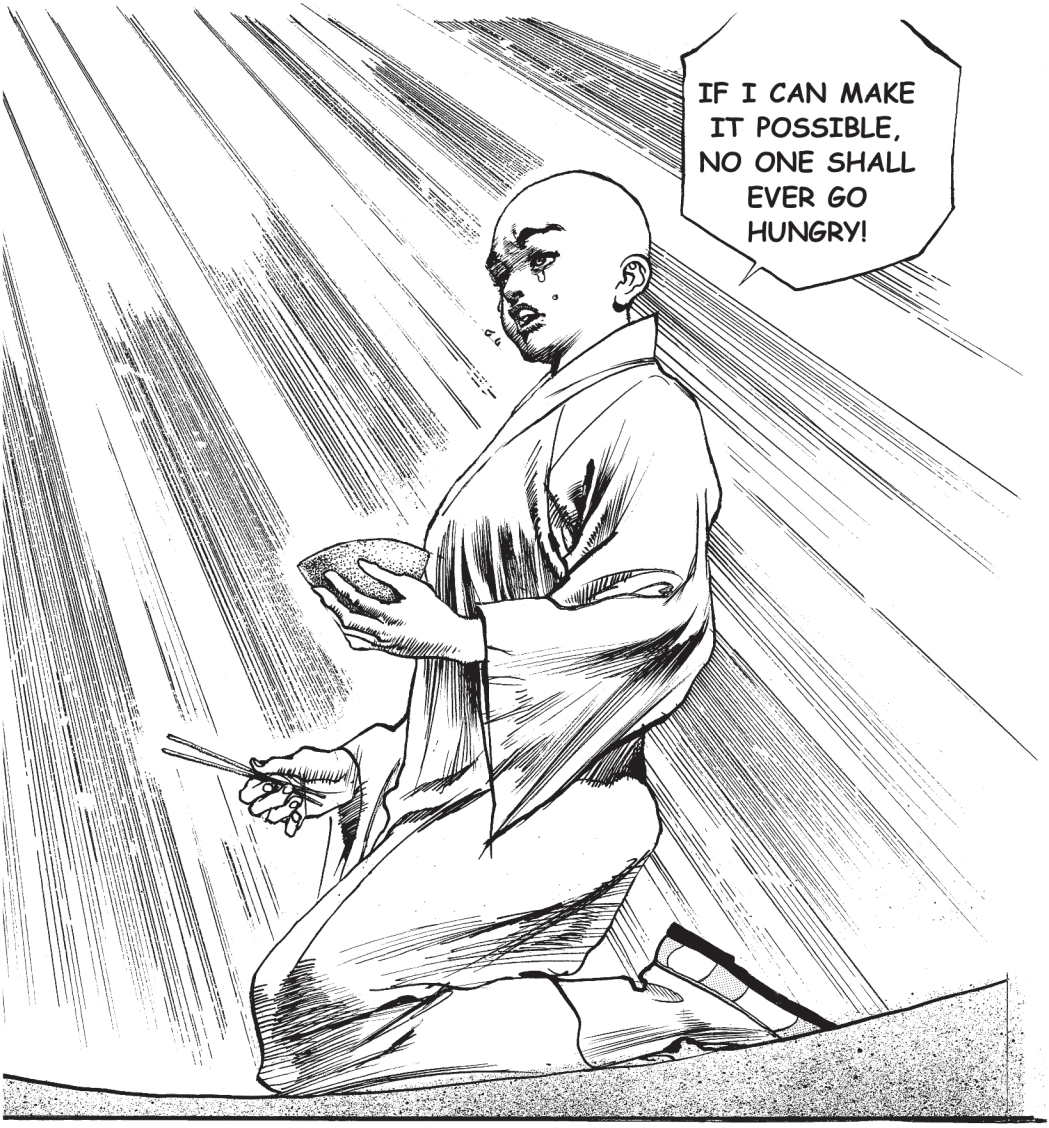


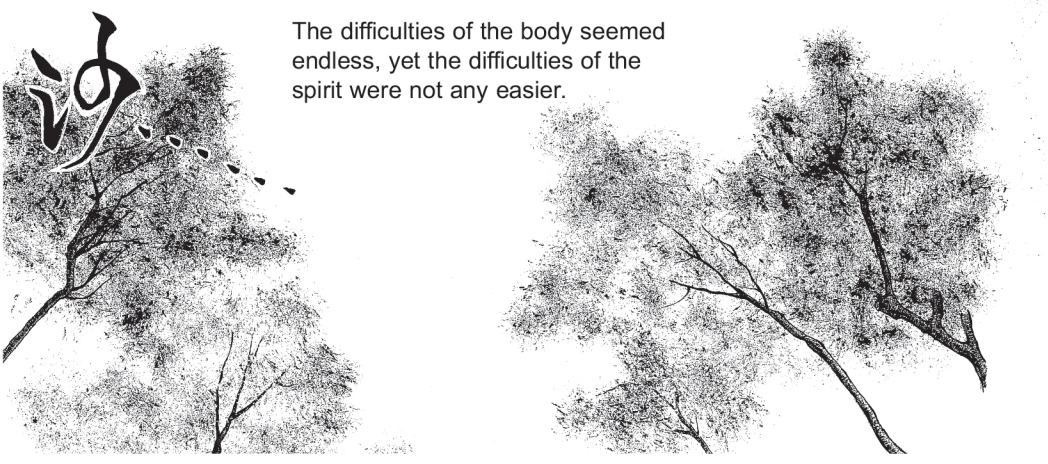

When the Master heard the news, he sent someone over with half a bowl of salted vegetables.

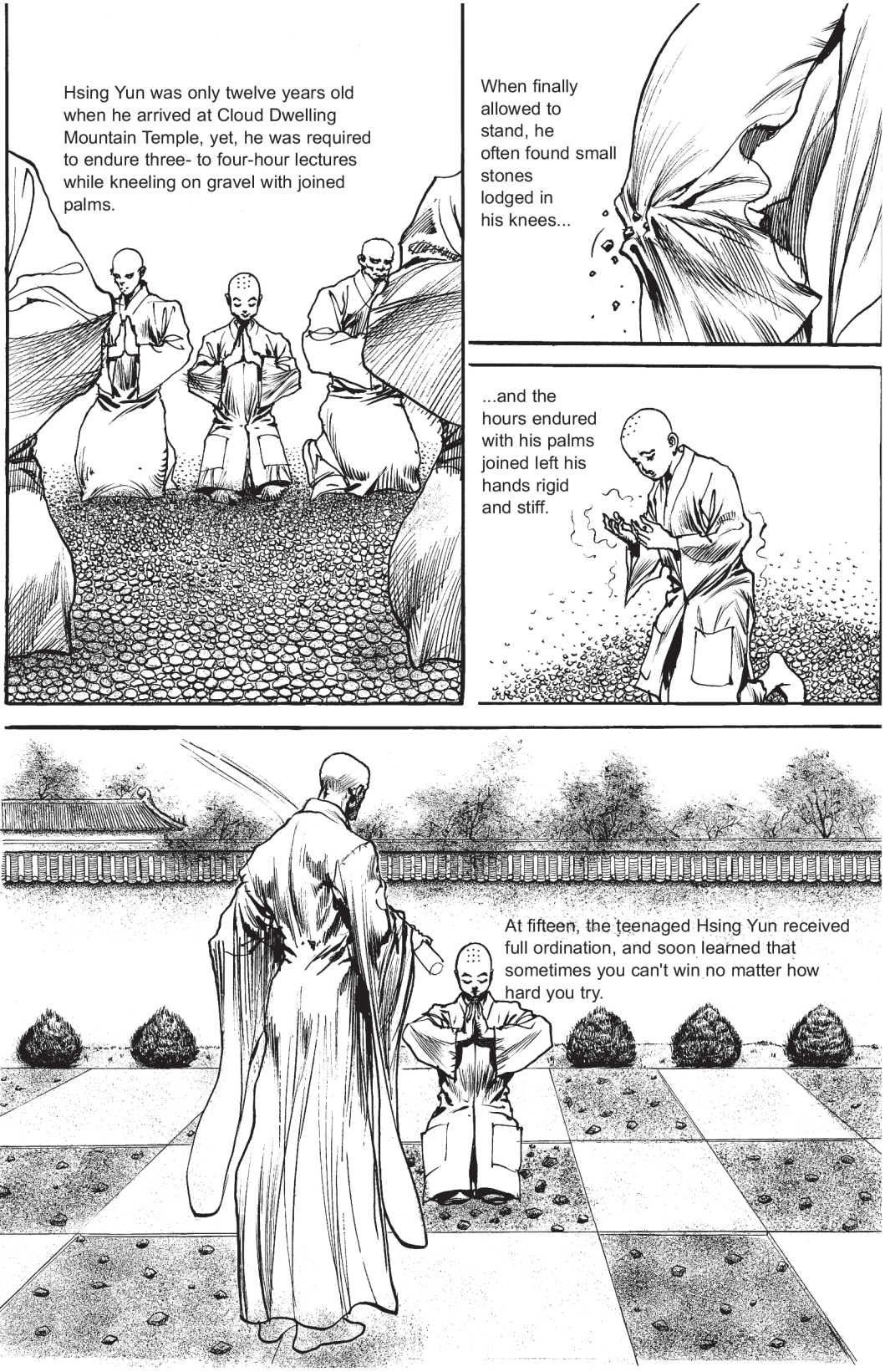

Hsing Yun was very touched...

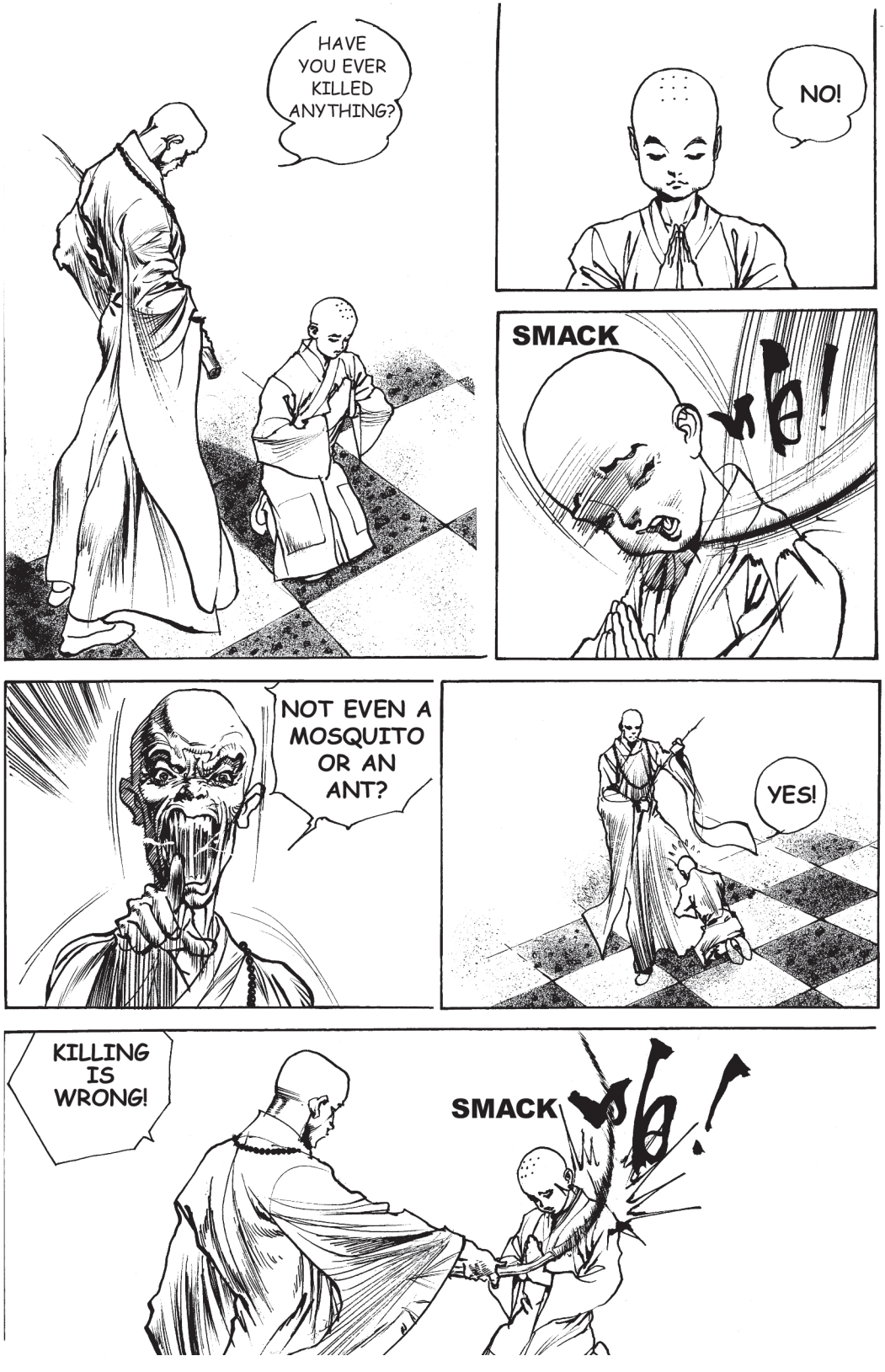

Tears filled the young monk's eyes as he ate the bowl of precious vegetables!

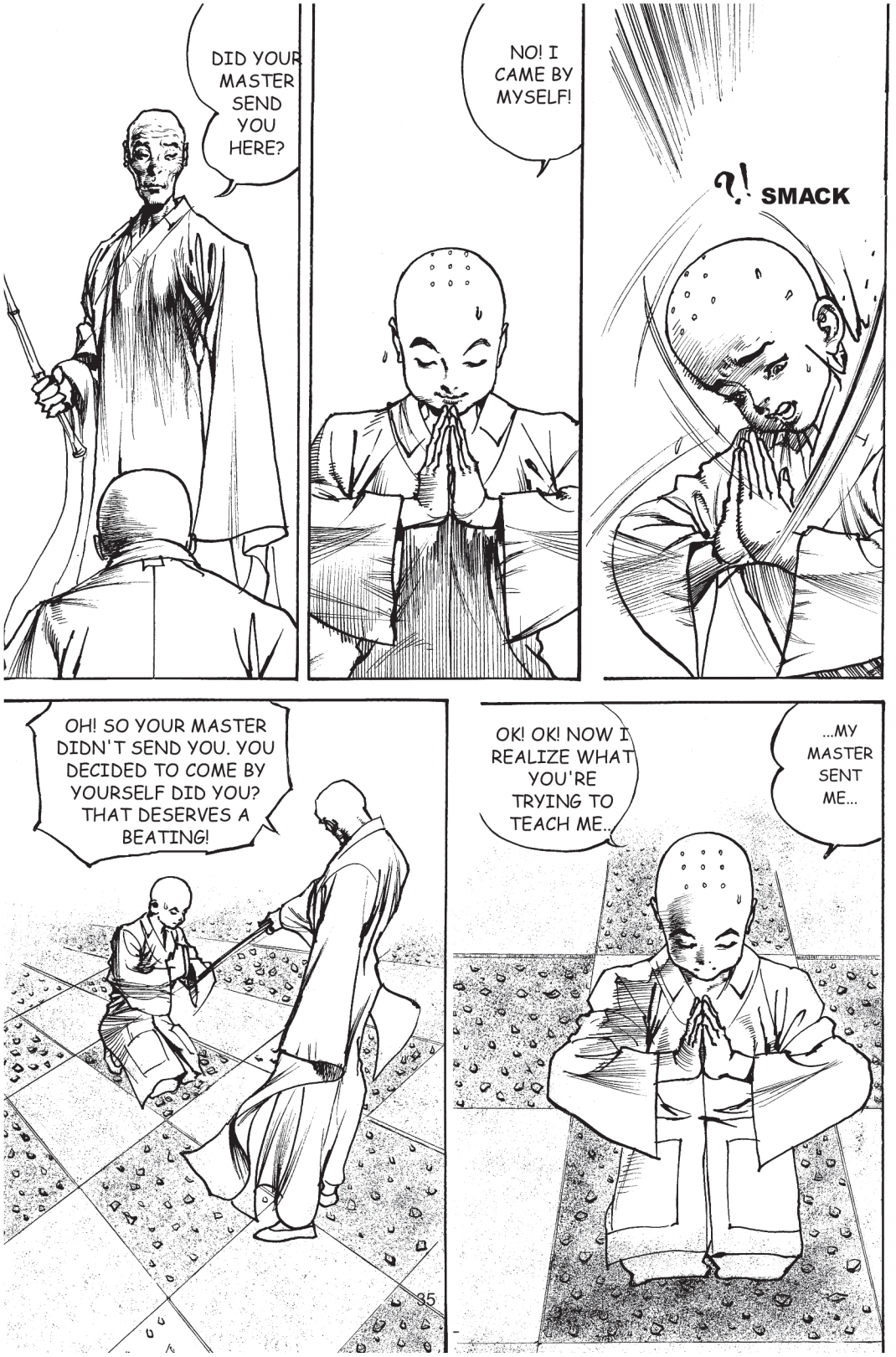

I PROMISE TO SPREAD BUDDHIST TEACHINGS WIDELY, SO I CAN REPAY MY MASTER'S KINDNESS!


IF I CAN MAKE IT POSSIBLE, NO ONE SHALL EVER GO HUNGRY!

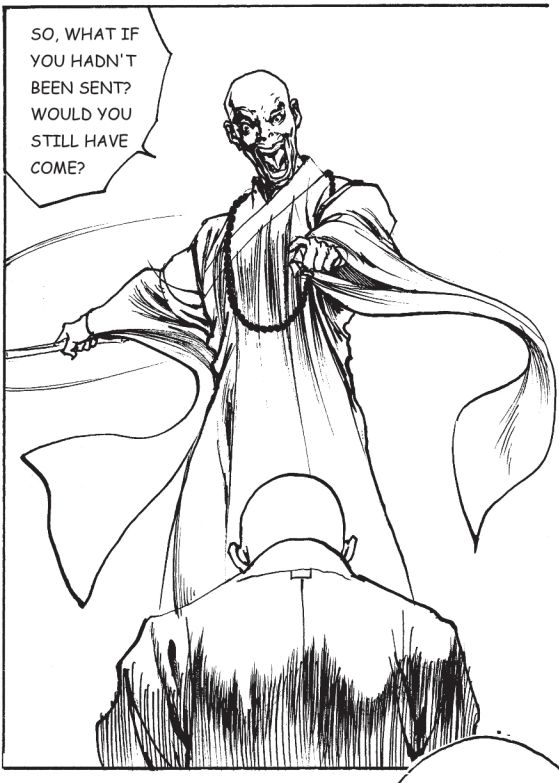

沙
The difficulties of the body seemed endless, yet the difficulties of the spirit were not any easier.


Hsing Yun was only twelve years old when he arrived at Cloud Dwelling Mountain Temple, yet, he was required to endure three- to four-hour lectures while kneeling on gravel with joined palms.
When finally allowed to stand, he often found small stones lodged in his knees...
...and the hours endured with his palms joined left his hands rigid and stiff.
At fifteen, the teenaged Hsing Yun received full ordination, and soon learned that sometimes you can't win no matter how hard you try.

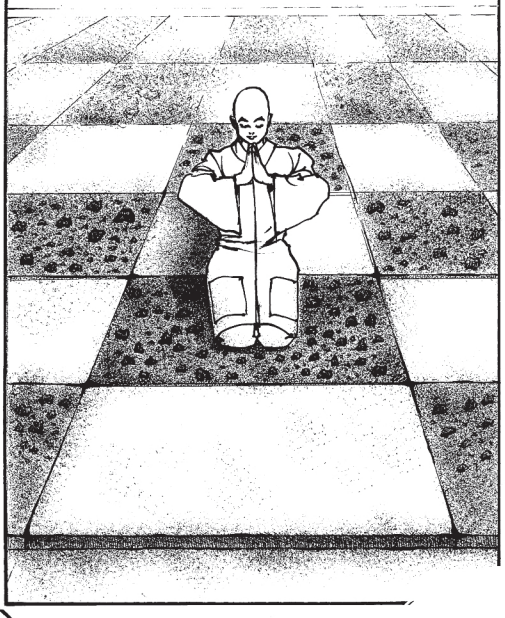

HAVE YOU EVER KILLED ANYTHING?
NO!
SMACK
YE!
NOT EVEN A MOSQUITO OR AN ANT?
YES!
KILLING IS WRONG!
SMACK
YA!


DID YOUR MASTER SEND YOU HERE?
NO! I CAME BY MYSELF!
?! SMACK
OH! SO YOUR MASTER DIDN'T SEND YOU. YOU DECIDED TO COME BY YOURSELF DID YOU? THAT DESERVES A BEATING!
OK! OK! NOW I REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO TEACH ME..
...MY MASTER SENT ME...





The smack of the willow twigs chased pride and stubborness from his mind, and Hsing Yun's character and commitment began to take shape.



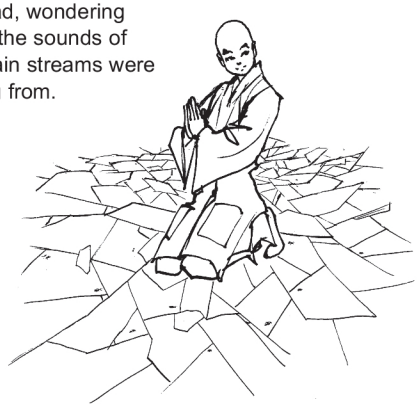
As his personality began to form, Hsing Yun learned to be content in every situation...



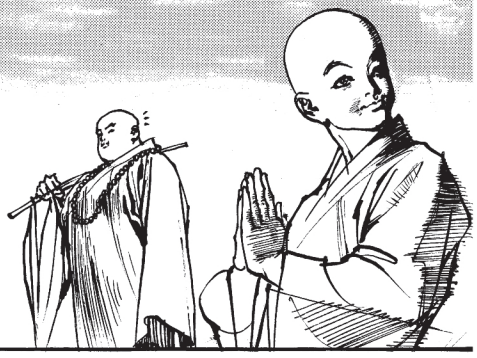
...living in harmony with circumstances--carefree, yet also concerned for others.

The next fifty-three days of post-ordination monastic training proved to be very difficult for this curious and inquisitive, young boy.

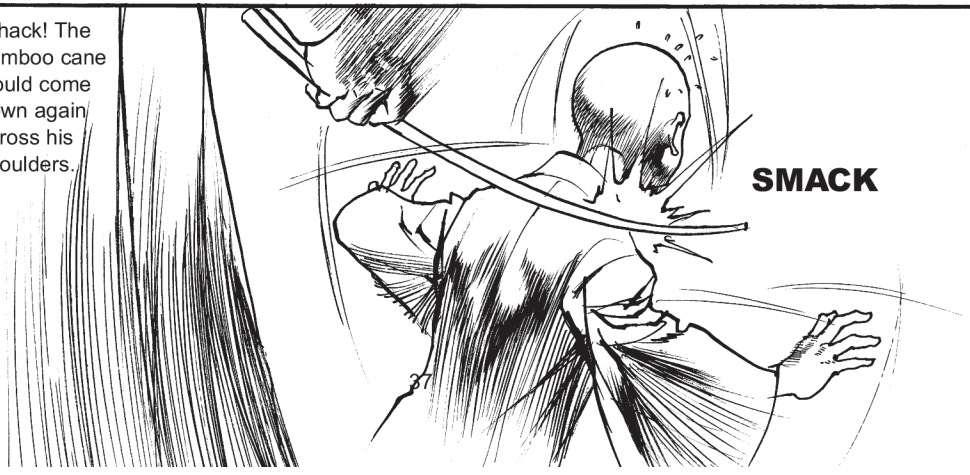
Hsing Yun would raise his head, wondering where the sounds of mountain streams were coming from.



The leading master in the Precept Hall would catch him, and...

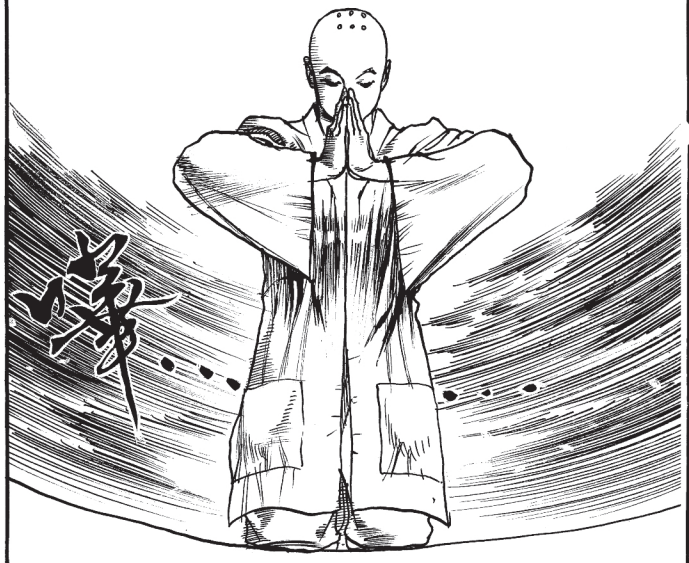


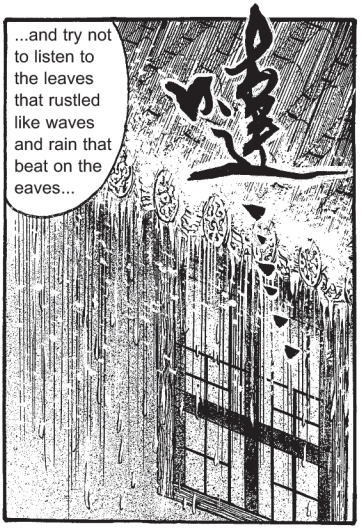
Whack! The bamboo cane would come down again across his shoulders.



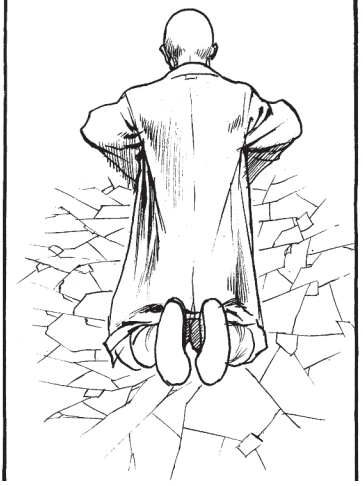


Quickly, Hsing Yun would focus his attention...

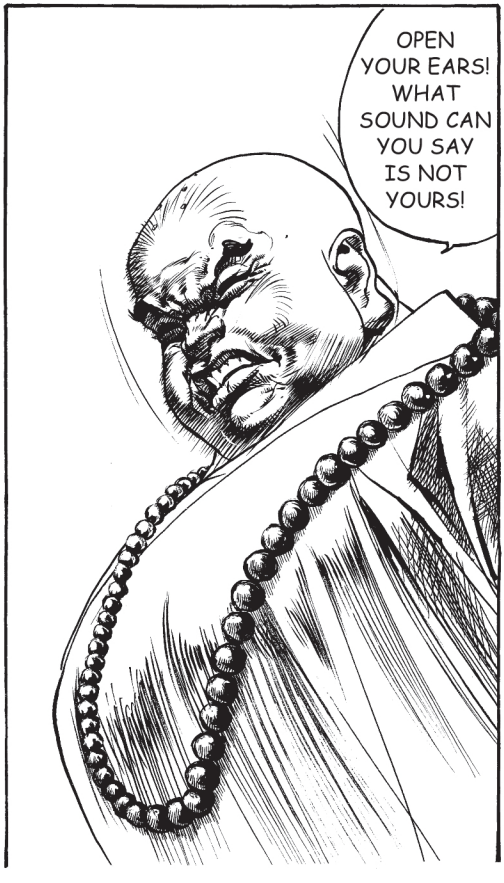




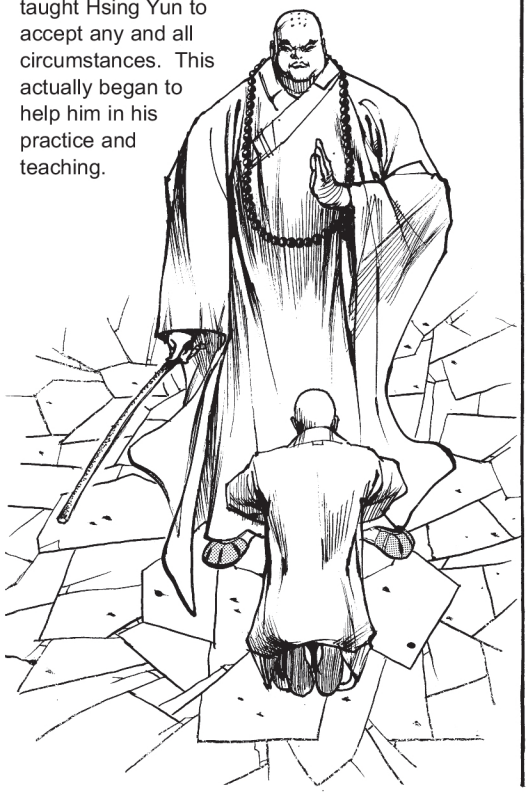
...allowing nothing to enter his ears!







Although very tough, this kind of training taught Hsing Yun to accept any and all circumstances. This actually began to help him in his practice and teaching.



Hsing Yun gradually developed the ability to be peaceful and happy with many resources or with none, whether full or hungry, whether early or late, with much or little, with winning or with losing, with big or small.



Hsing Yun lived in Cloud Dwelling Mountain Temple for six years, developing a deep and profound faith, making a vow to dedicate his entire life to Buddhism.



Part II

THE YOUNG MONK FACES TURBULENT TIMES

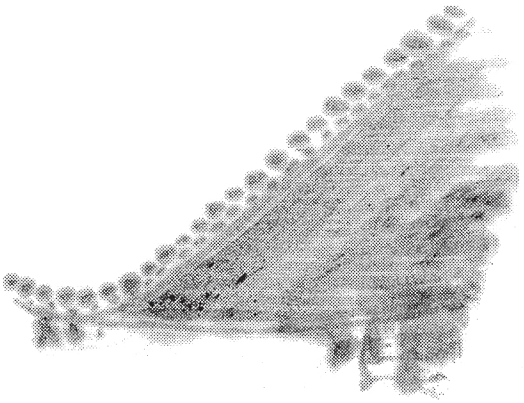


Hsing Yun was accepted at Flaming Mountain Buddhist College, in Zhenjiang, in 1945. By that time, he had grown into an outstanding young monk.

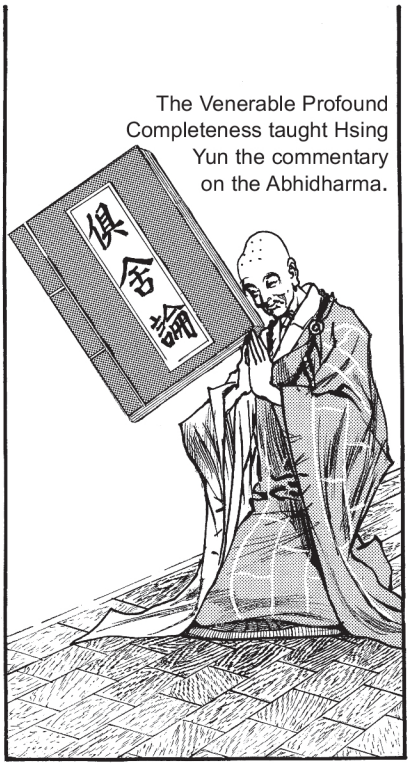


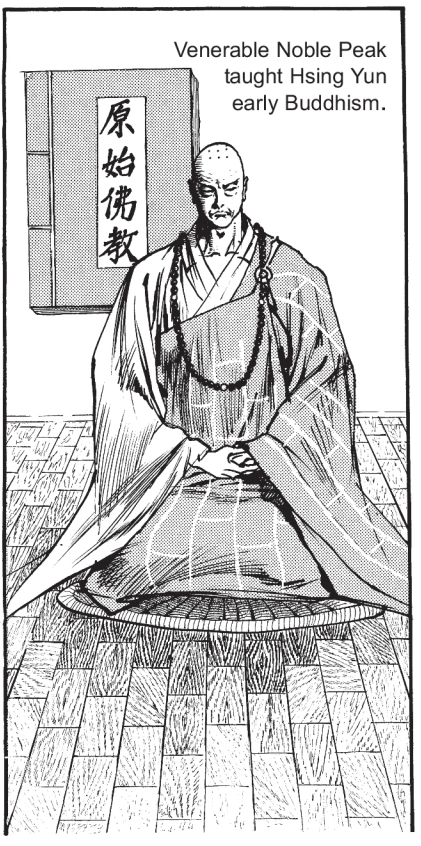


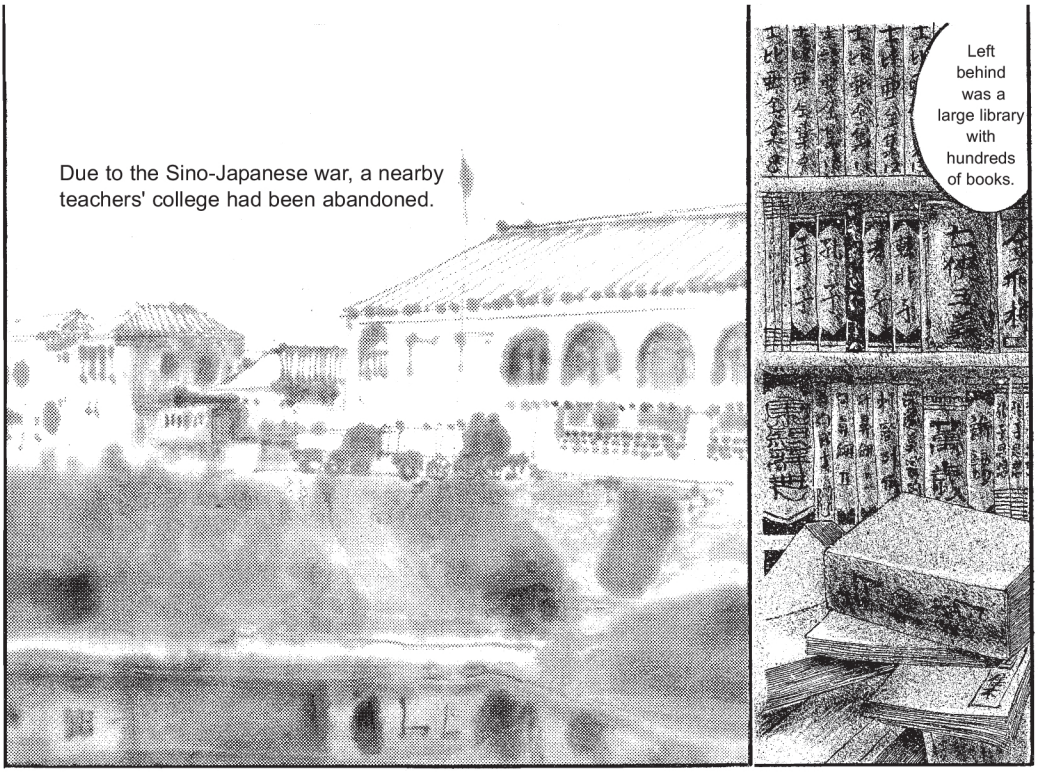
Flaming Mountain Buddhist College had a very good reputation, and was considered equal to Beijing University, with outstanding teachers and students.

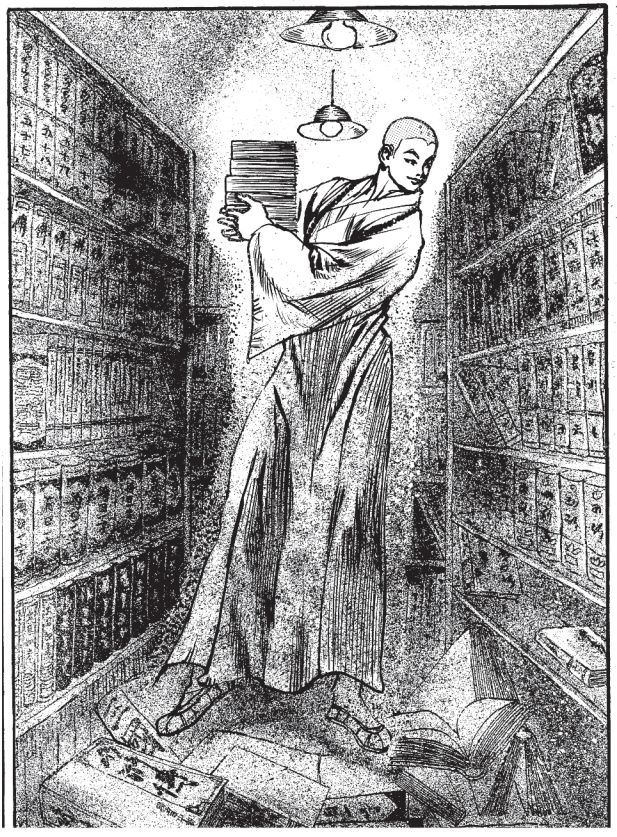




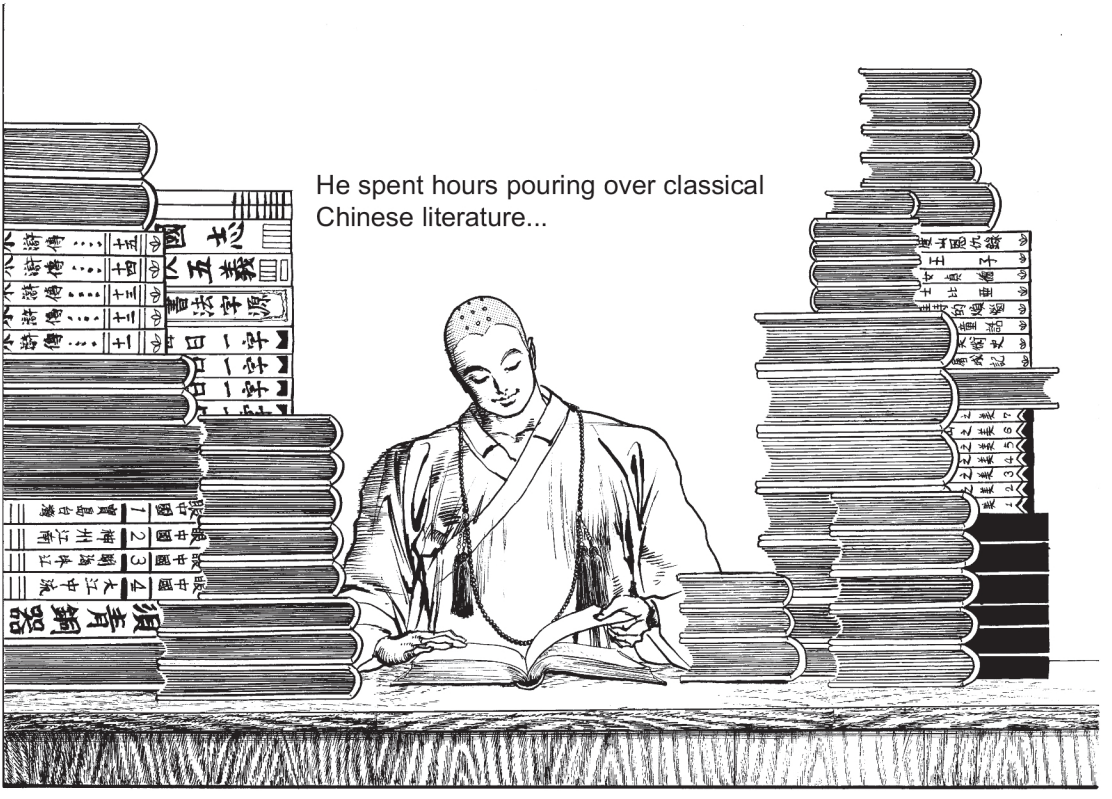


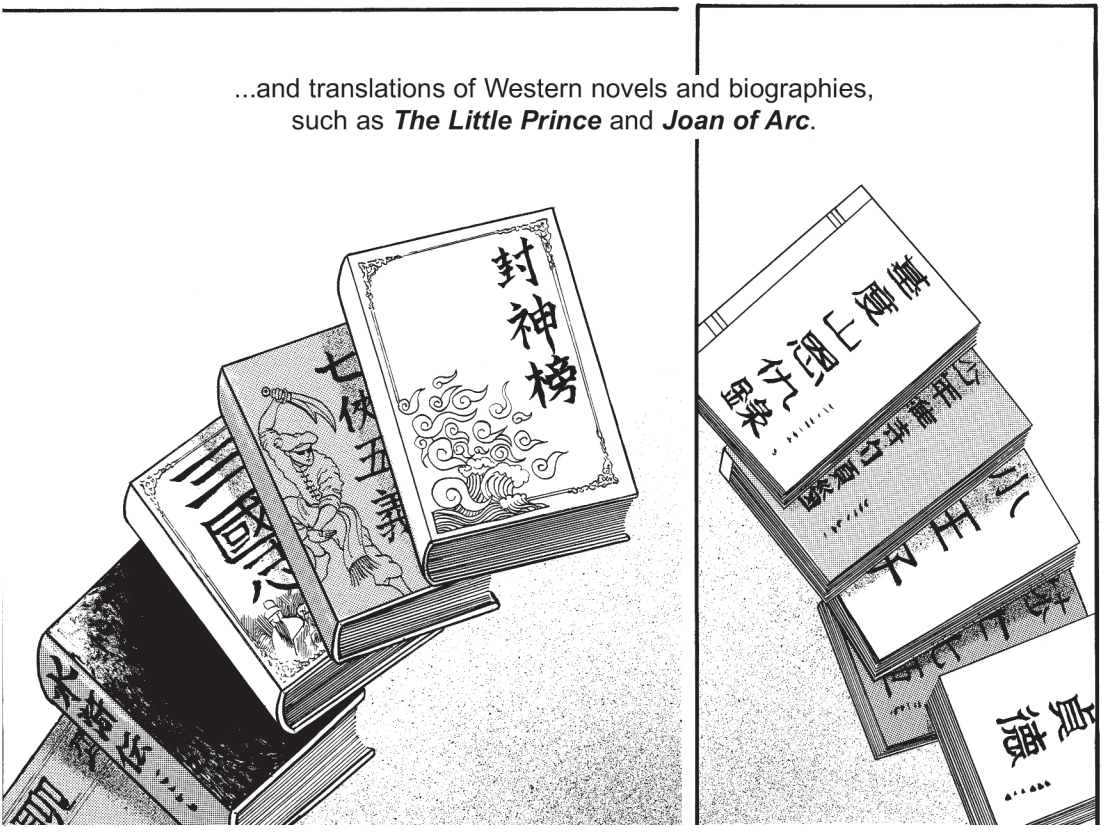


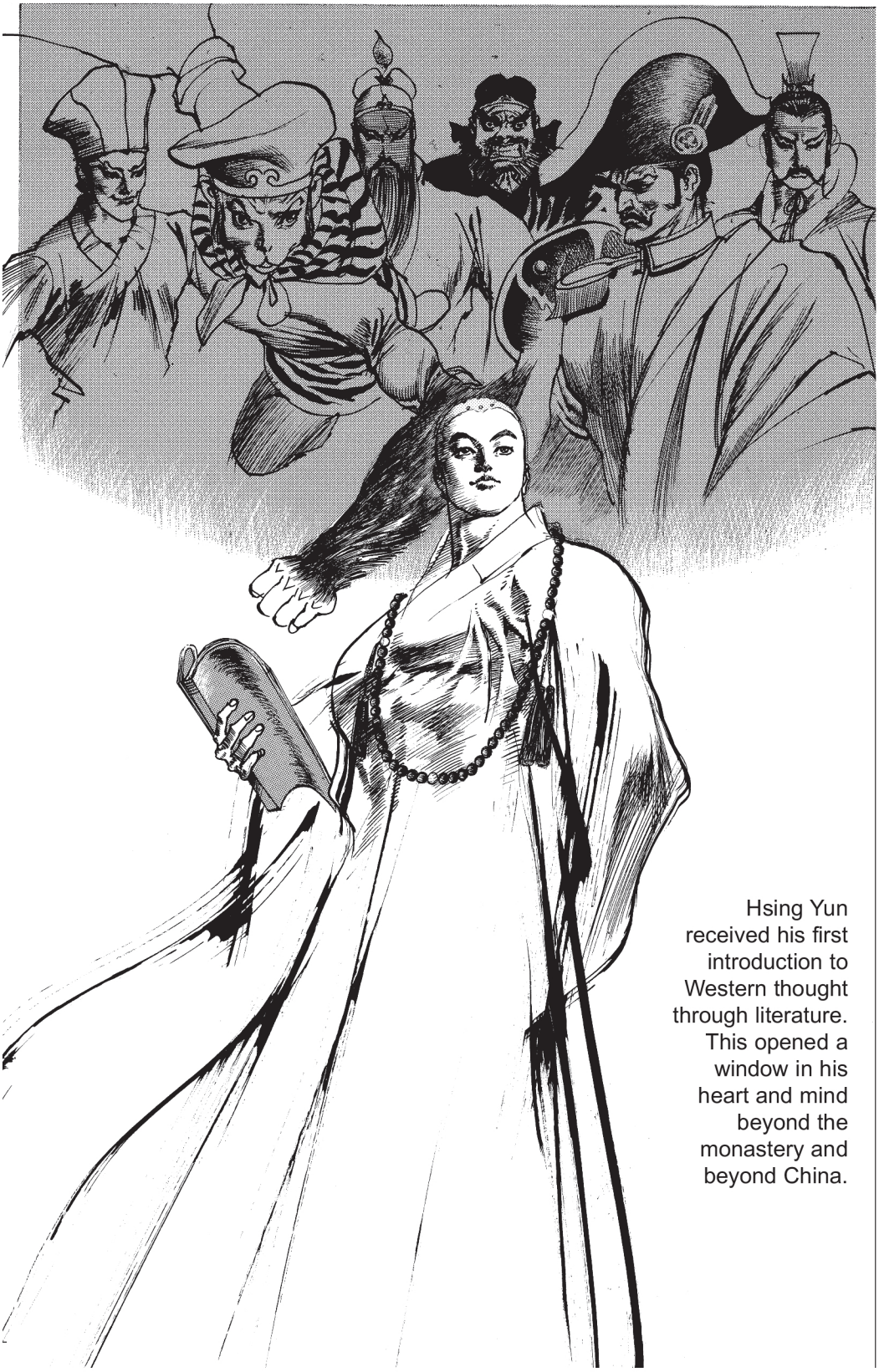

Due to the Sino-Japanese war, a nearby teachers' college had been abandoned.
Left behind was a large library with hundreds of books.




The older monastics did not take any interest in it, but Hsing Yun spent hours there, preferring to read rather than to return home.


He spent hours pouring over classical Chinese literature...

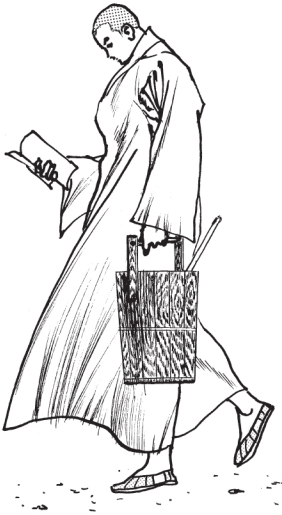

...and translations of Western novels and biographies, such as ***The Little Prince*** and ***Joan of Arc***.
封神榜
七俠五義
三國志



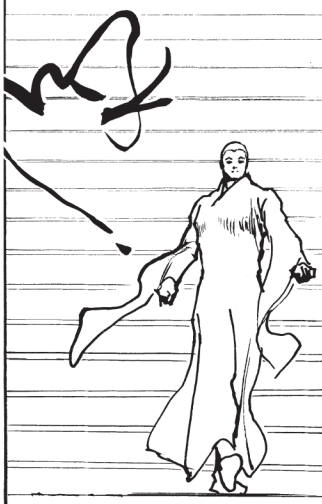
Hsing Yun received his first introduction to Western thought through literature. This opened a window in his heart and mind beyond the monastery and beyond China.

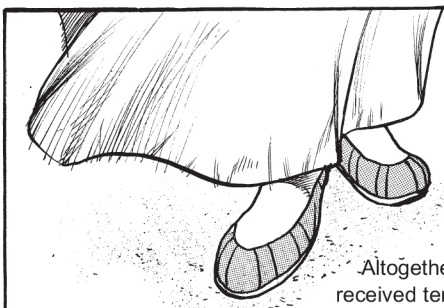
Although Hsing Yun had never received a formal education, he found his days filled with the joy of study.

Ever since then, Hsing Yun has continued the practice of self-study.



Hsing Yun left Flaming Mountain Buddhist College in 1947.

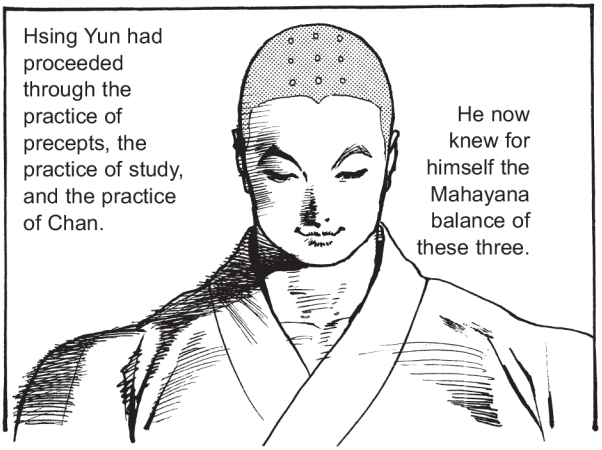


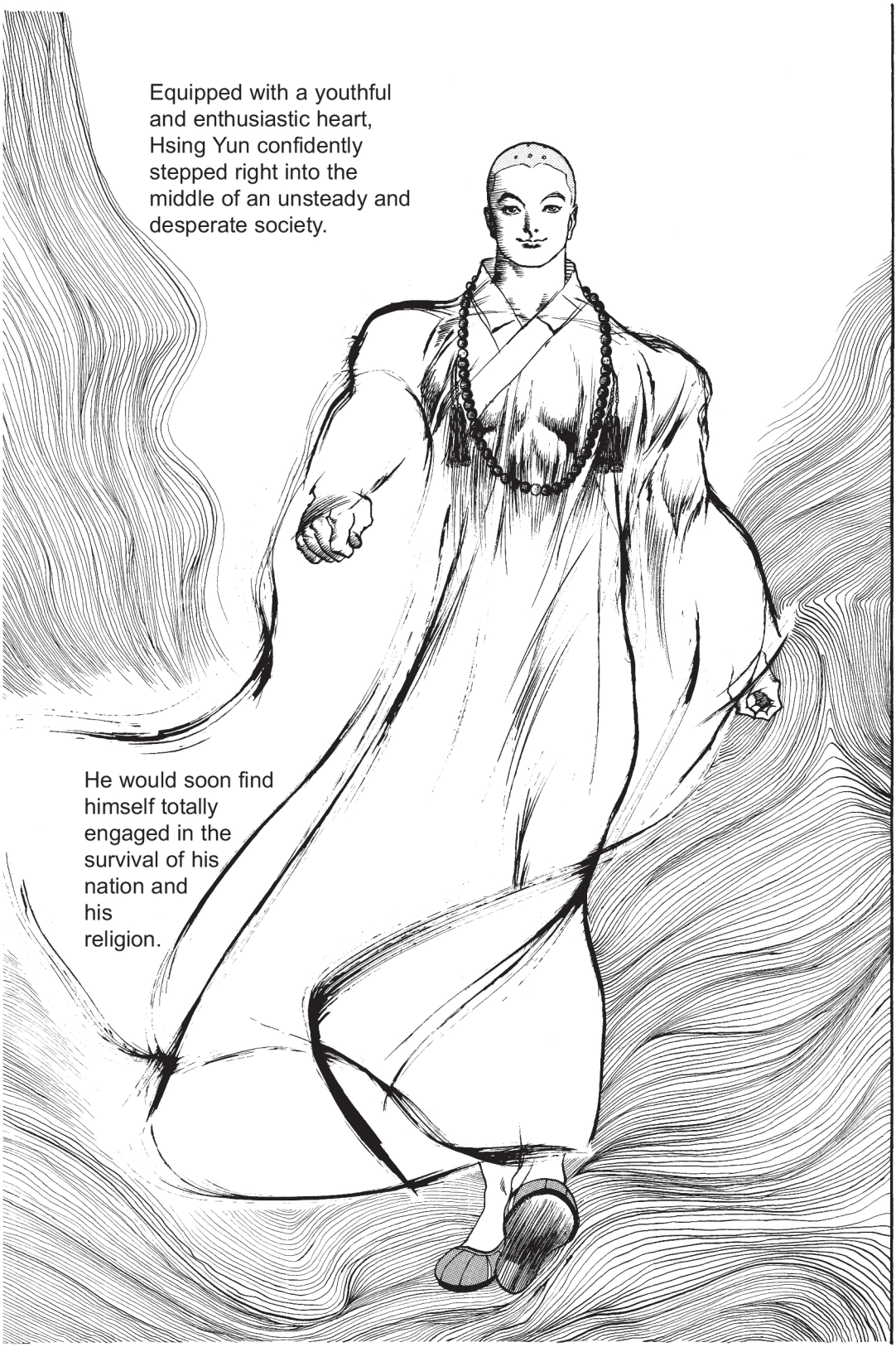


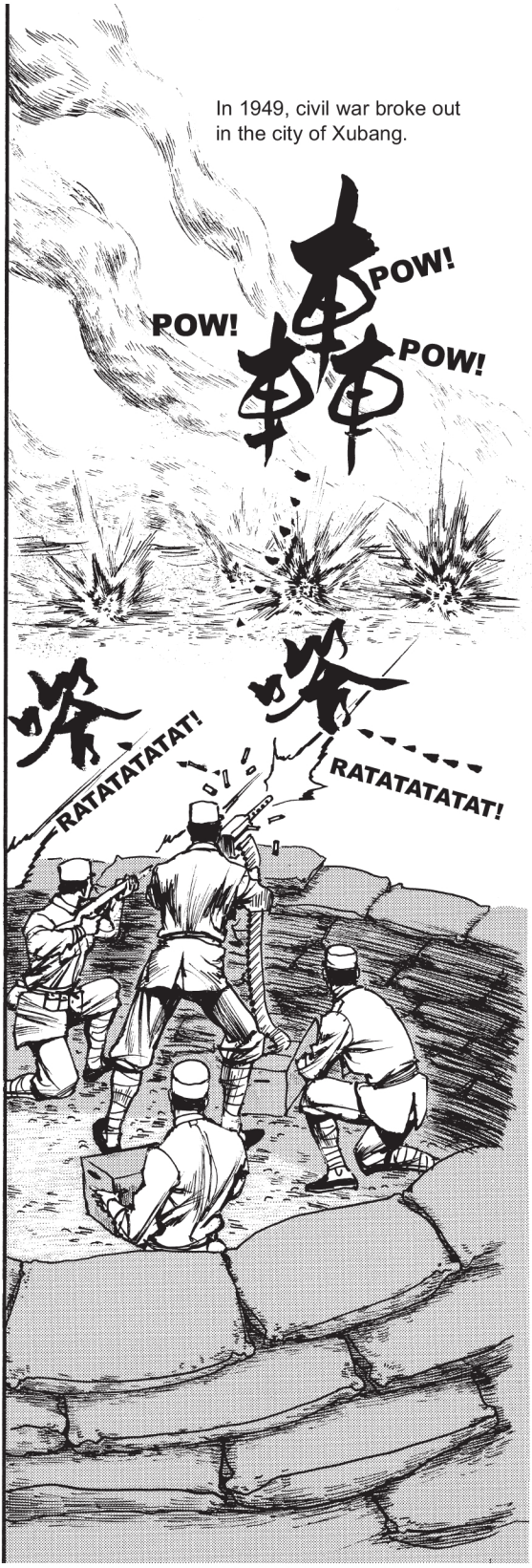
Altogether, he had received ten years of monastic education.

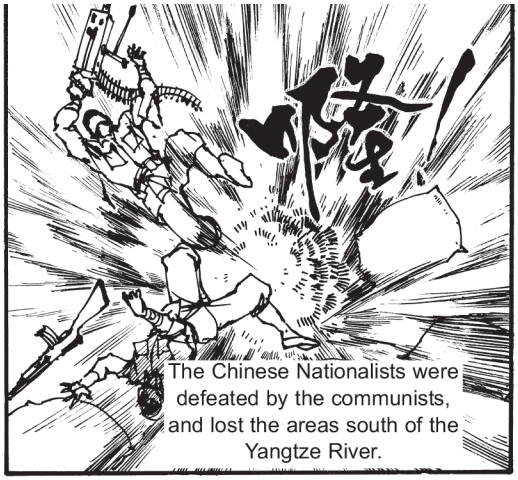
Hsing Yun had proceeded through the practice of precepts, the practice of study, and the practice of Chan.

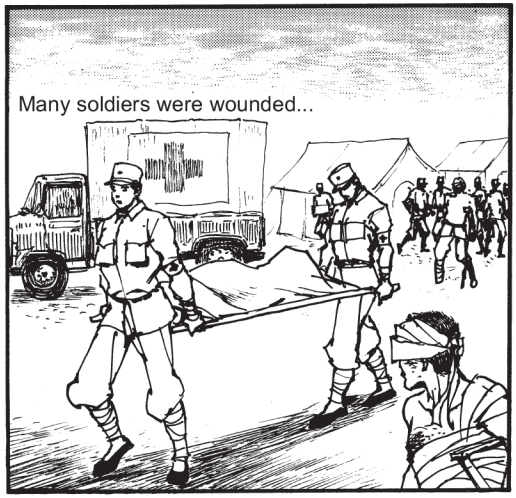
He now knew for himself the Mahayana balance of these three.




Equipped with a youthful and enthusiastic heart, Hsing Yun confidently stepped right into the middle of an unsteady and desperate society.
He would soon find himself totally engaged in the survival of his nation and his religion.


In 1949, civil war broke out in the city of Xubang.
POW!
POW!
POW!
RATATATATAT!
RATATATATAT!

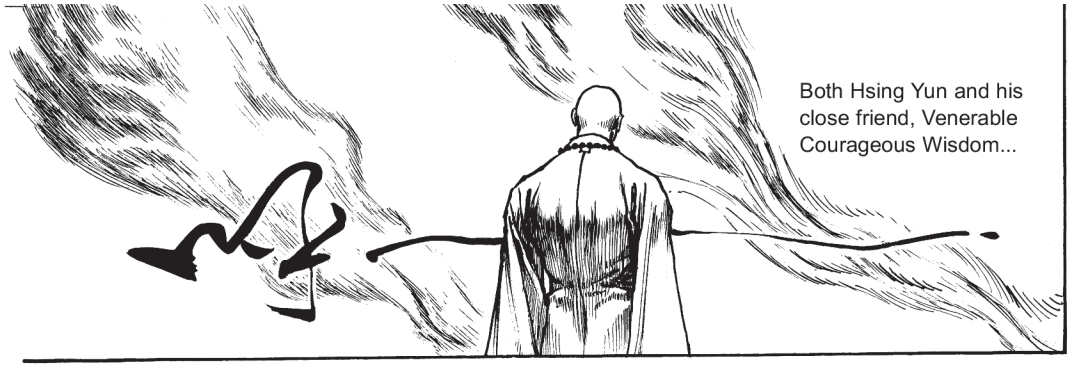

The Chinese Nationalists were defeated by the communists, and lost the areas south of the Yangtze River.

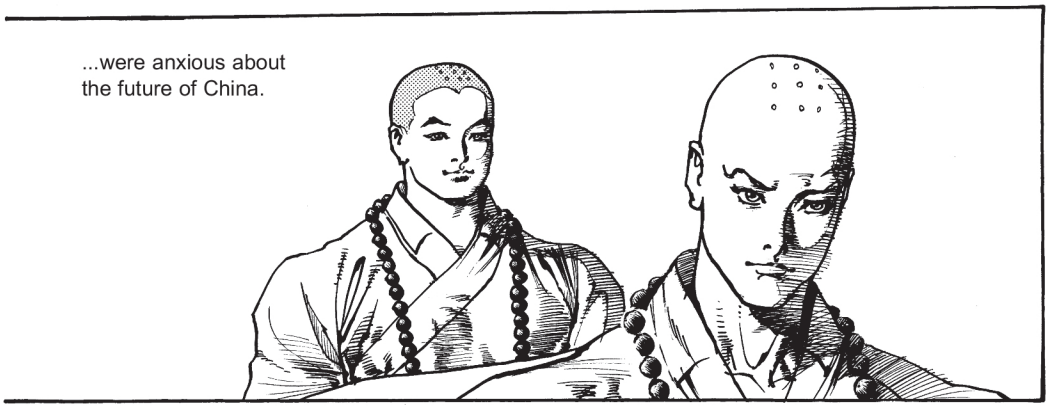

Many soldiers were wounded...


Homes were destroyed and people fled in terror for their lives.


Members of the monastic community began to organize medical relief groups...
...going anywhere they could to help the wounded and the dying.
HE'S SO HEAVY!
QUICKLY, HSING YUN. COME HELP!

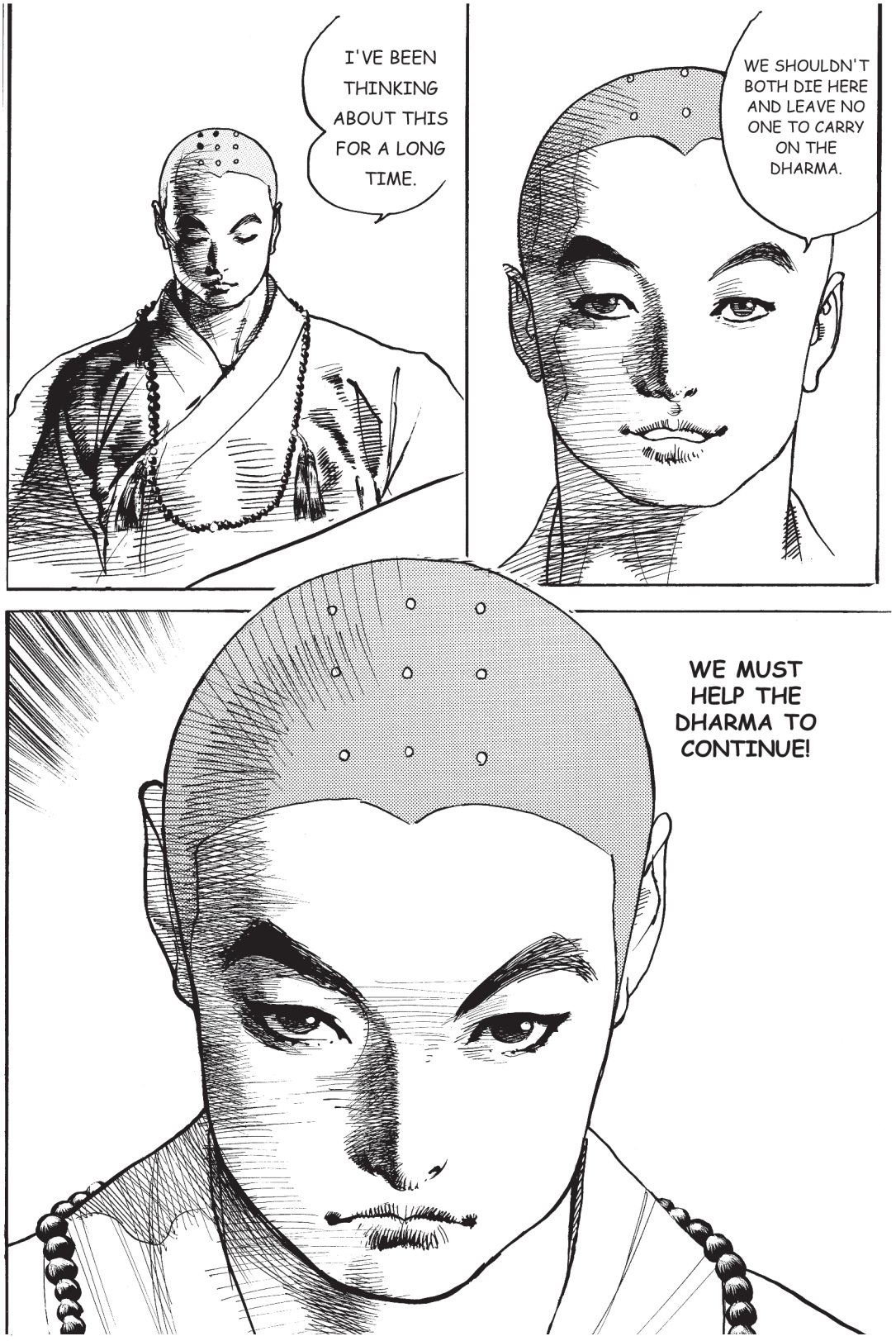

I'M COMING! I'M COMING!
PLAT, PLAT, PLAT!


Both Hsing Yun and his close friend, Venerable Courageous Wisdom...


...were anxious about the future of China.

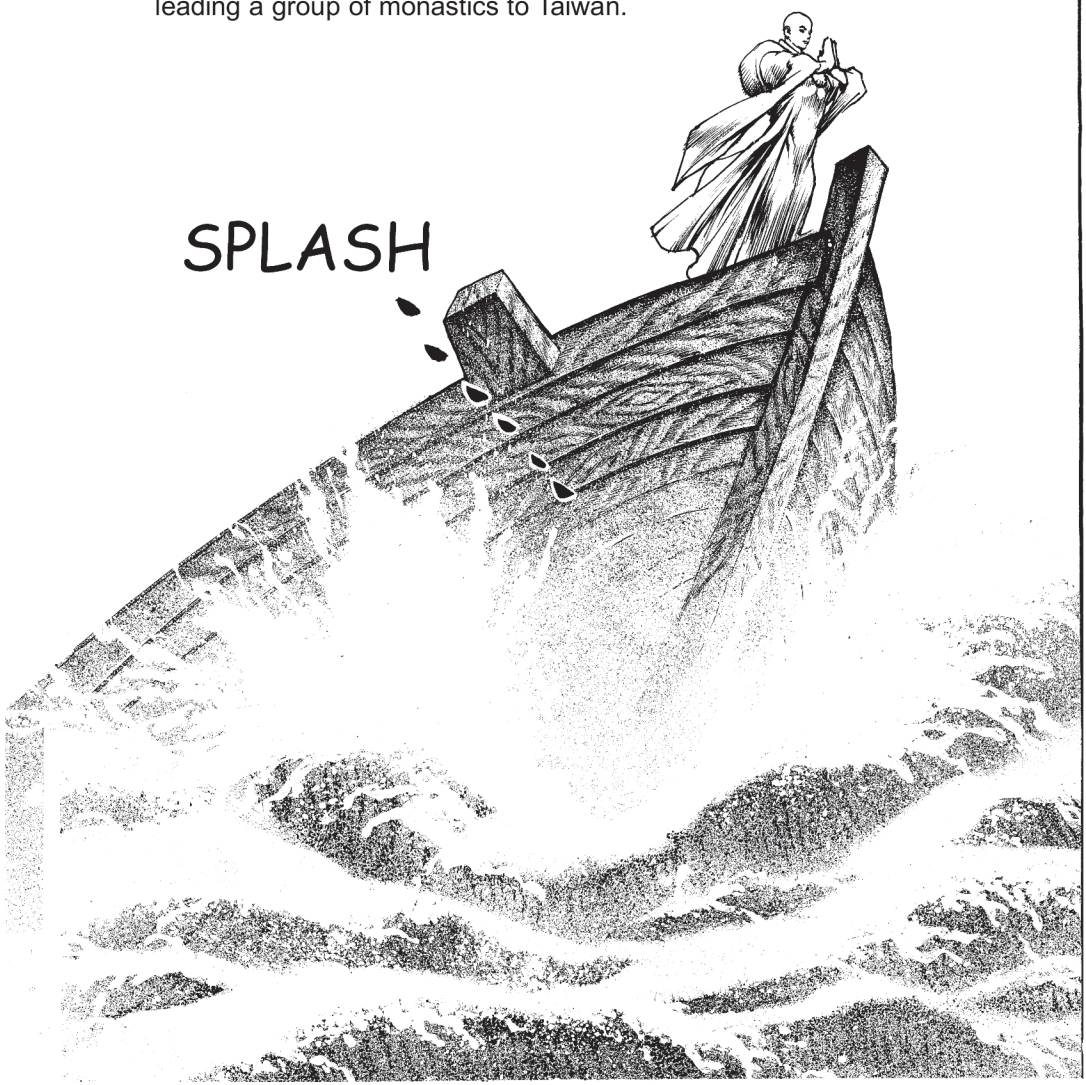

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? THE BEAUTIFUL RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS OF OUR COUNTRY WILL BE LOST!


HMMM... I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT BUDDHISM'S FUTURE WILL BE.

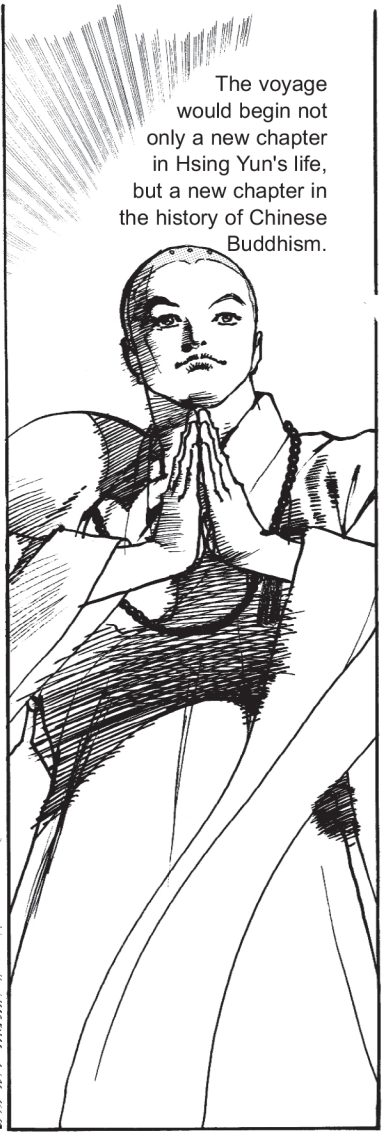

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR A LONG TIME.
WE SHOULDN'T BOTH DIE HERE AND LEAVE NO ONE TO CARRY ON THE DHARMA.
WE MUST HELP THE DHARMA TO CONTINUE!

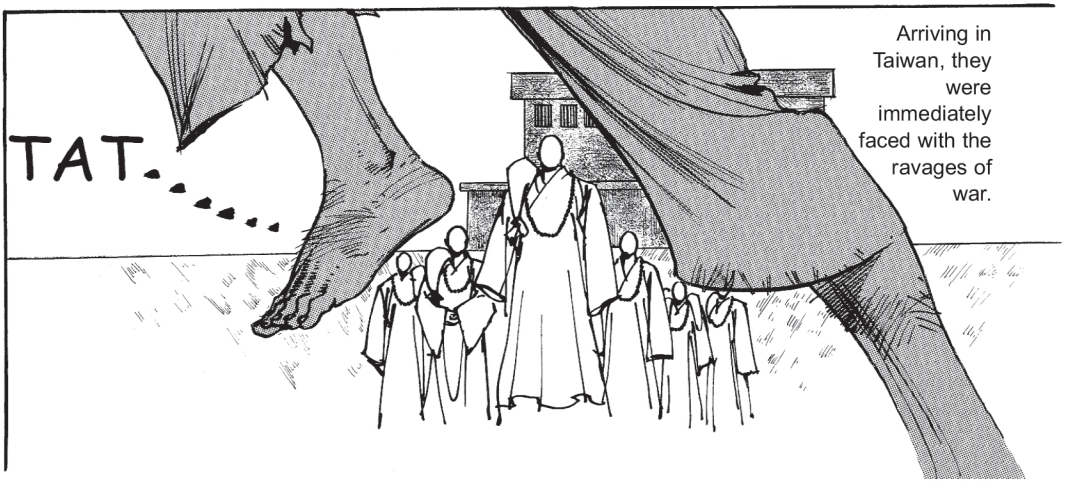


...as Hsing Yun took on the responsibility of leading a group of monastics to Taiwan.

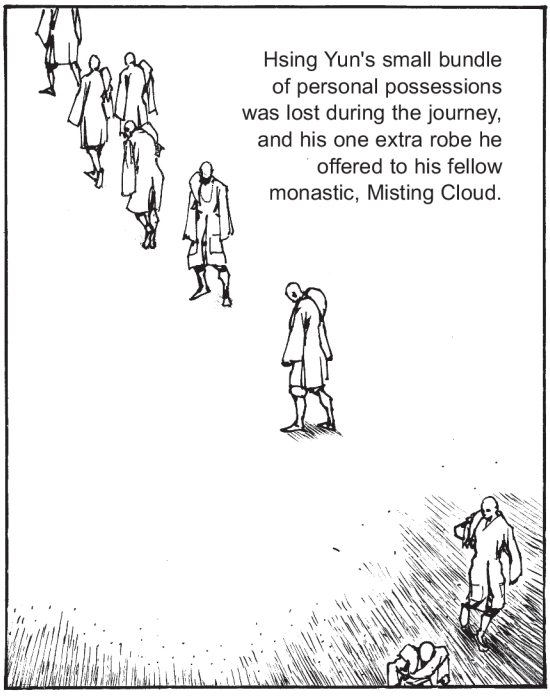



SHOOSH!

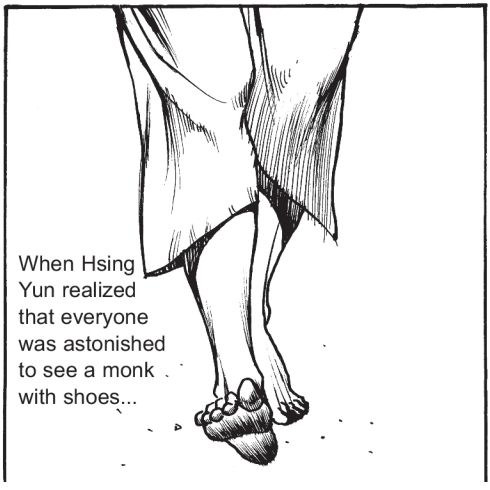

The voyage would begin not only a new chapter in Hsing Yun's life, but a new chapter in the history of Chinese Buddhism.

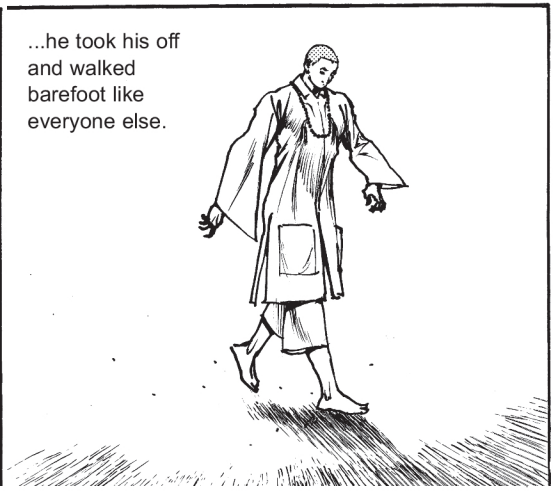

TAT...
Arriving in Taiwan, they were immediately faced with the ravages of war.

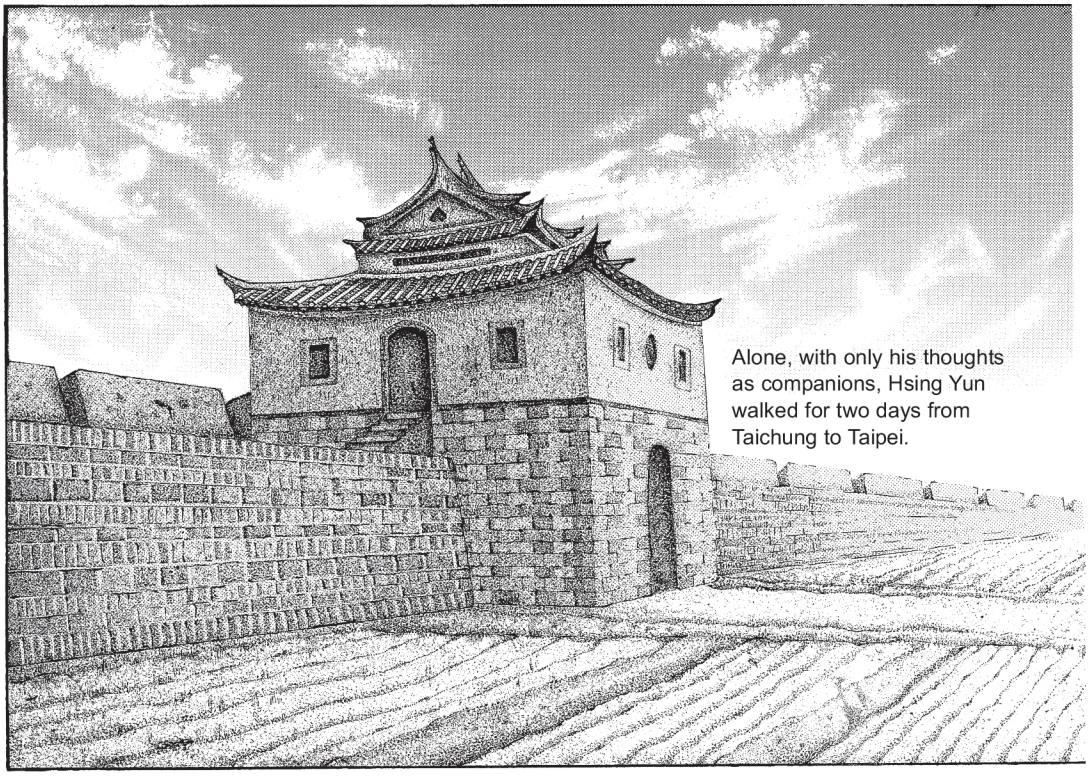

The group quickly dis-banded, each going their own way.

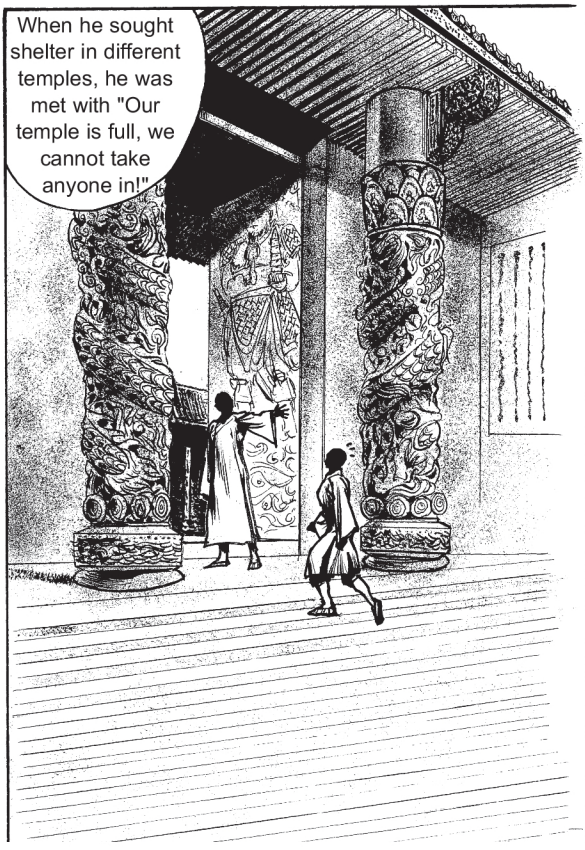

Hsing Yun's small bundle of personal possessions was lost during the journey, and his one extra robe he offered to his fellow monastic, Misting Cloud.




When Hsing Yun realized that everyone was astonished to see a monk with shoes...

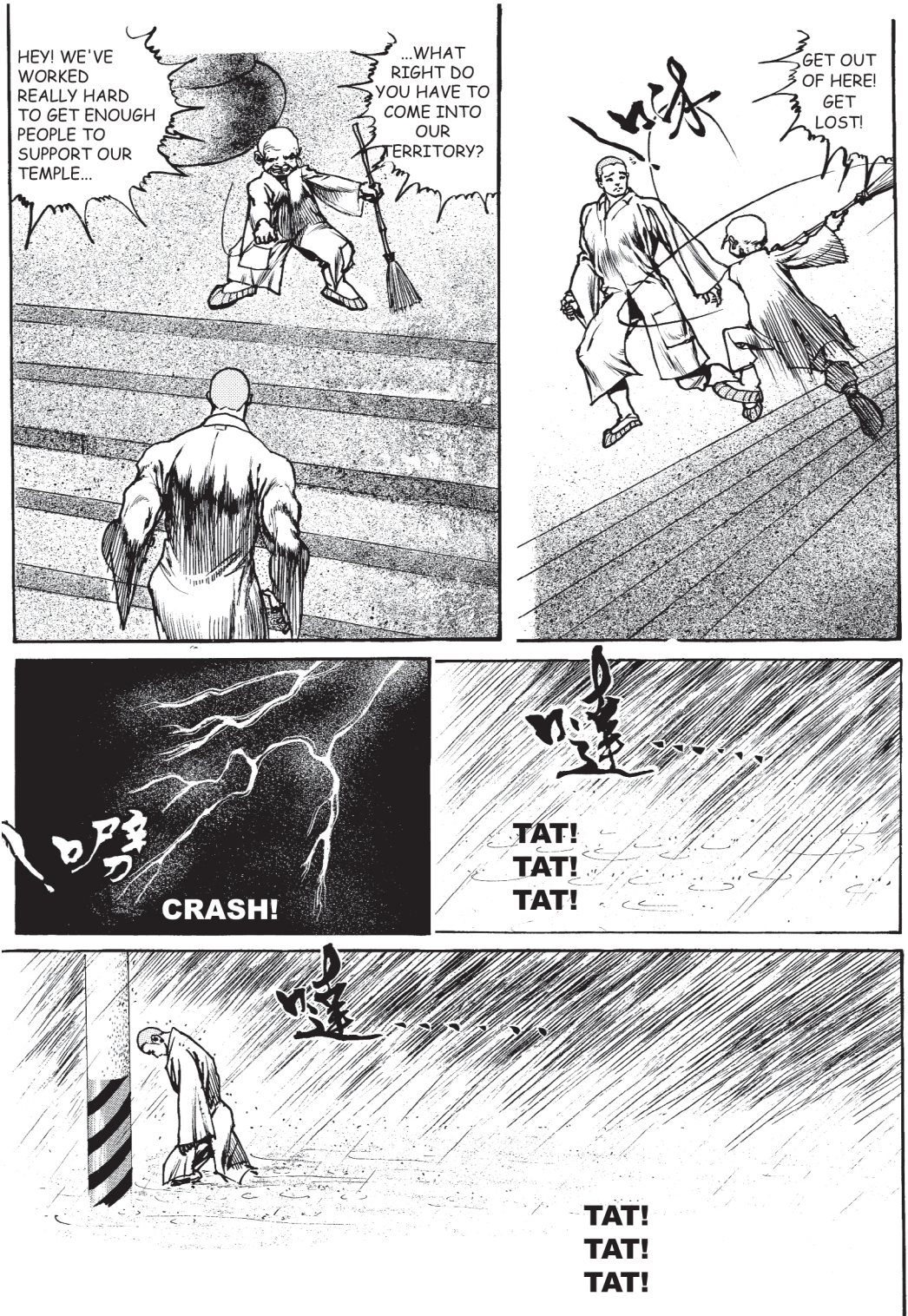

...he took his off and walked barefoot like everyone else.

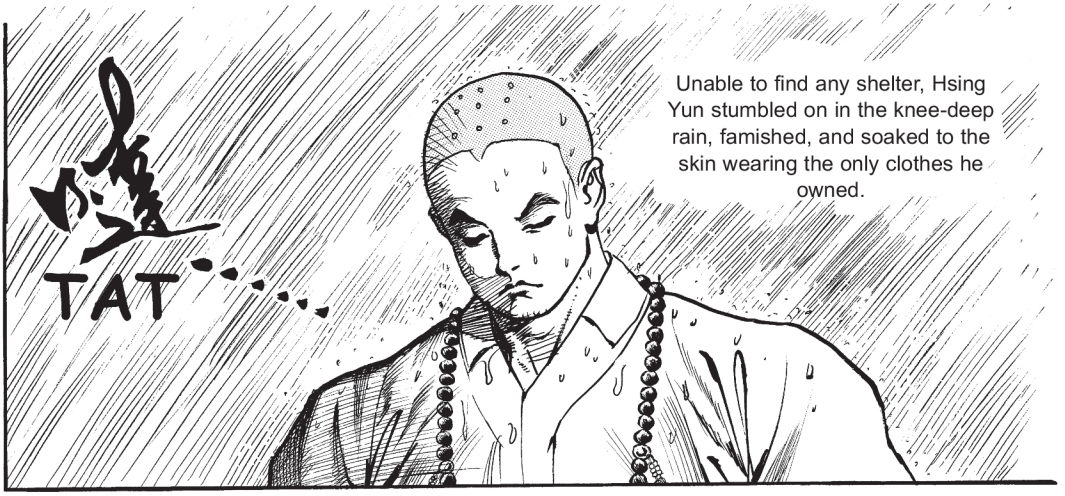

Alone, with only his thoughts as companions, Hsing Yun walked for two days from Taichung to Taipei.

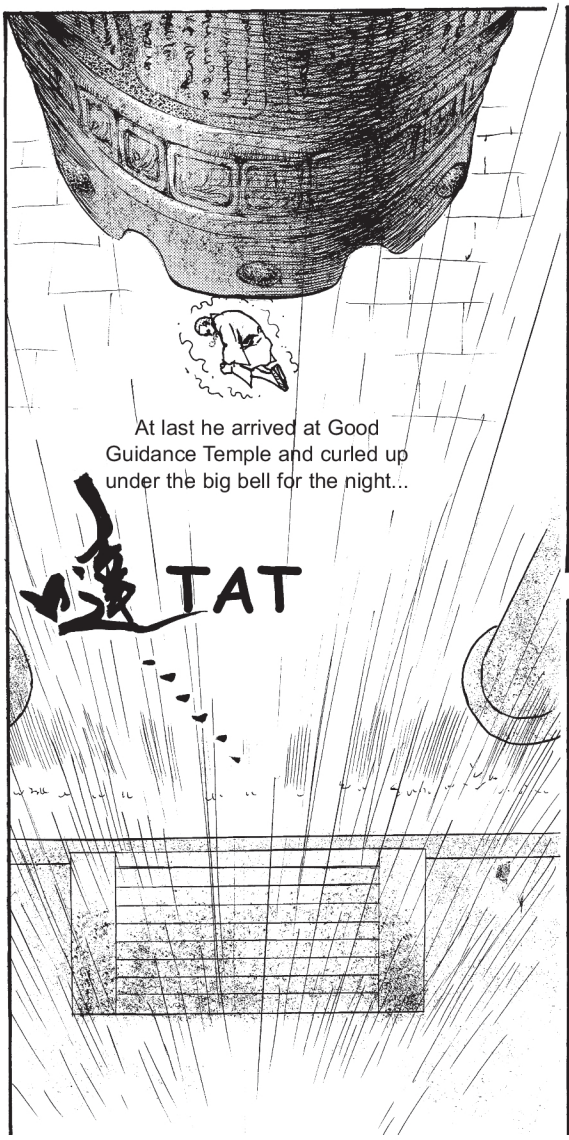

When he sought shelter in different temples, he was met with "Our temple is full, we cannot take anyone in!"

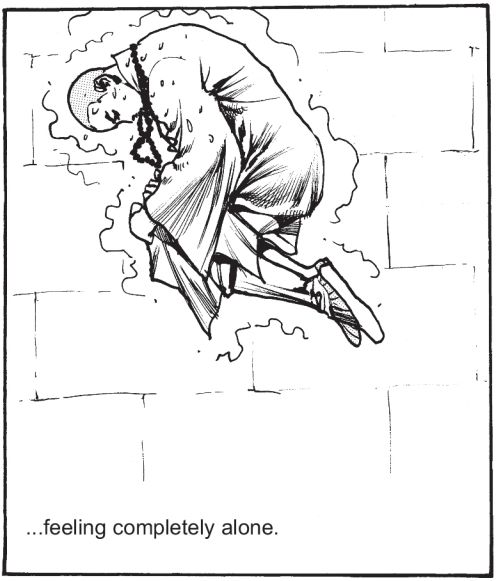

...or "We cannot accept anyone from outside our province."

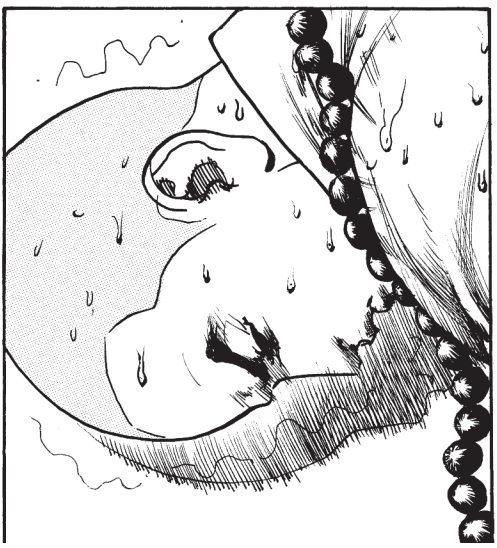


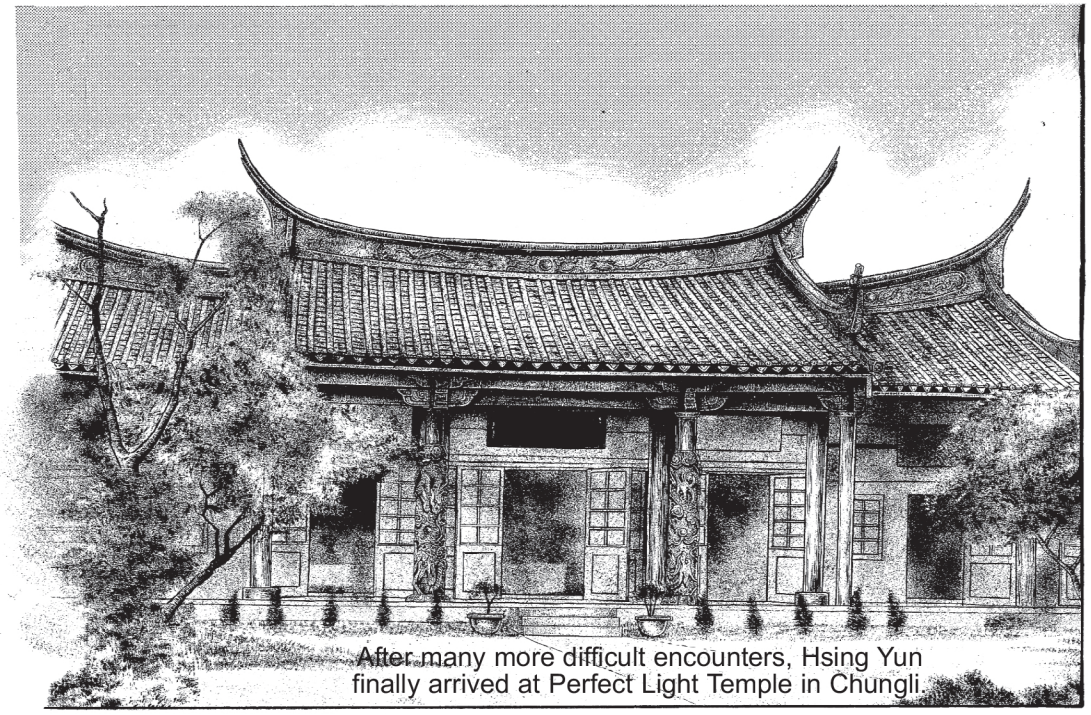

HEY! WE'VE WORKED REALLY HARD TO GET ENOUGH PEOPLE TO SUPPORT OUR TEMPLE...
...WHAT RIGHT DO YOU HAVE TO COME INTO OUR TERRITORY?
GET OUT OF HERE! GET LOST!
CRASH!
TAT! TAT! TAT!
TAT! TAT! TAT!

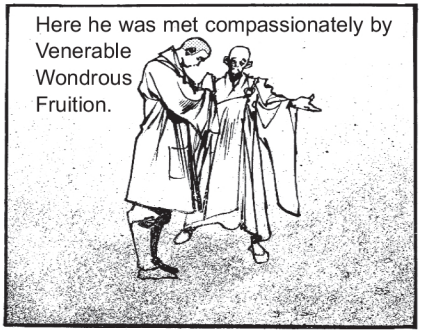

TAT
Unable to find any shelter, Hsing Yun stumbled on in the knee-deep rain, famished, and soaked to the skin wearing the only clothes he owned.

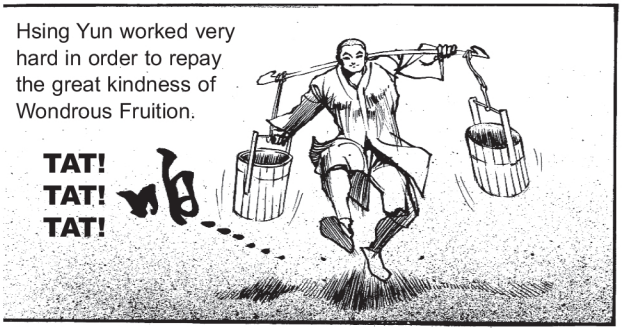

At last he arrived at Good Guidance Temple and curled up under the big bell for the night...
TAT

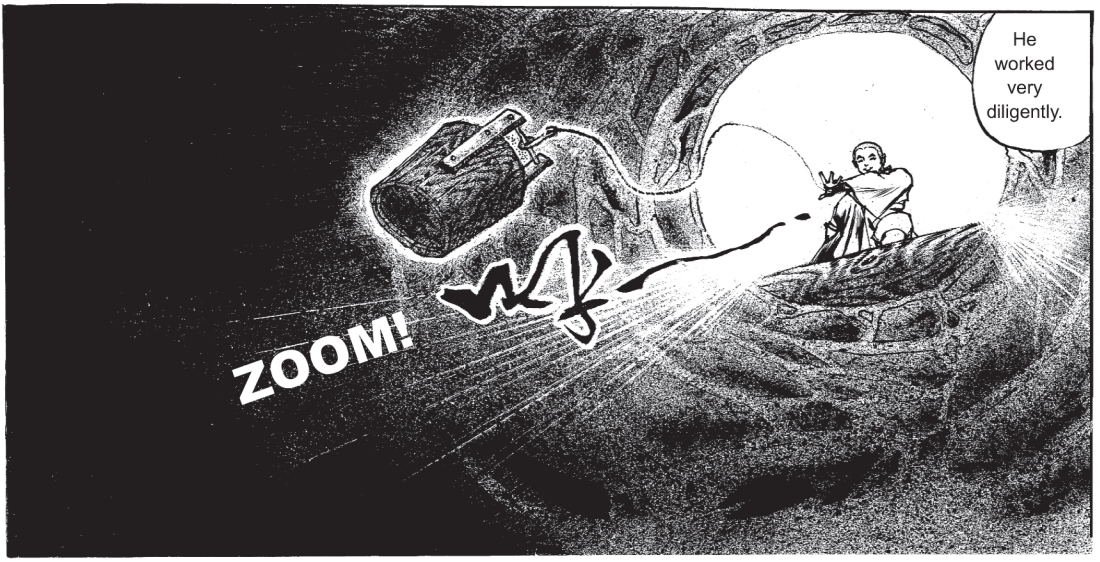

...feeling completely alone.

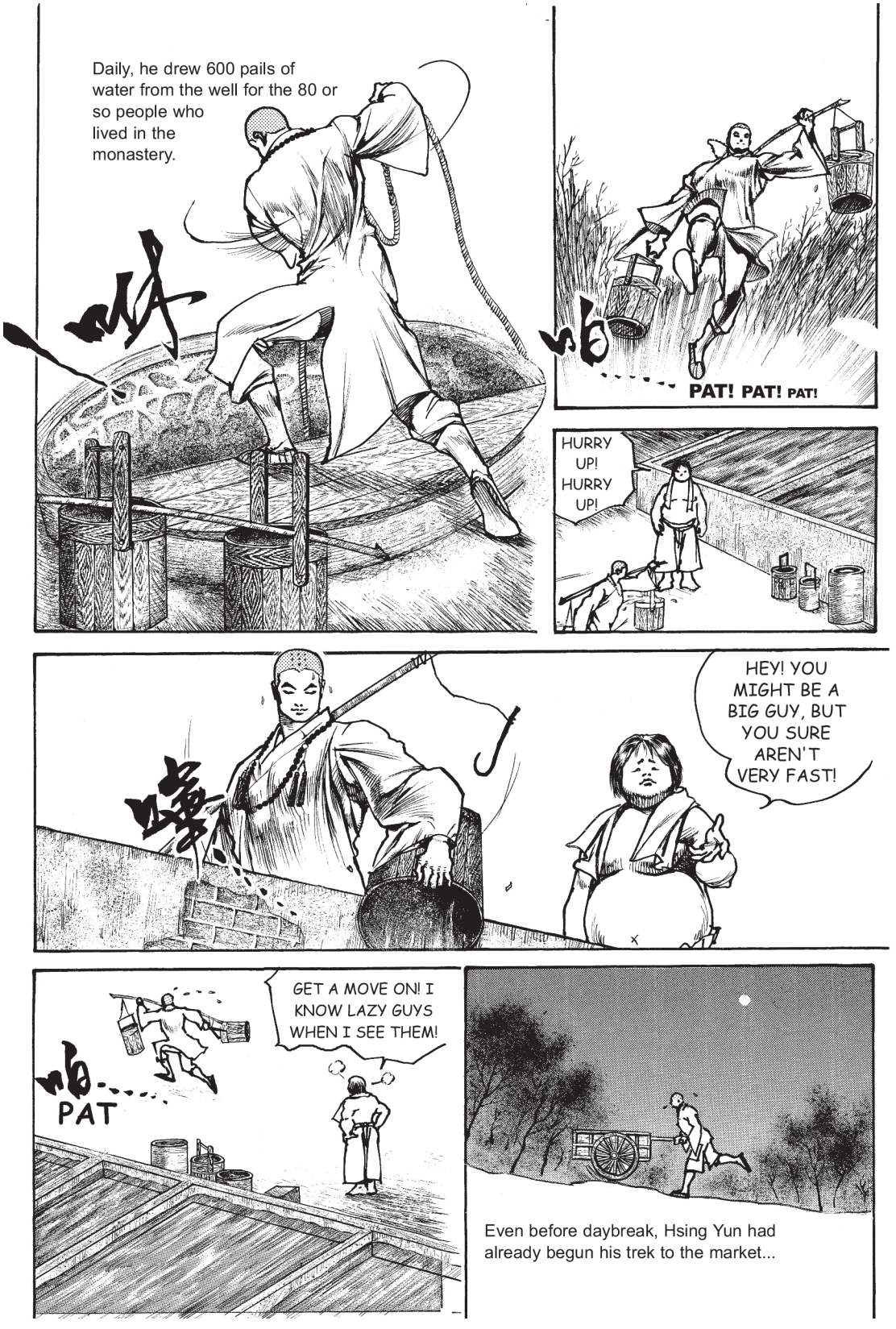



After many more difficult encounters, Hsing Yun finally arrived at Perfect Light Temple in Chungli.

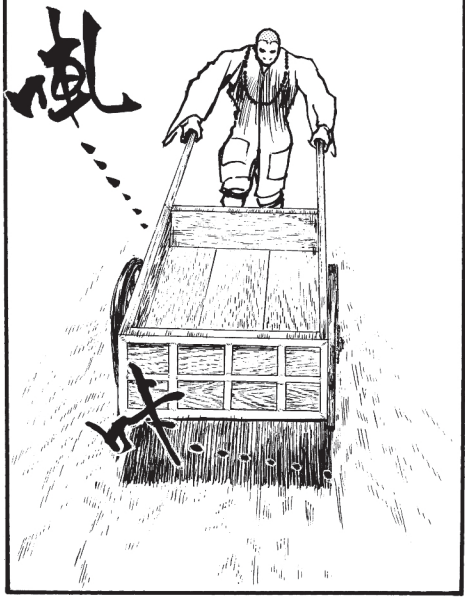

Here he was met compassionately by Venerable Wondrous Fruition.


Hsing Yun worked very hard in order to repay the great kindness of Wondrous Fruition.
TAT!
TAT!
TAT!


He worked very diligently.
ZOOM!

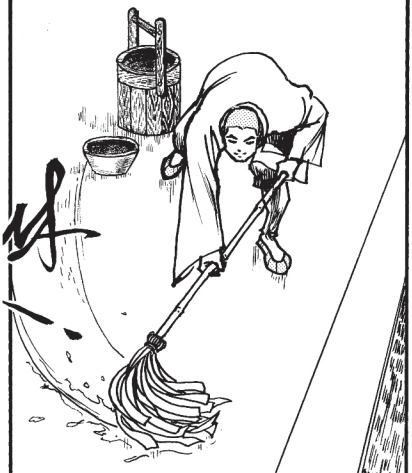

Daily, he drew 600 pails of water from the well for the 80 or so people who lived in the monastery.
PAT! PAT! PAT!
HURRY UP! HURRY UP!
HEY! YOU MIGHT BE A BIG GUY, BUT YOU SURE AREN'T VERY FAST!
GET A MOVE ON! I KNOW LAZY GUYS WHEN I SEE THEM!
PAT
Even before daybreak, Hsing Yun had already begun his trek to the market...

...pushing the temple handcart ten miles roundtrip in order to bring back needed supplies.

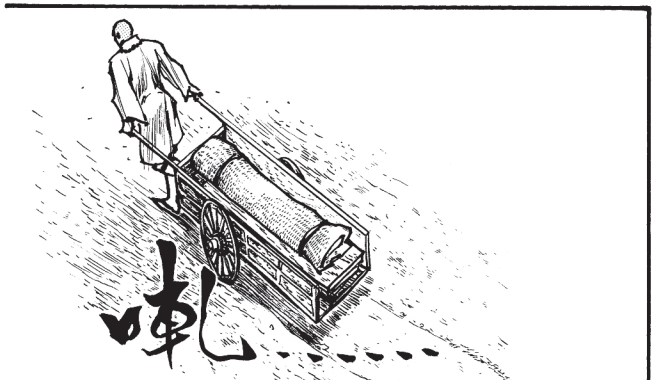




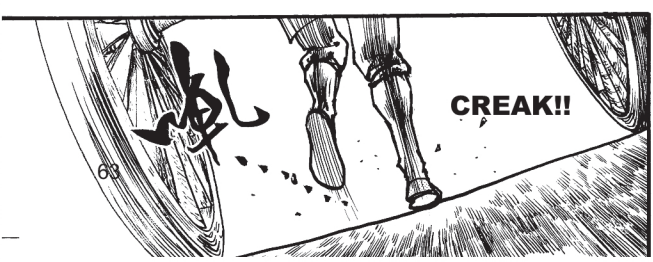


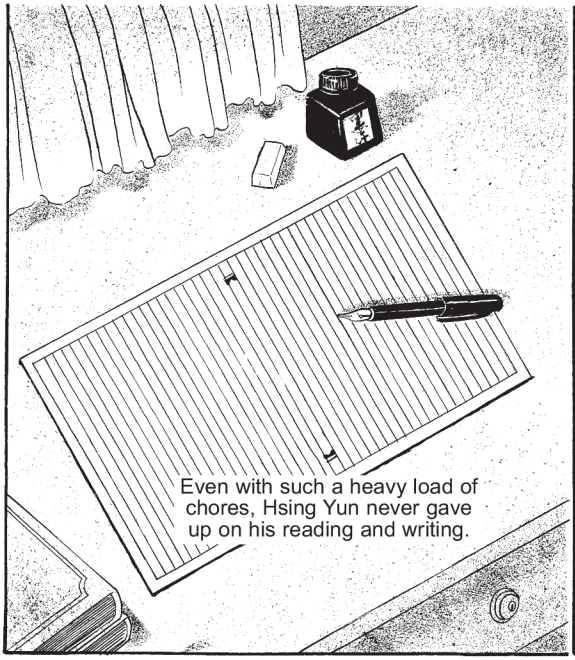


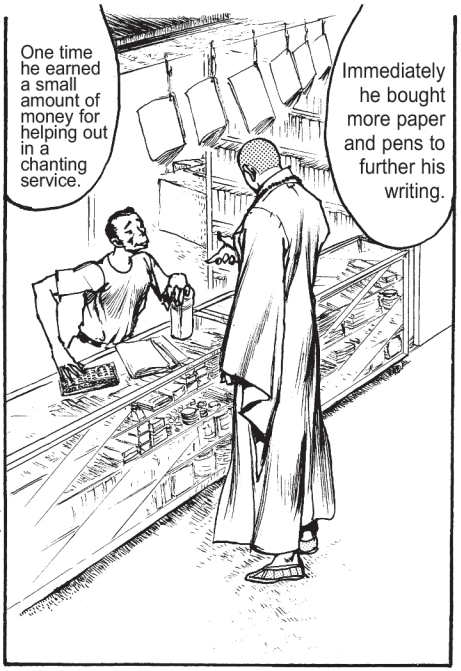
In the monastery, there weren't very many who were as young and strong as Hsing Yun.

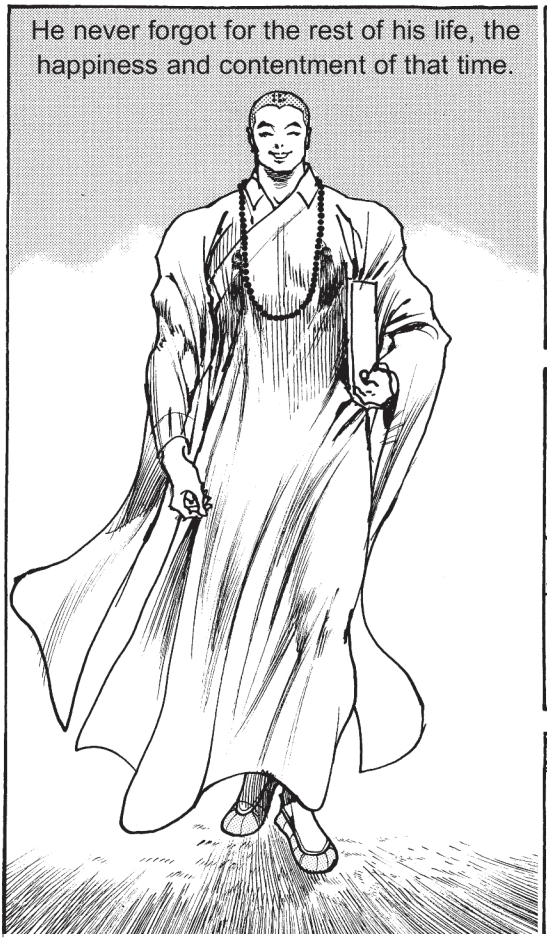


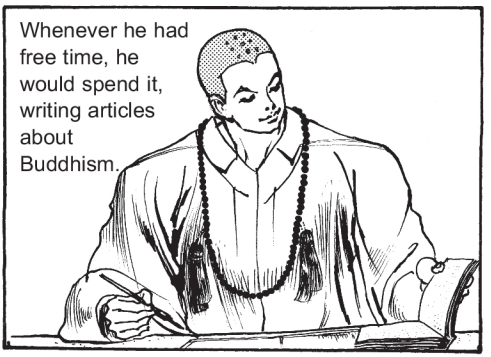
He did each of his chores with energy and attention, including cleaning the bathrooms and preparing bodies for burial.

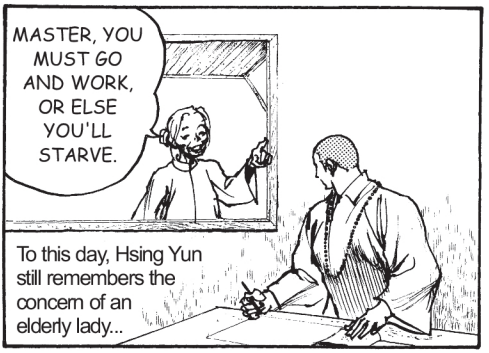



Even with such a heavy load of chores, Hsing Yun never gave up on his reading and writing.

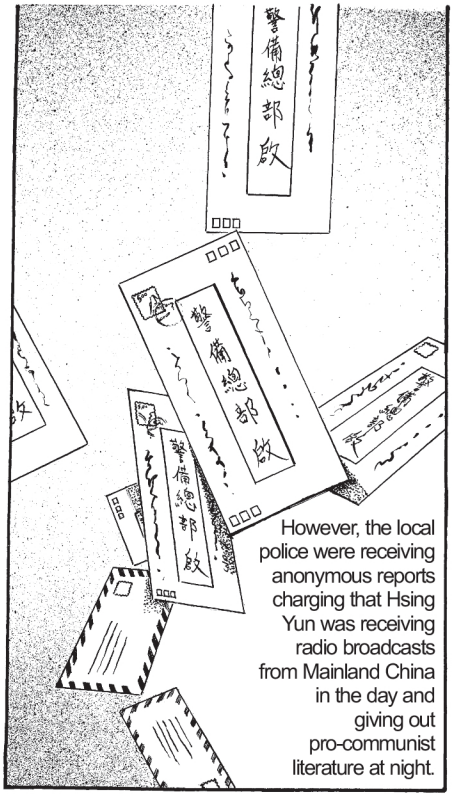

One time he earned a small amount of money for helping out in a chanting service.
Immediately he bought more paper and pens to further his writing.


He never forgot for the rest of his life, the happiness and contentment of that time.

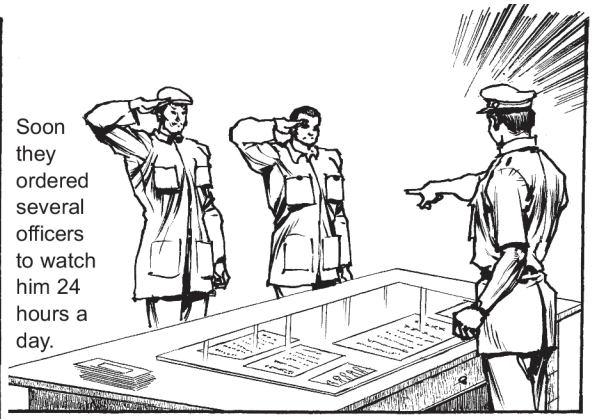

Whenever he had free time, he would spend it, writing articles about Buddhism.


MASTER, YOU MUST GO AND WORK, OR ELSE YOU'LL STARVE.
To this day, Hsing Yun still remembers the concern of an elderly lady...

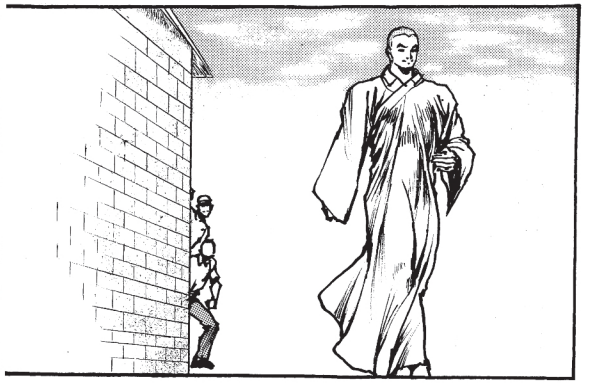


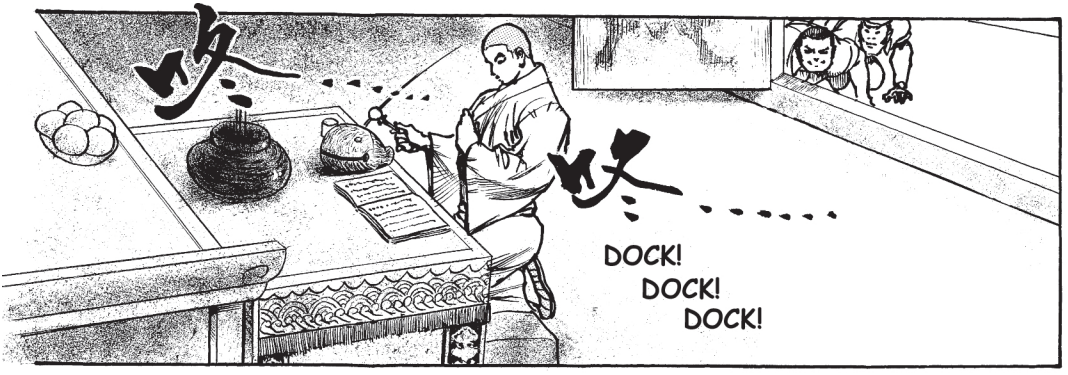


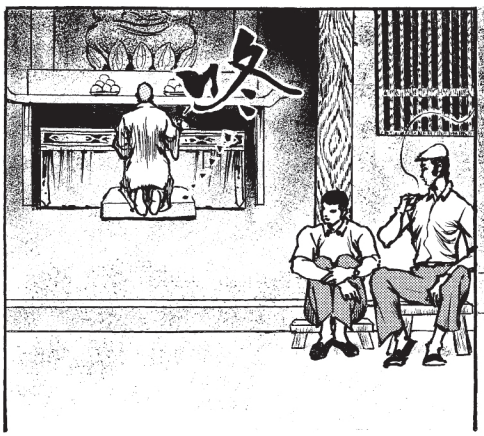
However, the local police were receiving anonymous reports charging that Hsing Yun was receiving radio broadcasts from Mainland China in the day and giving out pro-communist literature at night.

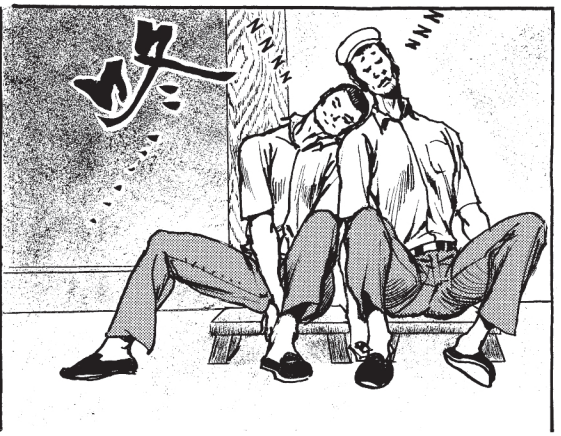


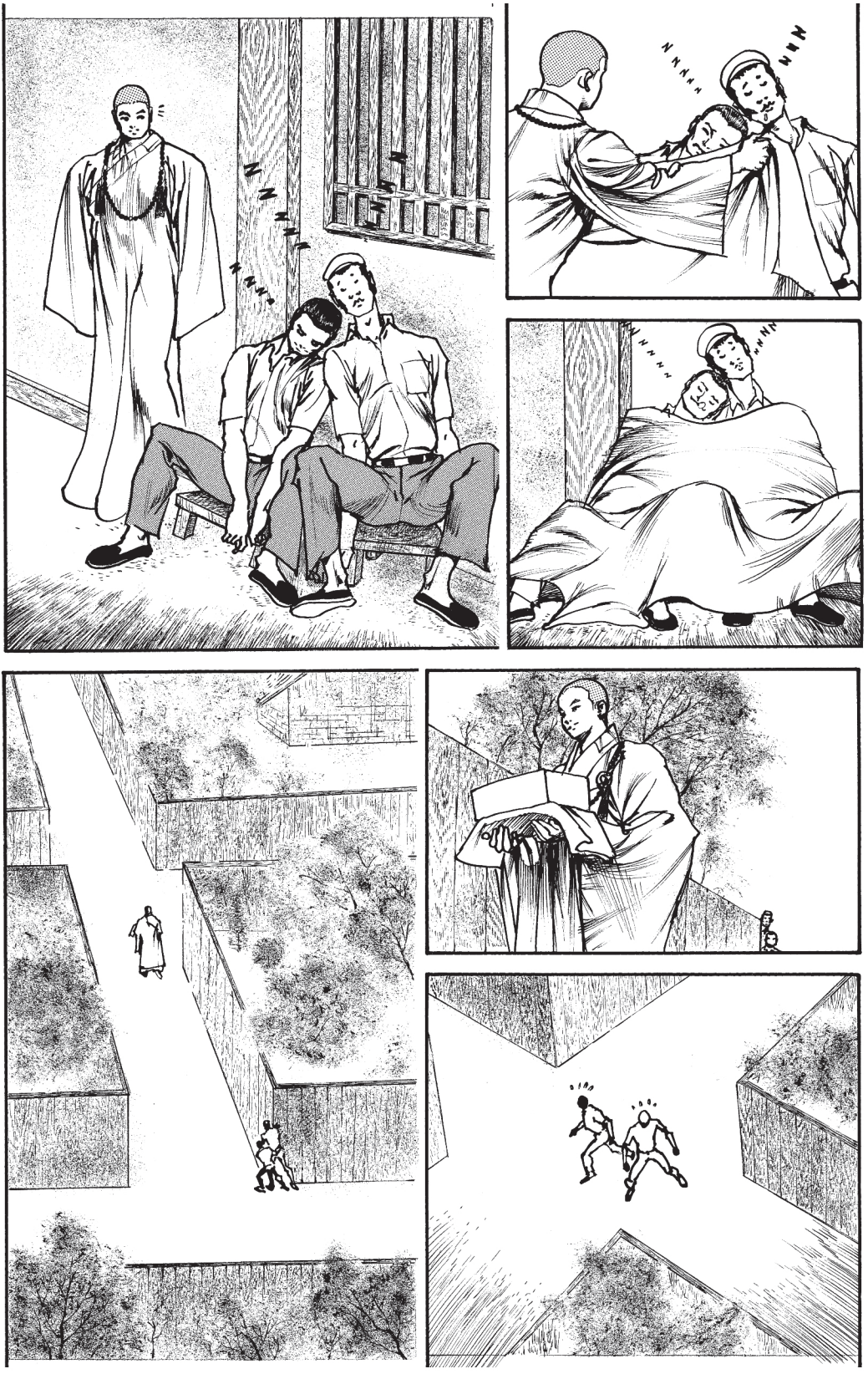
Soon they ordered several officers to watch him 24 hours a day.

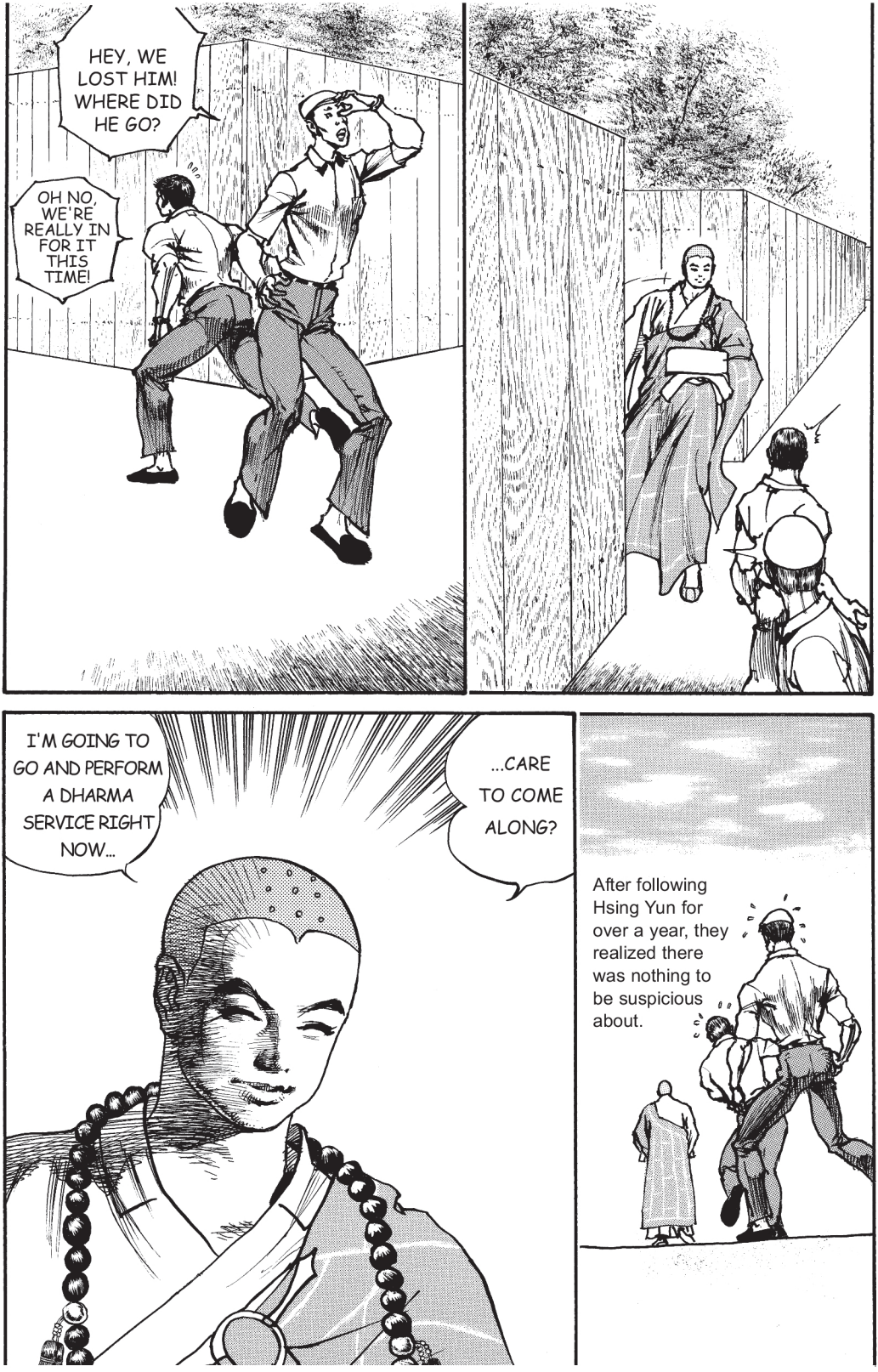


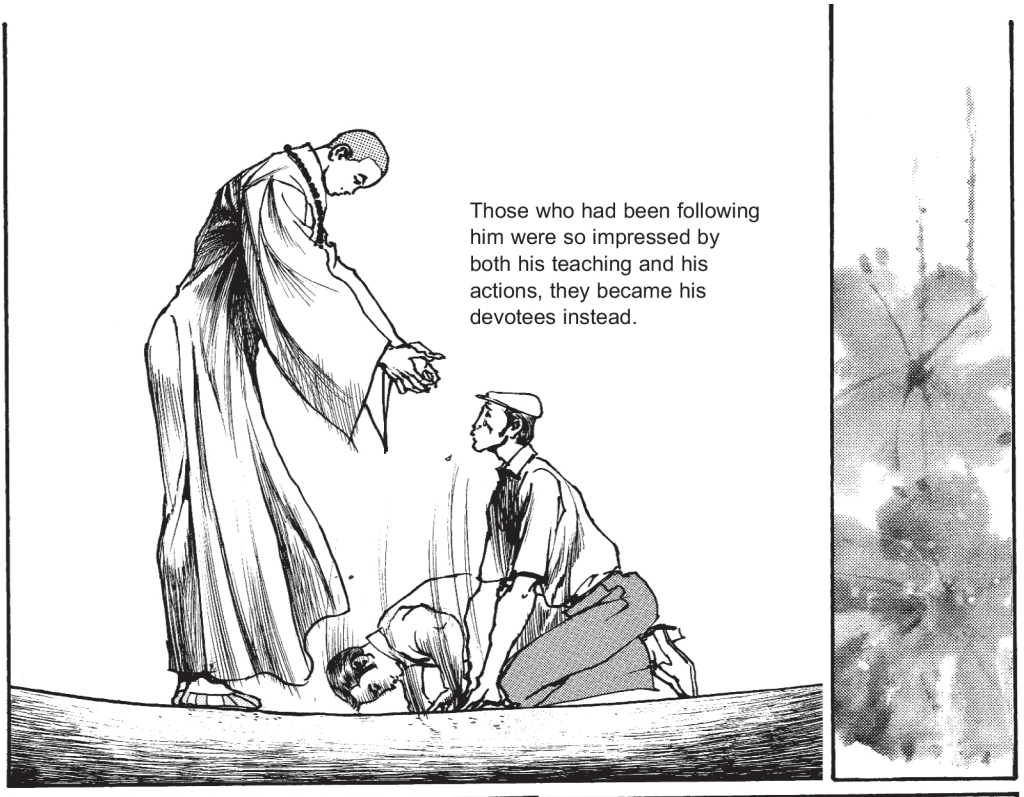


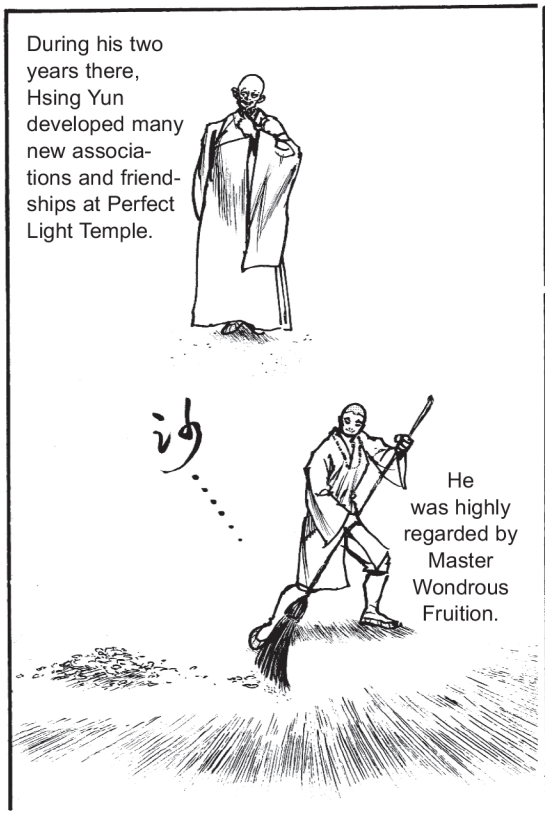


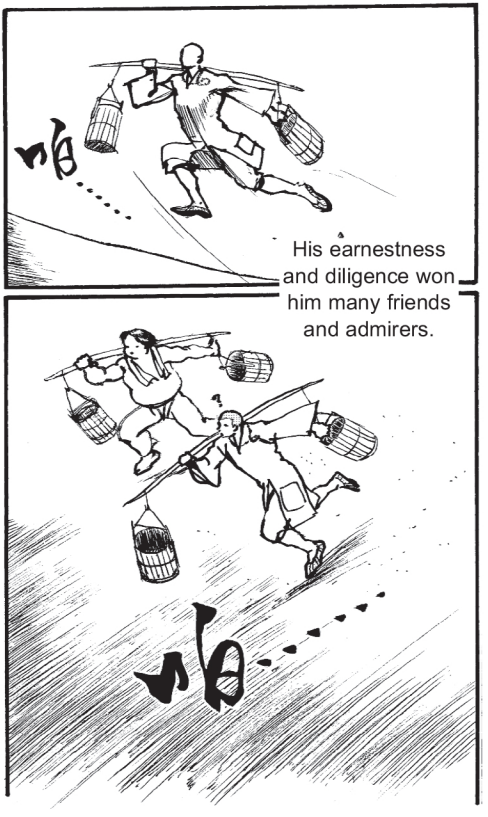


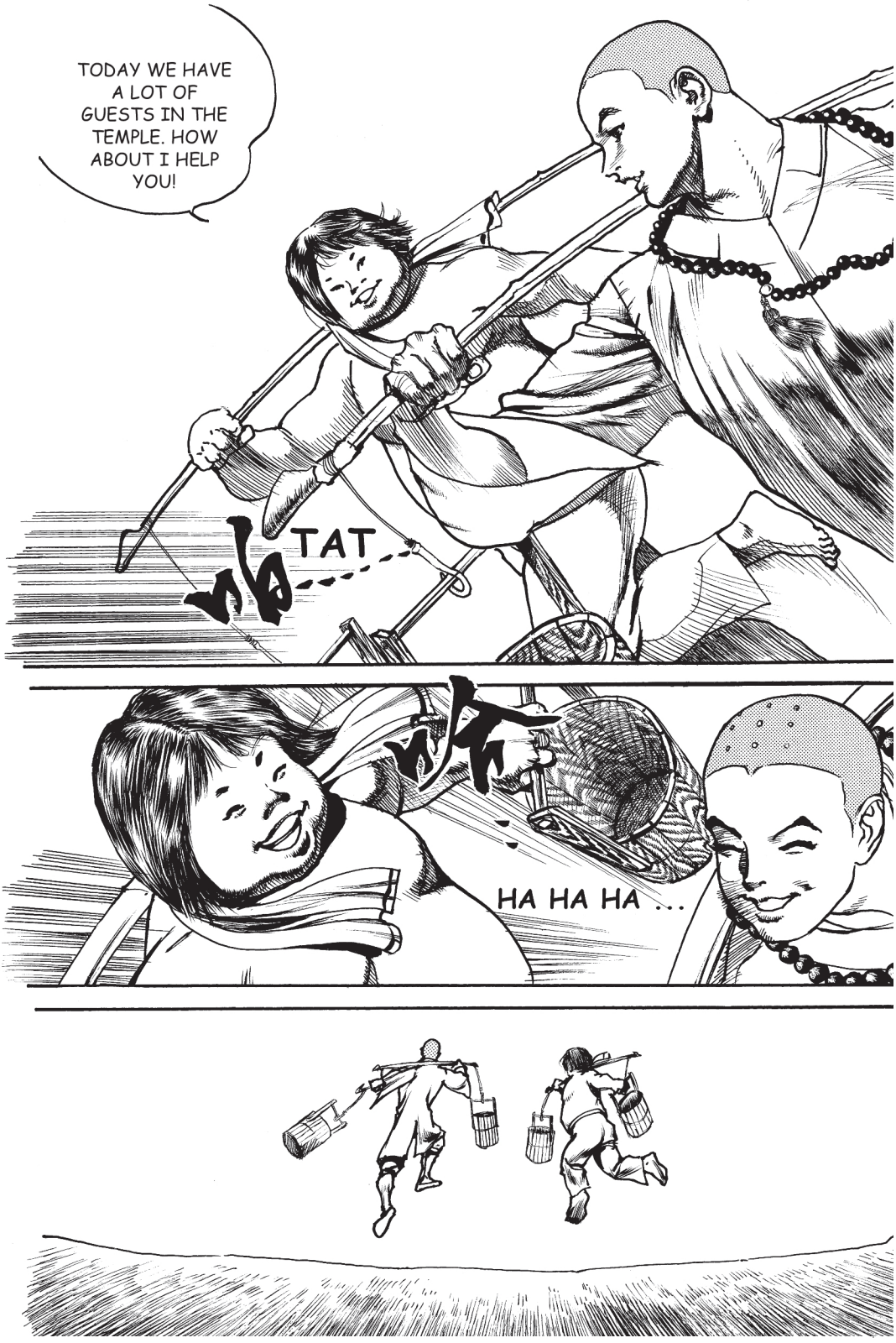


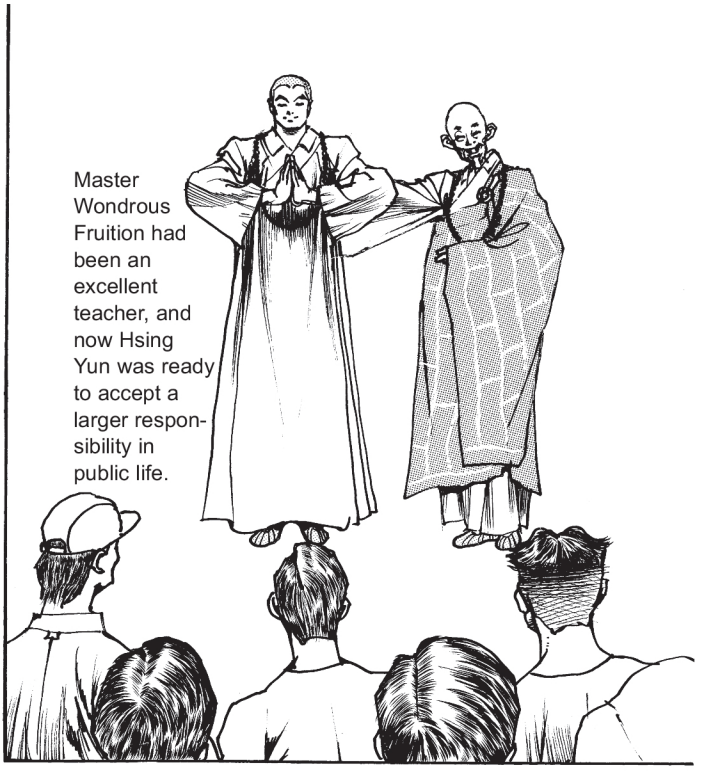

HEY, WE LOST HIM! WHERE DID HE GO?
OH NO, WE'RE REALLY IN FOR IT THIS TIME!
I'M GOING TO GO AND PERFORM A DHARMA SERVICE RIGHT NOW...
...CARE TO COME ALONG?
After following Hsing Yun for over a year, they realized there was nothing to be suspicious about.


Those who had been following him were so impressed by both his teaching and his actions, they became his devotees instead.

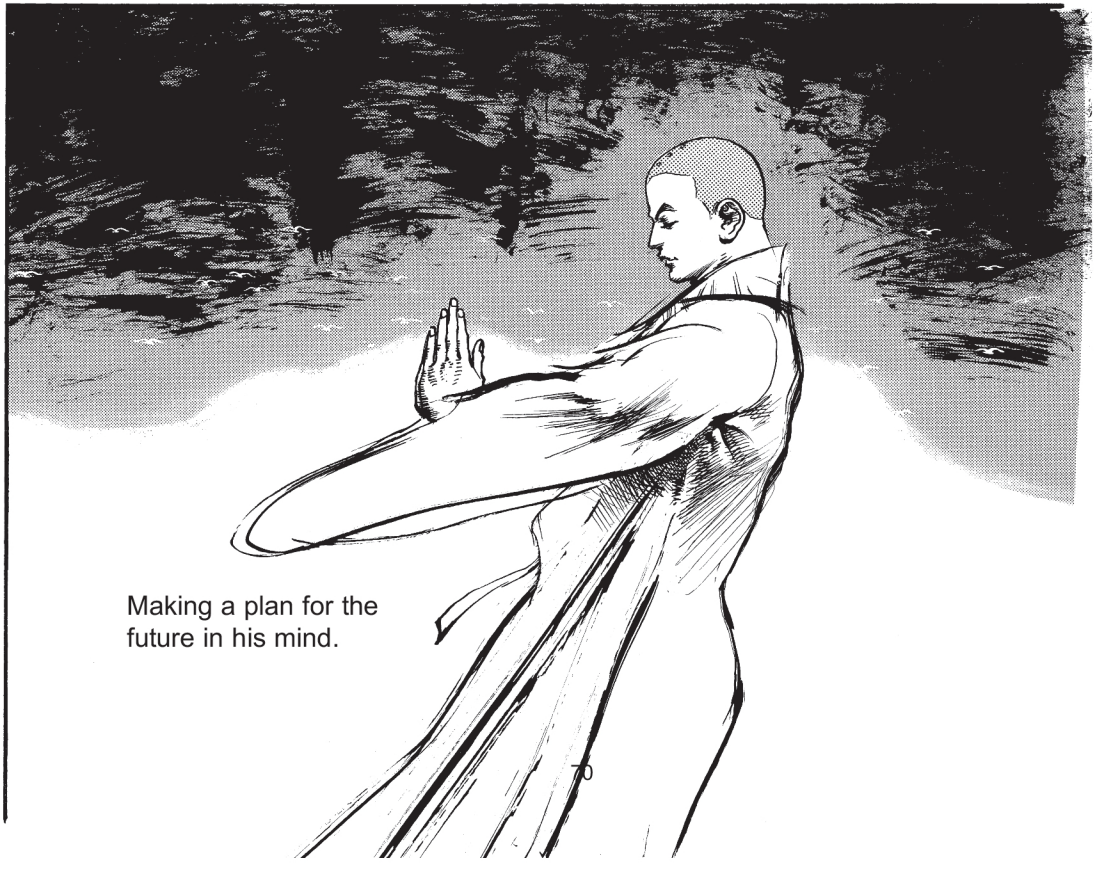

During his two years there, Hsing Yun developed many new associations and friendships at Perfect Light Temple.
He was highly regarded by Master Wondrous Fruition.


His earnestness and diligence won him many friends and admirers.


TODAY WE HAVE A LOT OF GUESTS IN THE TEMPLE. HOW ABOUT I HELP YOU!
TAT
HA HA HA ...

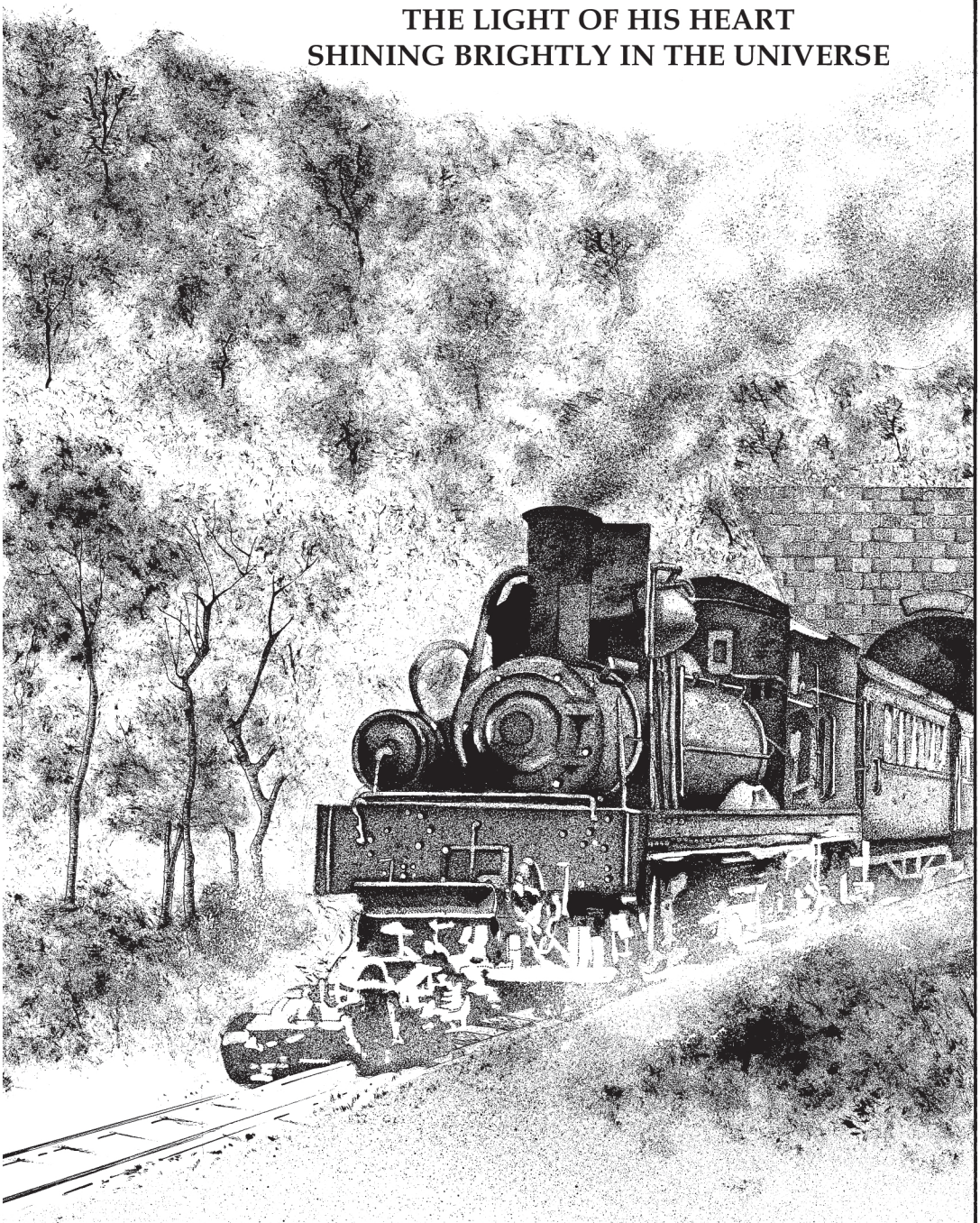

Master Wondrous Fruition had been an excellent teacher, and now Hsing Yun was ready to accept a larger responsibility in public life.

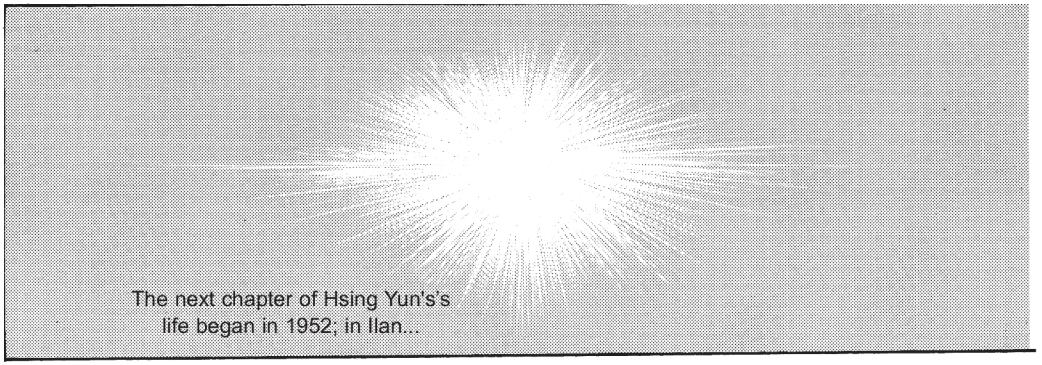

By observing the goings-on around him, Hsing Yun developed compassion and understanding for the people and place...


Making a plan for the future in his mind.

Part III

THE LIGHT OF HIS HEART SHINING BRIGHTLY IN THE UNIVERSE

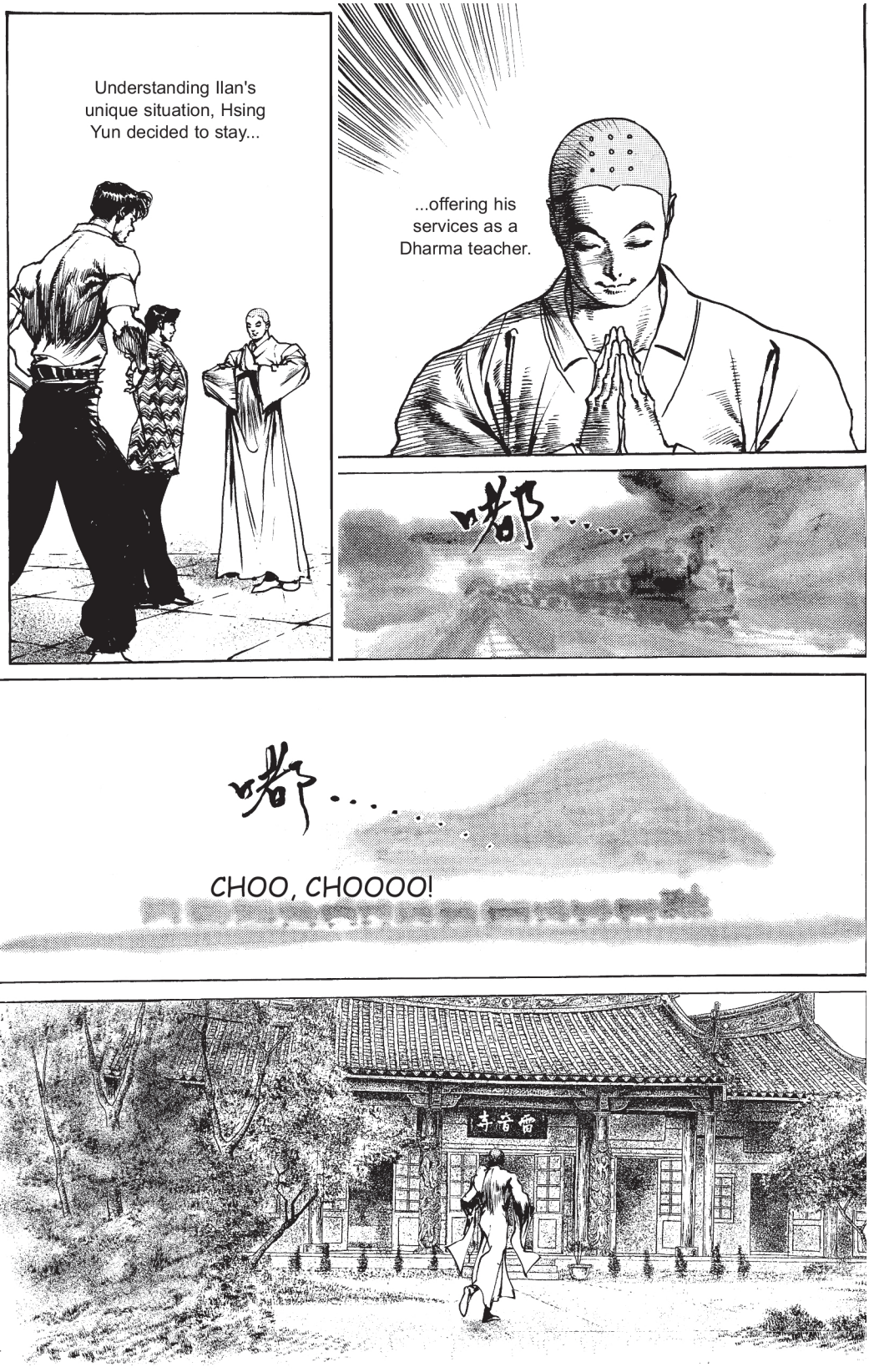


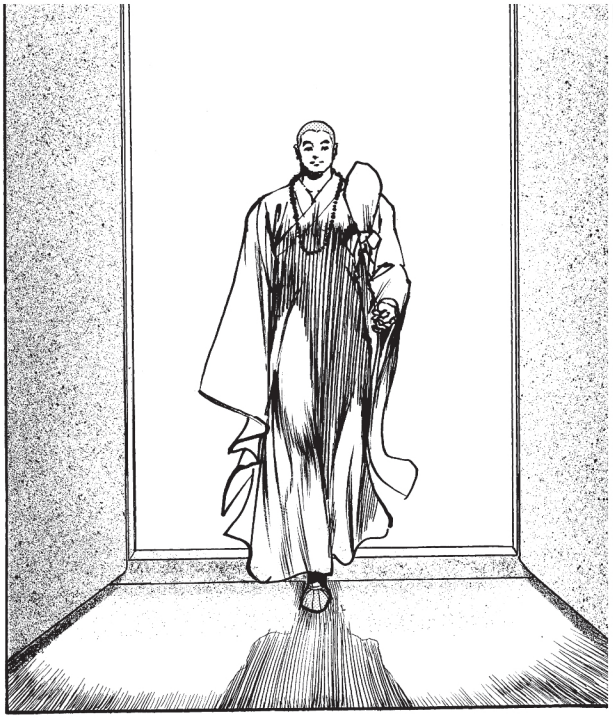

The next chapter of Hsing Yun's's life began in 1952, in Ilan...


...when the local Buddhists asked him to come and teach.

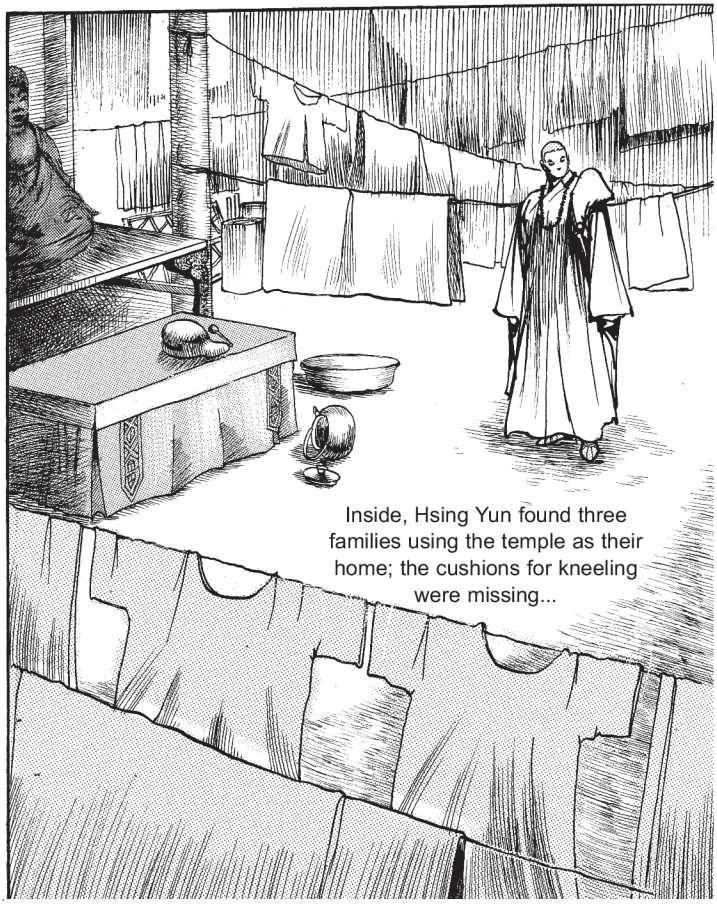

Traveling to Ilan, in those days, was difficult. Ilan was a poor and remote city. After one visit, most Dharma teachers would never return.

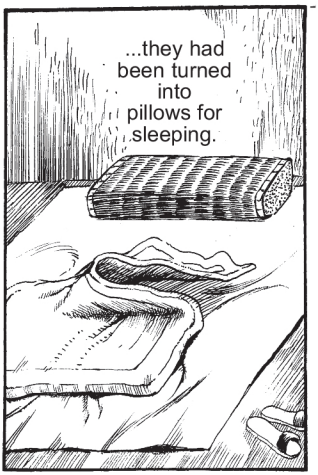



Understanding Ilan's unique situation, Hsing Yun decided to stay...
...offering his services as a Dharma teacher.
嗡.....
嗡.....
CHOO, CHOOOO!
寺音香

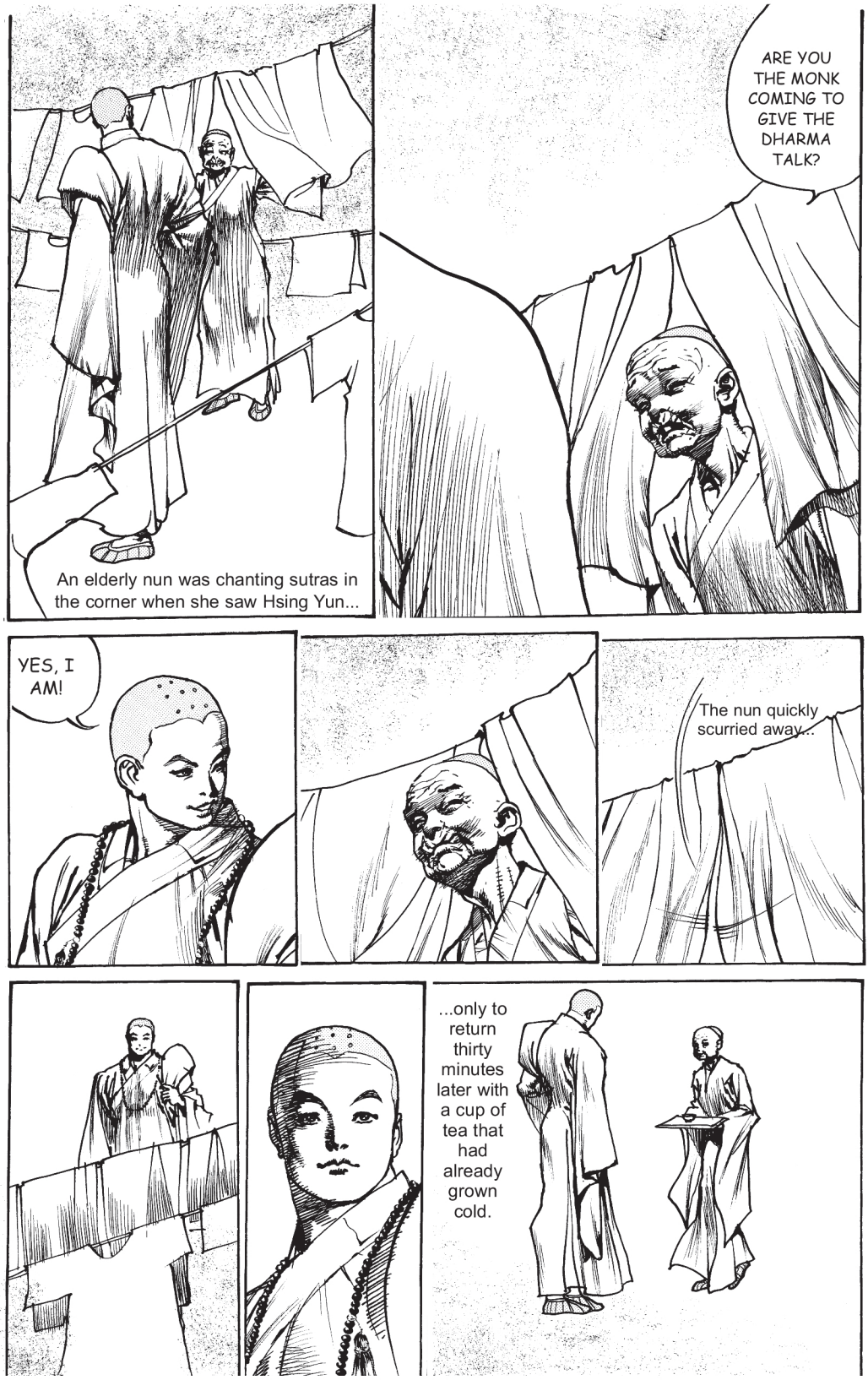


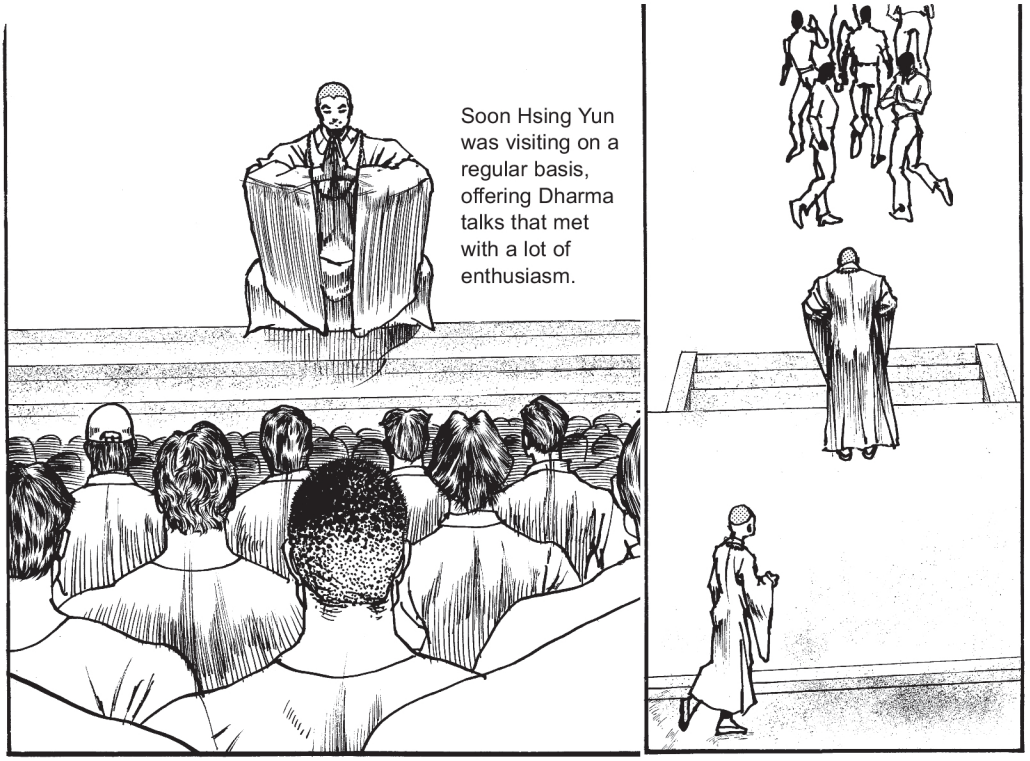

Touring the temple for the first time, Hsing Yun could see why no other Dharma teacher had been willing to stay.

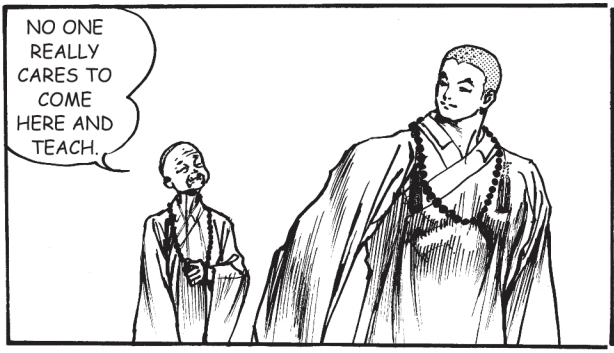

Inside, Hsing Yun found three families using the temple as their home; the cushions for kneeling were missing...

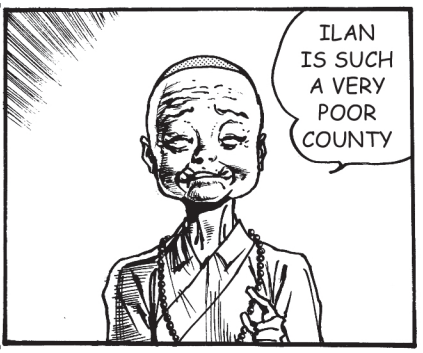

...they had been turned into pillows for sleeping.

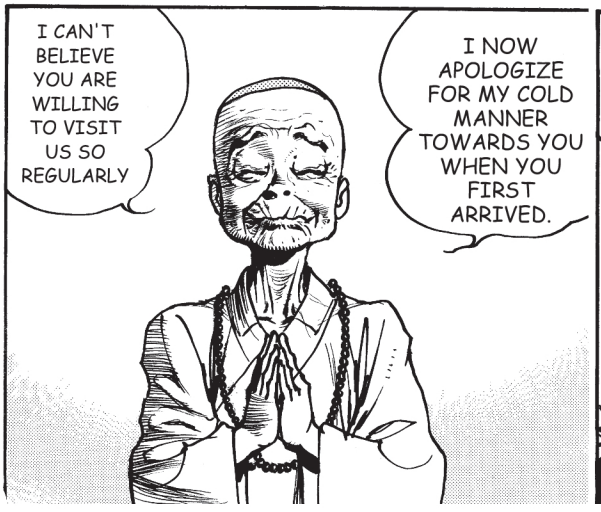

Clothing and shoes were scattered everywhere!

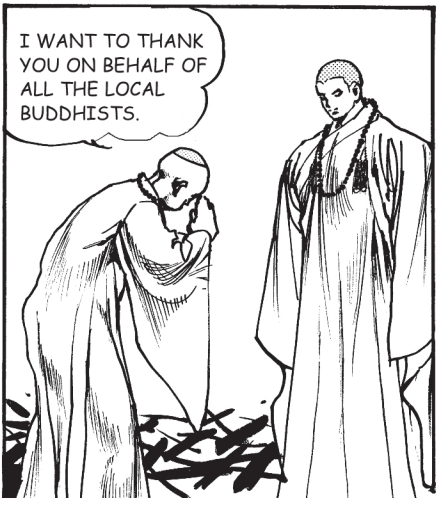

An elderly nun was chanting sutras in the corner when she saw Hsing Yun...
ARE YOU THE MONK COMING TO GIVE THE DHARMA TALK?
YES, I AM!
The nun quickly scurried away...
...only to return thirty minutes later with a cup of tea that had already grown cold.


Soon Hsing Yun was visiting on a regular basis, offering Dharma talks that met with a lot of enthusiasm.

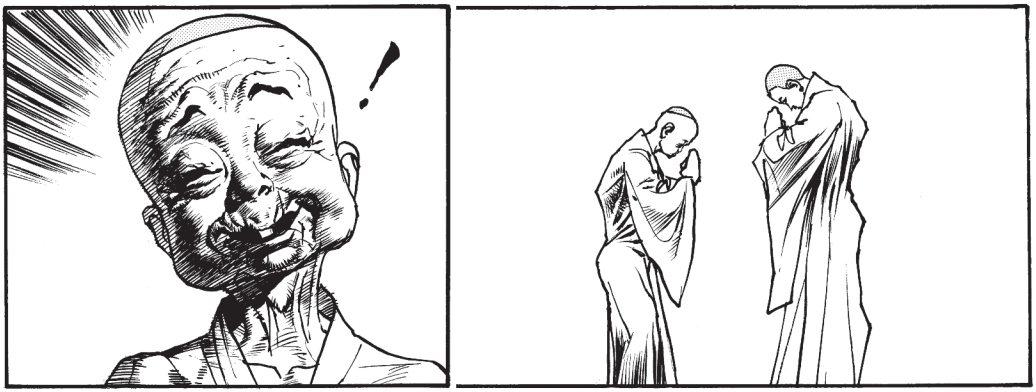

NO ONE REALLY CARES TO COME HERE AND TEACH.

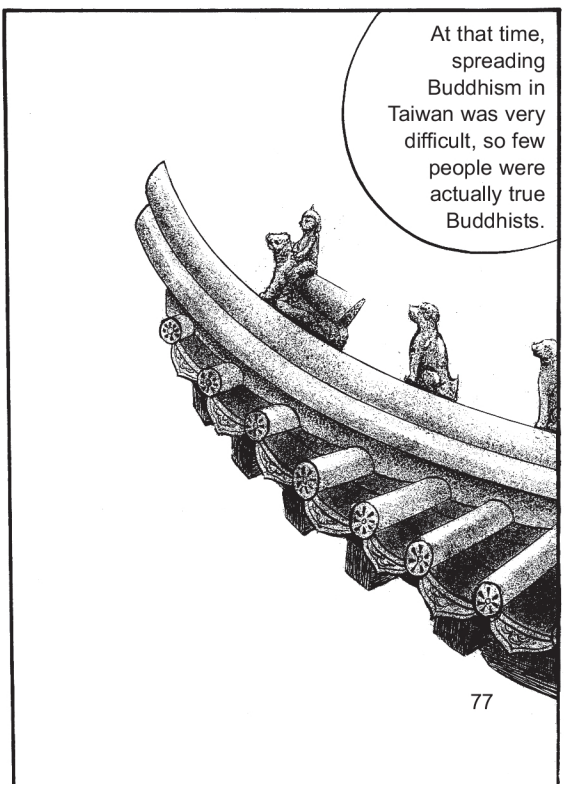

ILAN IS SUCH A VERY POOR COUNTY

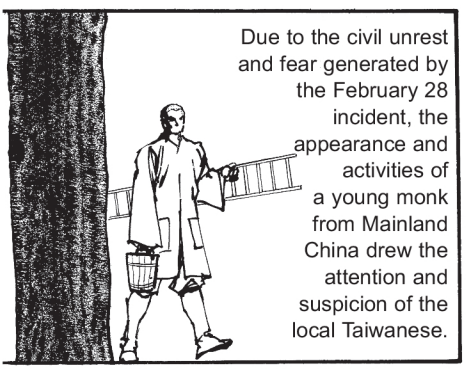

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ARE WILLING TO VISIT US SO REGULARLY
I NOW APOLOGIZE FOR MY COLD MANNER TOWARDS YOU WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED.

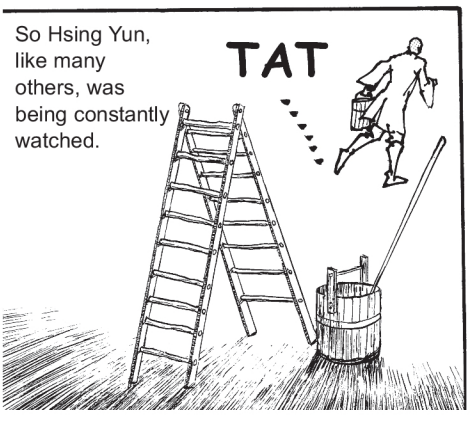

I WANT TO THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF ALL THE LOCAL BUDDHISTS.

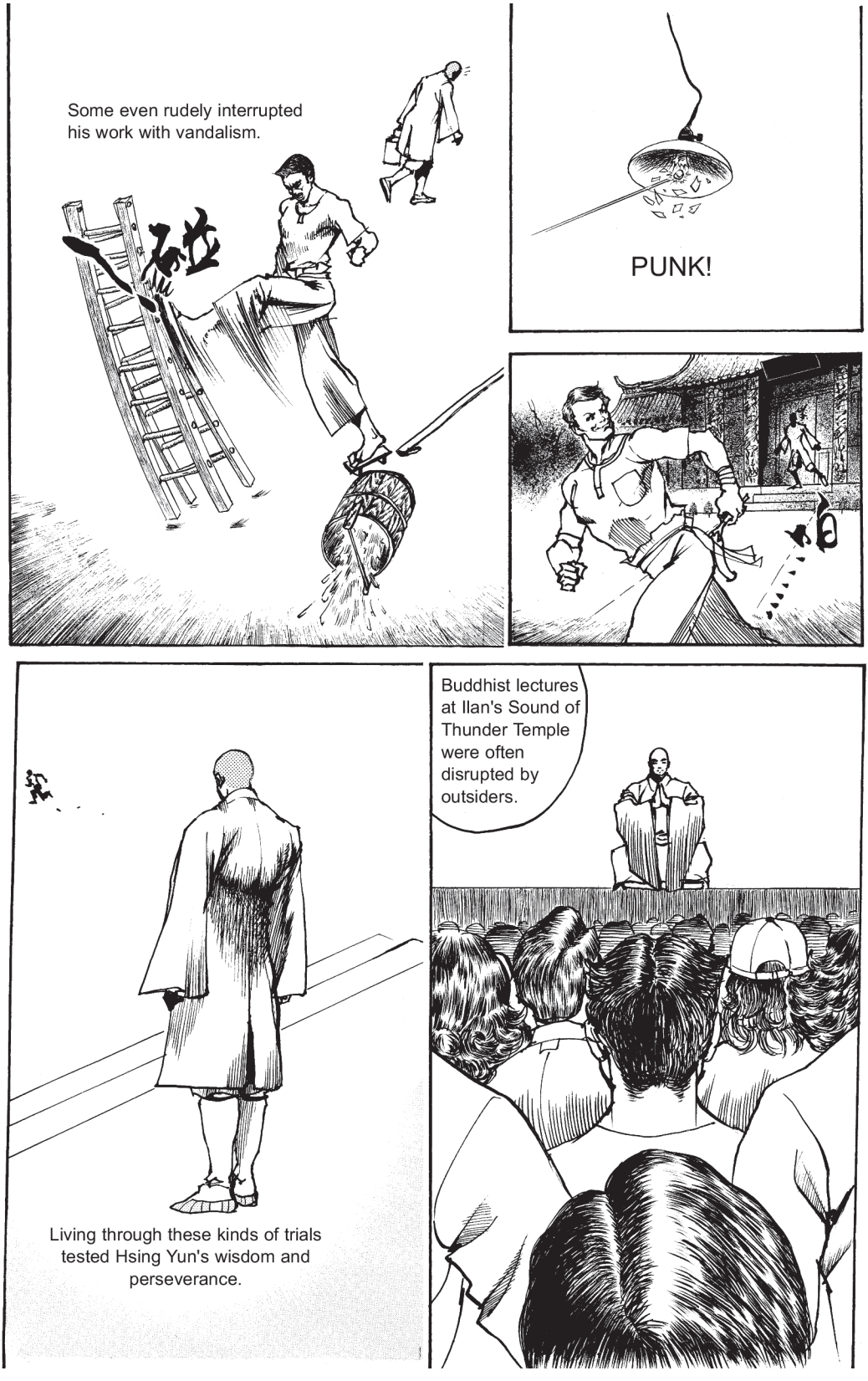

ABBESS, PLEASE DON'T EVEN MENTION IT.
THE PEOPLE OF ILAN ARE VERY SWEET AND SIMPLE.
I HAVE DECIDED TO STAY HERE!

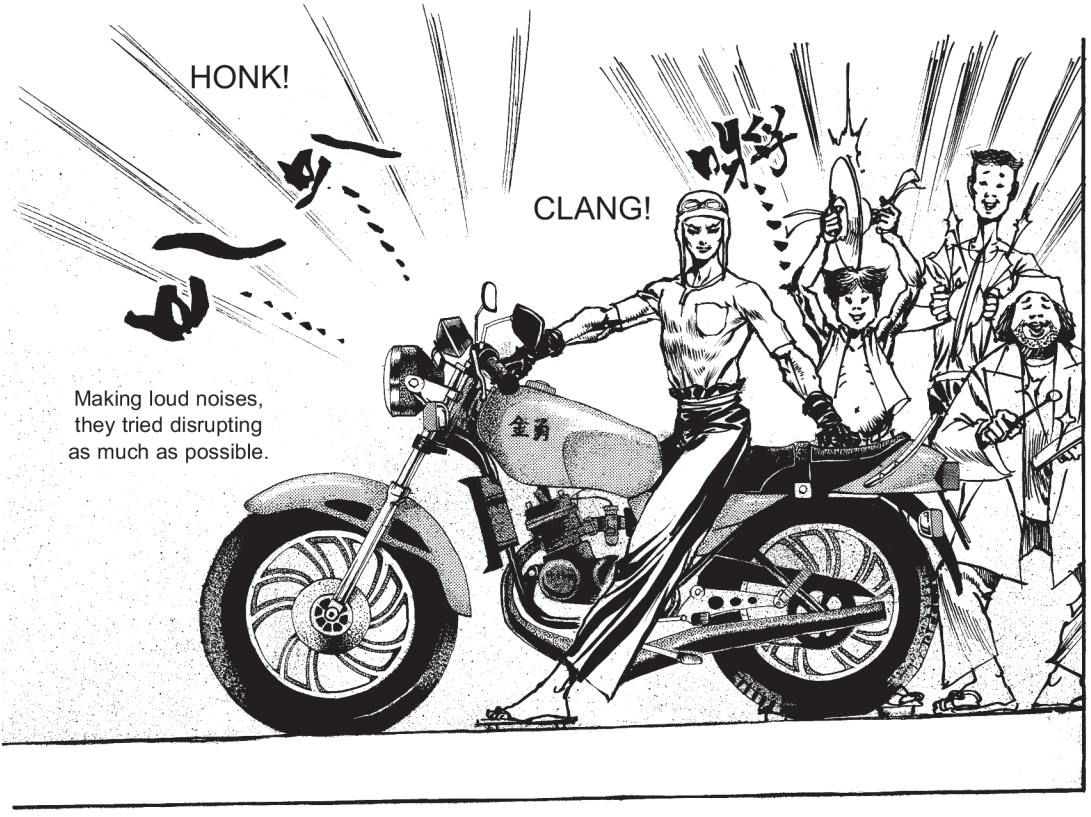

!


At that time, spreading Buddhism in Taiwan was very difficult, so few people were actually true Buddhists.

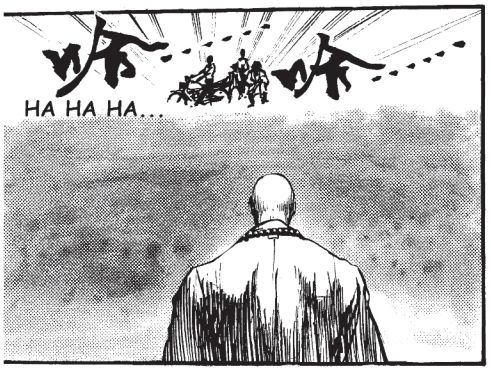

Due to the civil unrest and fear generated by the February 28 incident, the appearance and activities of a young monk from Mainland China drew the attention and suspicion of the local Taiwanese.

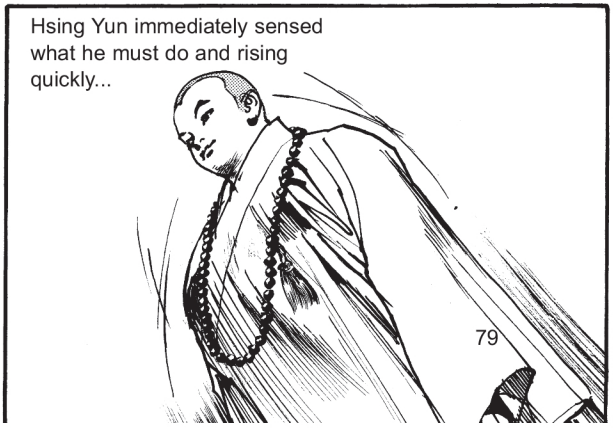

So Hsing Yun, like many others, was being constantly watched.
TAT

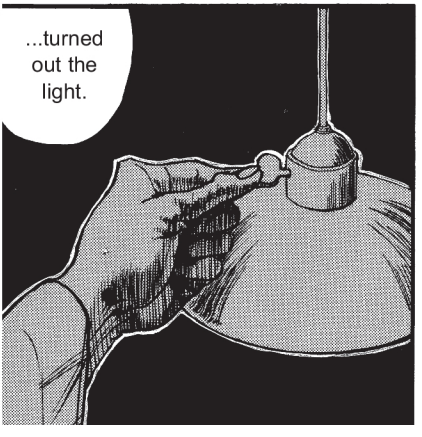

Some even rudely interrupted his work with vandalism.
PUNK!
Buddhist lectures at Ilan's Sound of Thunder Temple were often disrupted by outsiders.
Living through these kinds of trials tested Hsing Yun's wisdom and perseverance.

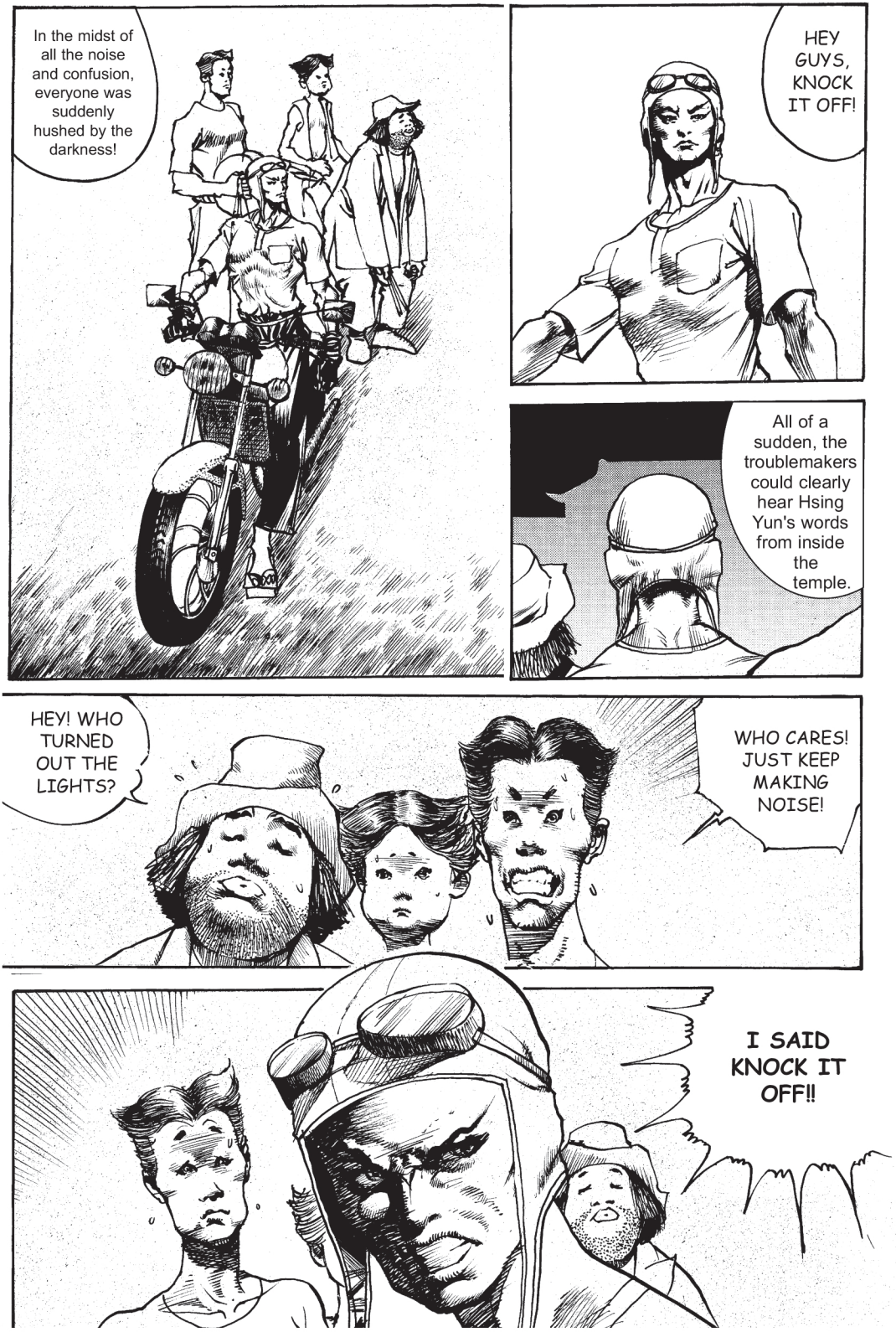

HONK!
CLANG!
Making loud noises, they tried disrupting as much as possible.



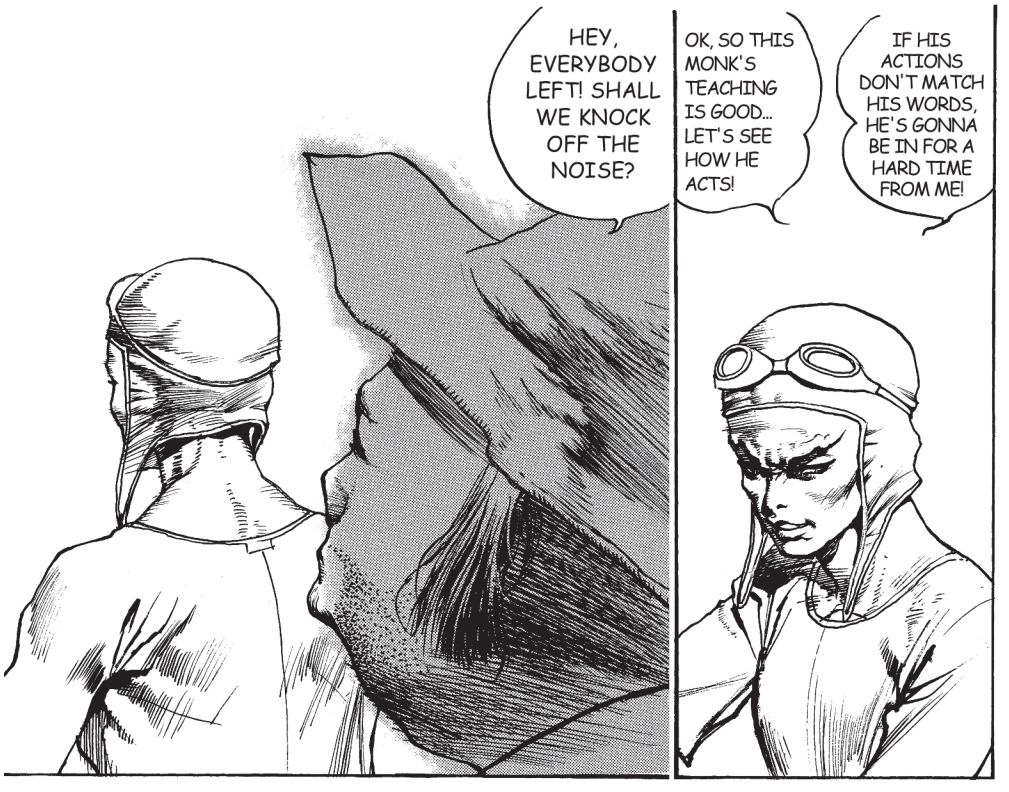

HA HA HA...


Hsing Yun immediately sensed what he must do and rising quickly...


...turned out the light.


In the midst of all the noise and confusion, everyone was suddenly hushed by the darkness!
HEY GUYS, KNOCK IT OFF!
All of a sudden, the troublemakers could clearly hear Hsing Yun's words from inside the temple.
HEY! WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?
WHO CARES! JUST KEEP MAKING NOISE!
I SAID KNOCK IT OFF!!


EVEN THOUGH THIS GUY IS NOT FROM TAIWAN, HE DOESN'T ACT LIKE THE USUAL OUTSIDER...
HIS WORDS AREN'T HALF BAD!
Everyone listened while Hsing Yun spoke.
After awhile, Hsing Yun finished.
HEY! LET'S GO!



Although in Ilan only a short time...

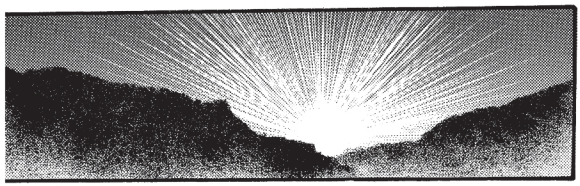


...Hsing Yun came to understand the customs and character of the people.

He realized that if these people could accept Buddhism, they would become excellent future disciples.

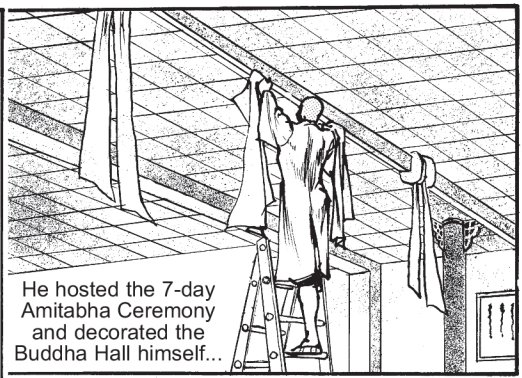






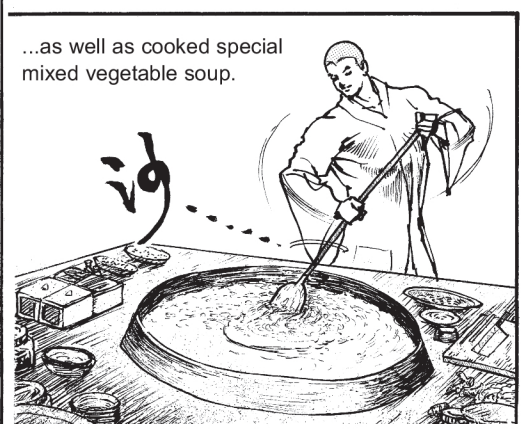
Although young and all alone, Hsing Yun managed to do the work of five people. He was constantly busy, both outside and inside the temple.

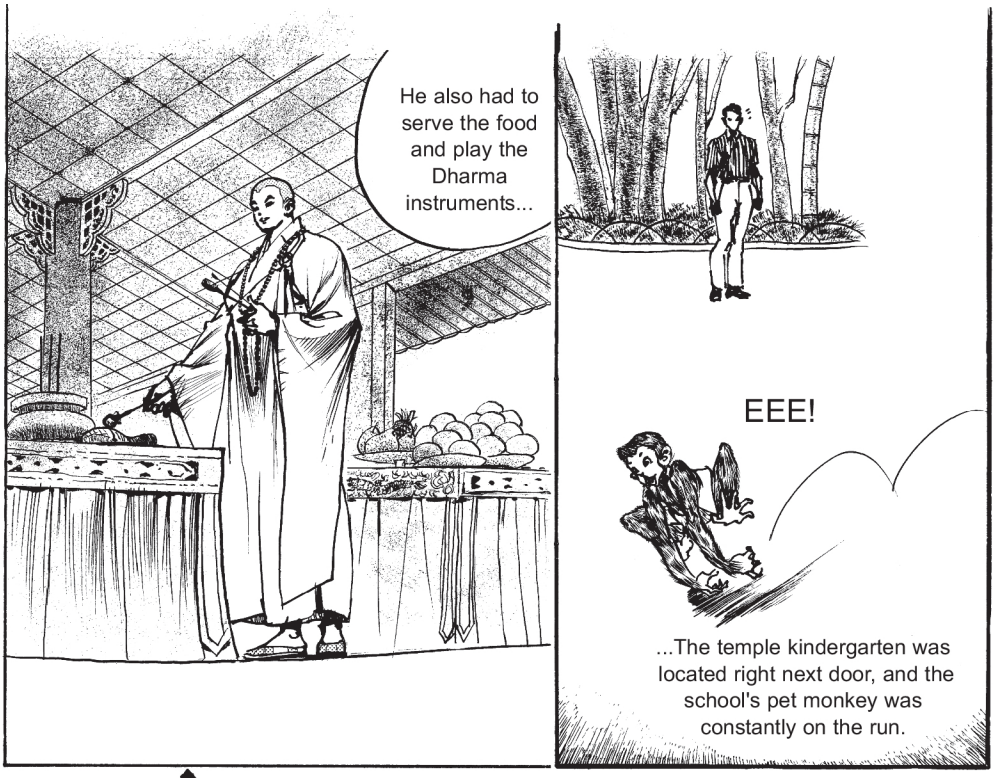


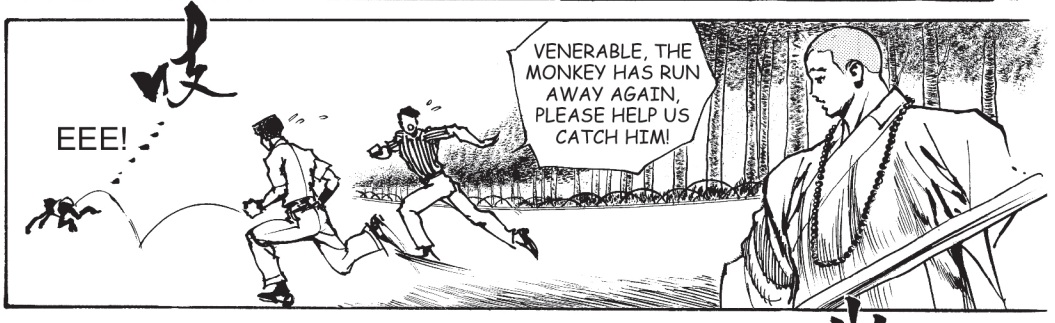


He hosted the 7-day Amitabha Ceremony and decorated the Buddha Hall himself...

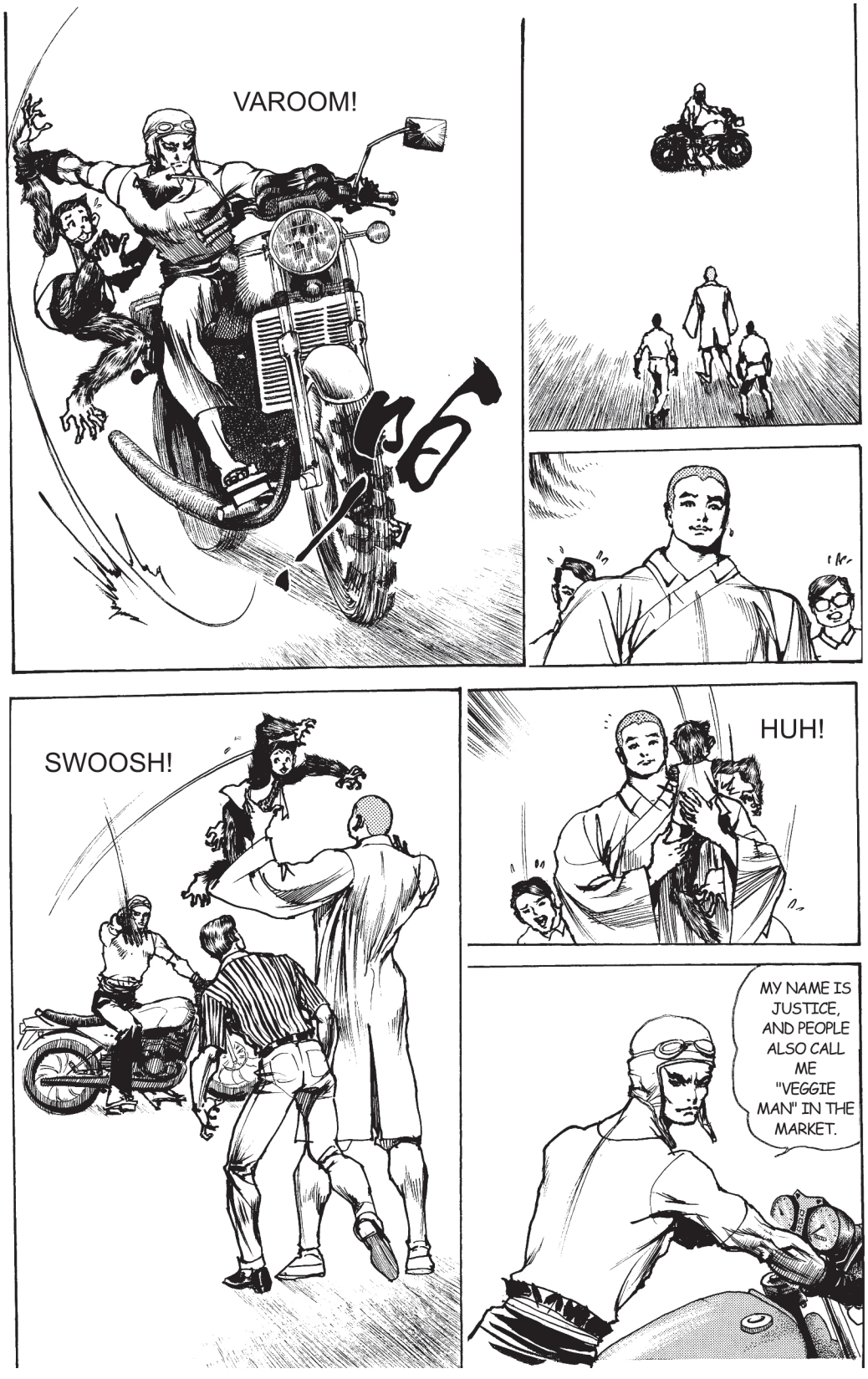
...as well as cooked special mixed vegetable soup.



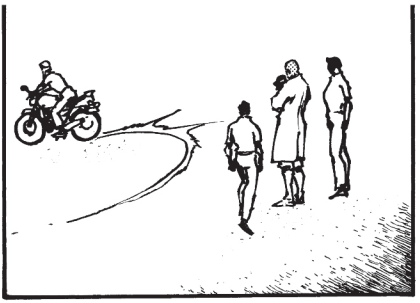

He also had to serve the food and play the Dharma instruments...
EEE!
...The temple kindergarten was located right next door, and the school's pet monkey was constantly on the run.

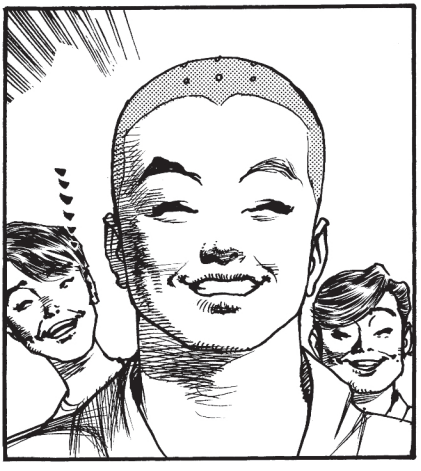

吱
EEE!
VENERABLE, THE MONKEY HAS RUN AWAY AGAIN, PLEASE HELP US CATCH HIM!


吱!
EEE!
咻

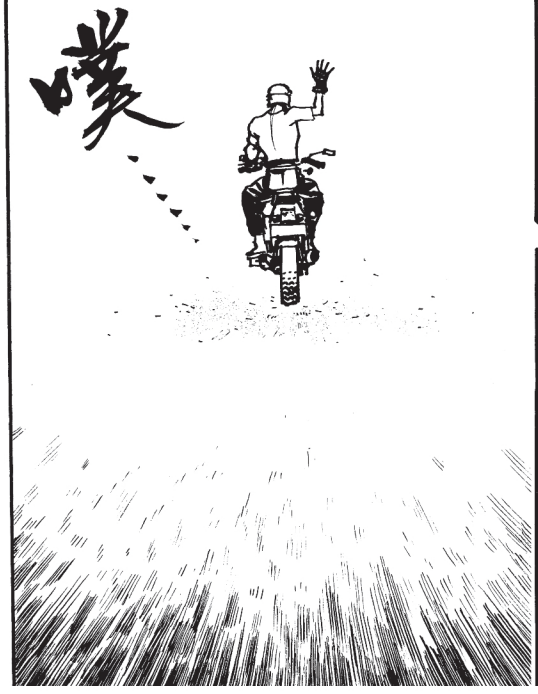

VAROOM!
SWOOSH!
HUH!
MY NAME IS JUSTICE, AND PEOPLE ALSO CALL ME "VEGGIE MAN" IN THE MARKET.

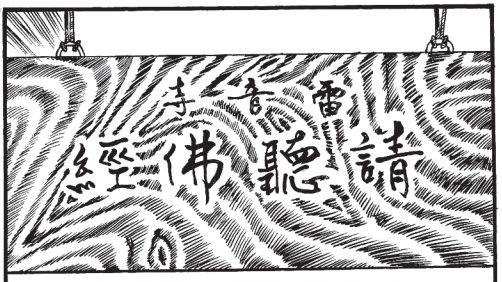






Soon all of Ilan was touched by the dedicated hard work of the young Hsing Yun.





SOUND OF THUNDER TEMPLE
"You are welcome to join us for a Buddhist lecture."

In order to spread Buddhism among the local people, Hsing Yun established Buddhist chanting sessions.




EVERYONE IS INVITED TO COME HEAR A BUDDHIST LECTURE!
PLEASE COME AND LISTEN TO THE BUDDHIST SUTRAS!
PLEASE COME AND LISTEN TO THE BUDDHIST SUTRAS!
As soon as the Buddhist chanting sessions were established, more and more people joined every day..
...Hsing Yun also offered Buddhist lectures on a regular basis.

Next on his agenda was attracting and educating young people...Hsing Yun himself did not have a very good ear for music.

...and gathering in order to make friends.

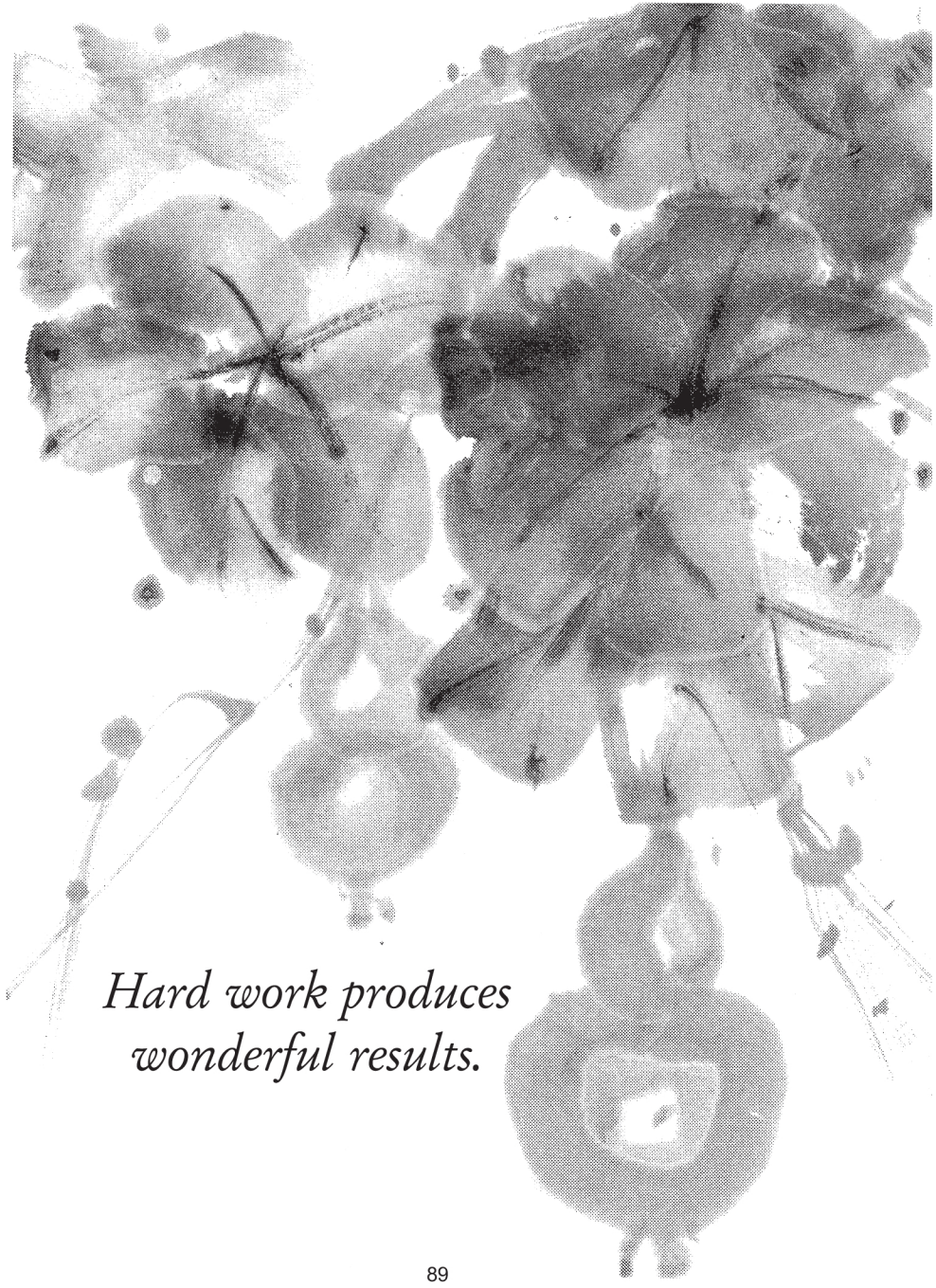
But he knew that the young liked music and singing...

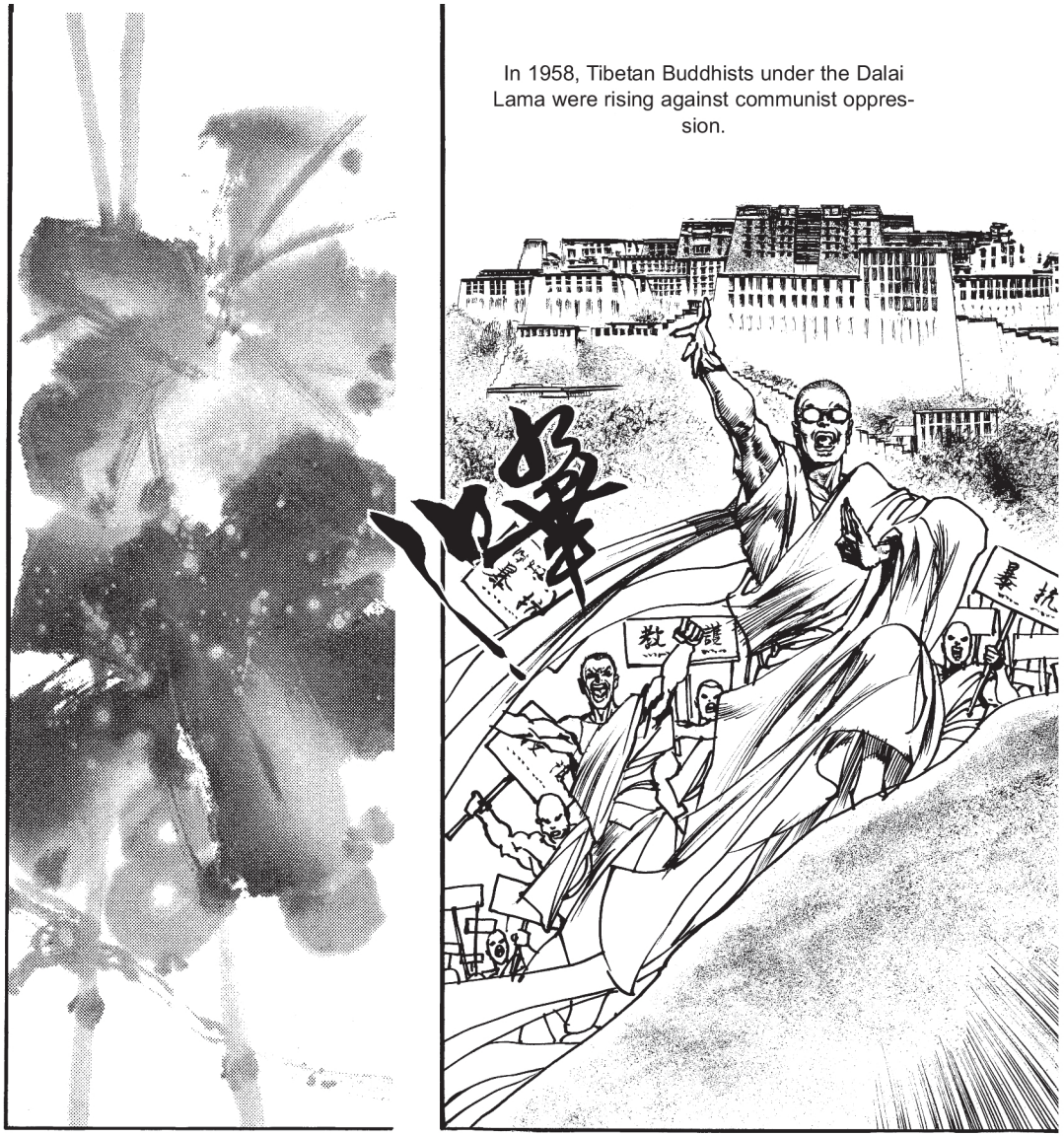
Hsing Yun soon established the very first Buddhist choir in Taiwan.

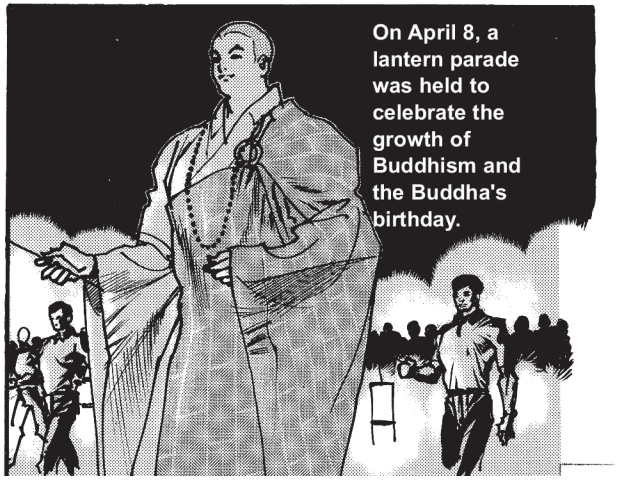
He was actually planting the seeds for the next Buddhist generation.

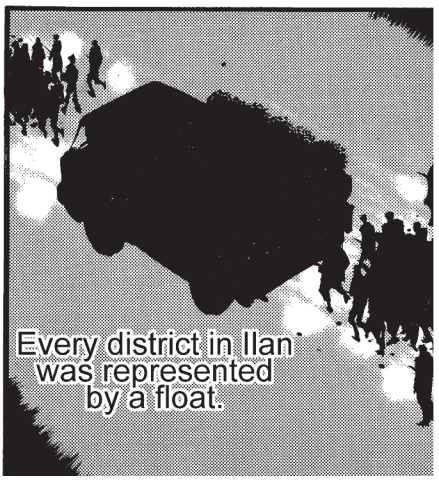
Special tutoring groups were formed for junior and senior high school students.

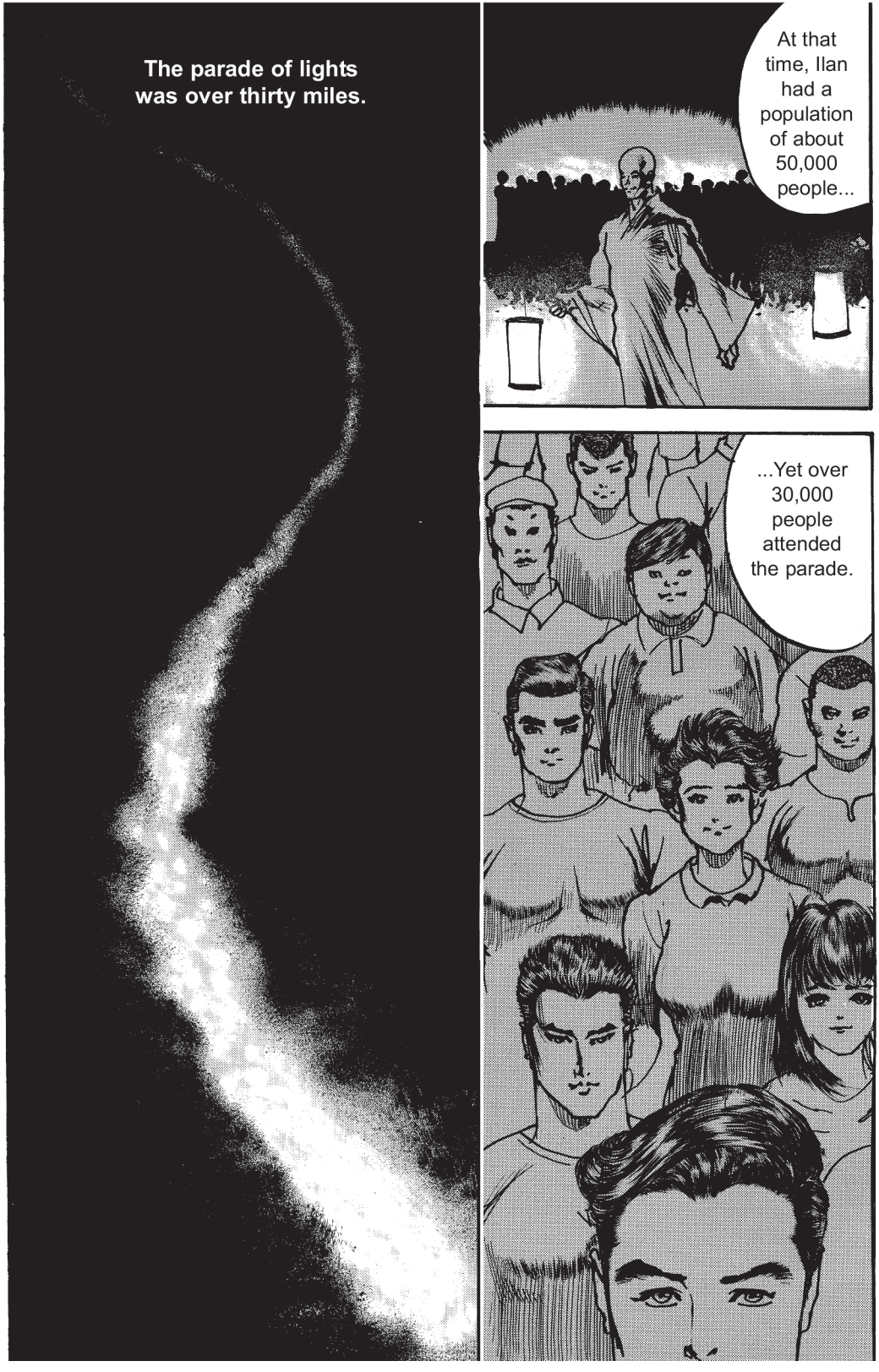
The students were quite poor and unable to pay the usual tutorial fees. Hsing Yun invited a teacher to instruct them free of charge.


Hard work produces
wonderful results.

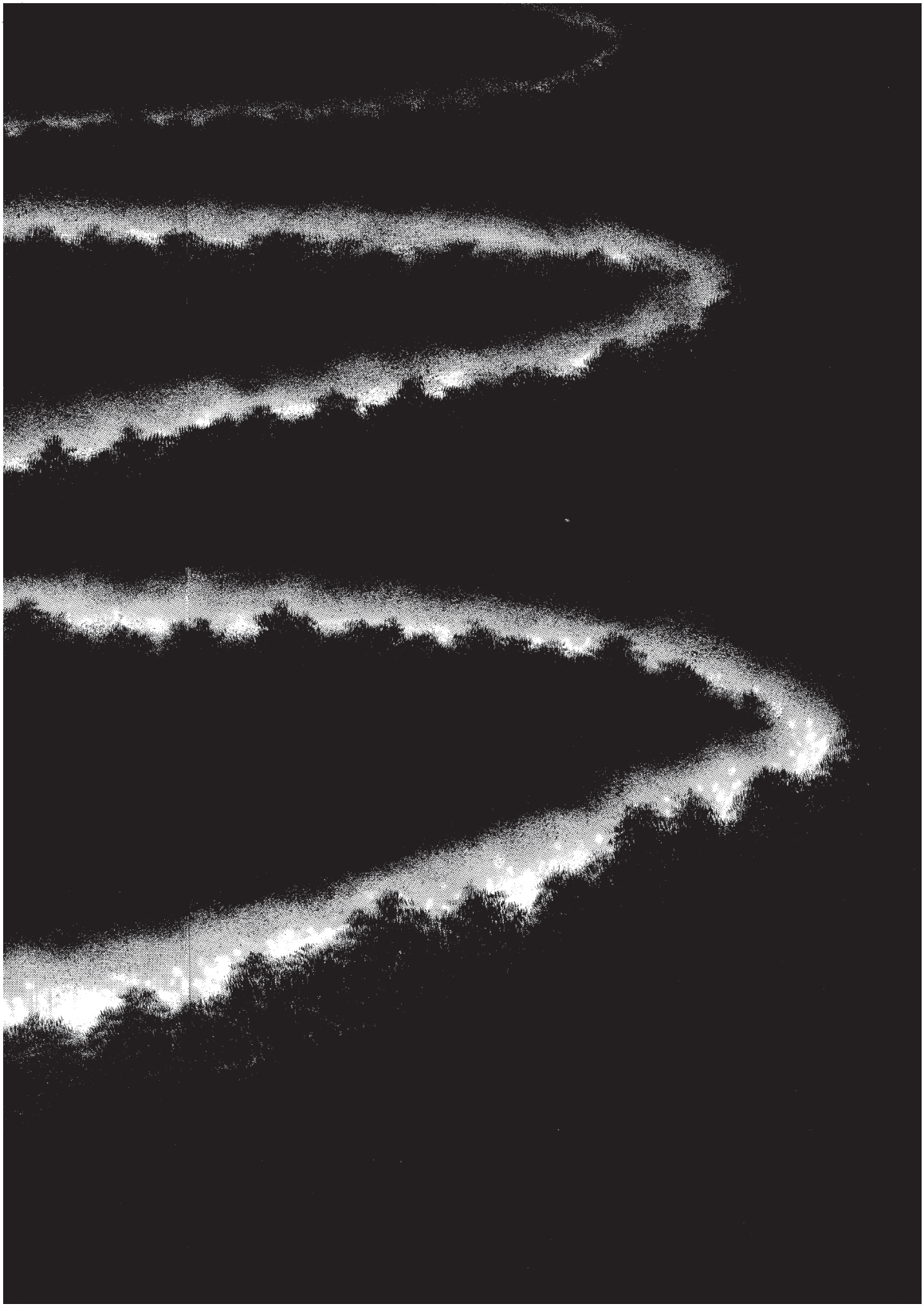

In 1958, Tibetan Buddhists under the Dalai Lama were rising against communist oppression.

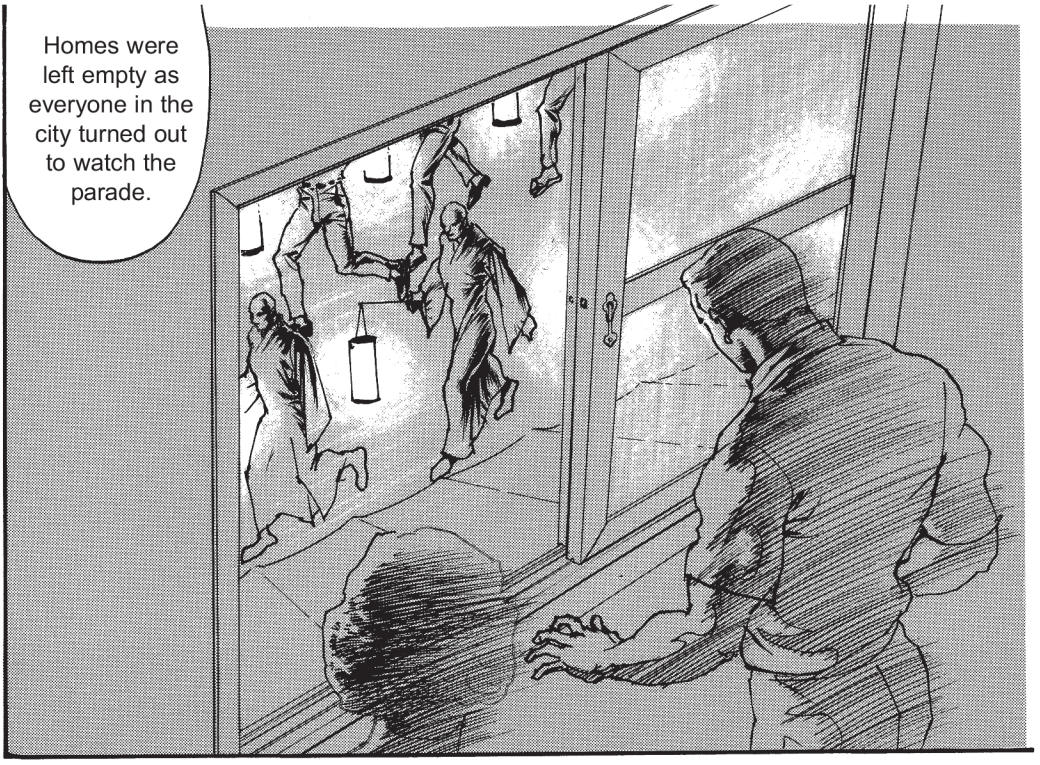

On April 8, a lantern parade was held to celebrate the growth of Buddhism and the Buddha's birthday.


Every district in Ilan was represented by a float.

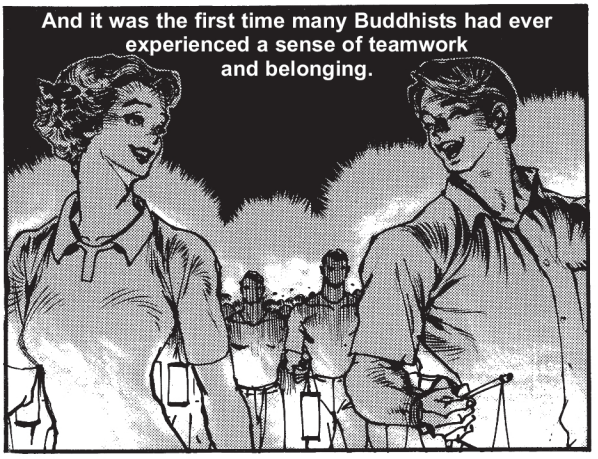

The parade of lights was over thirty miles.
At that time, Ilan had a population of about 50,000 people...
...Yet over 30,000 people attended the parade.

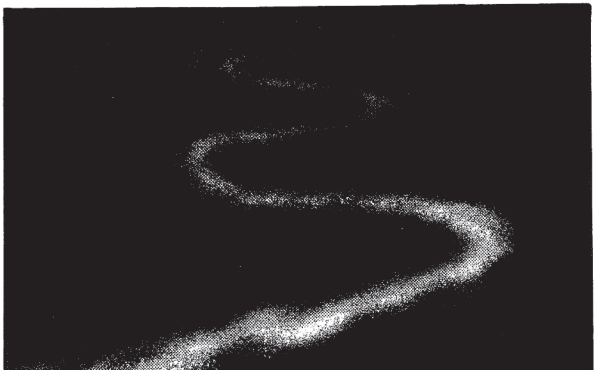


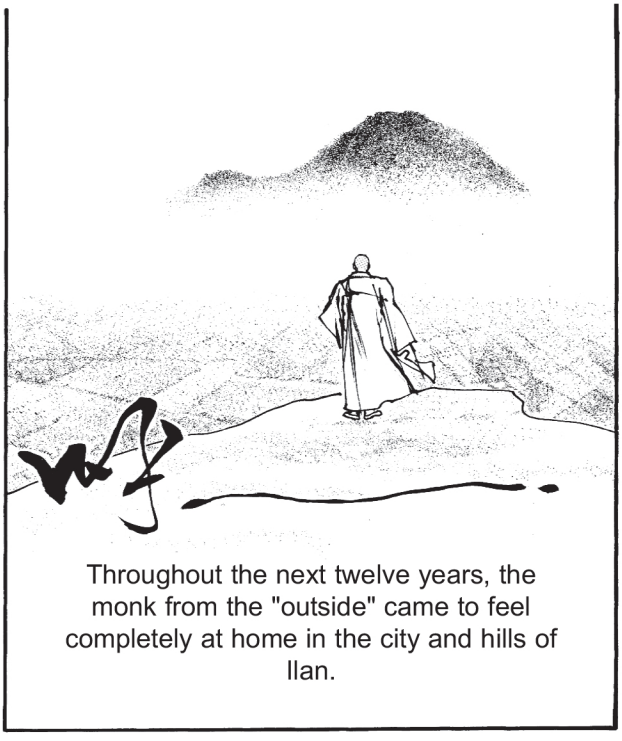



Homes were left empty as everyone in the city turned out to watch the parade.


The residents were delighted with their first-ever Buddhist parade.


And it was the first time many Buddhists had ever experienced a sense of teamwork and belonging.

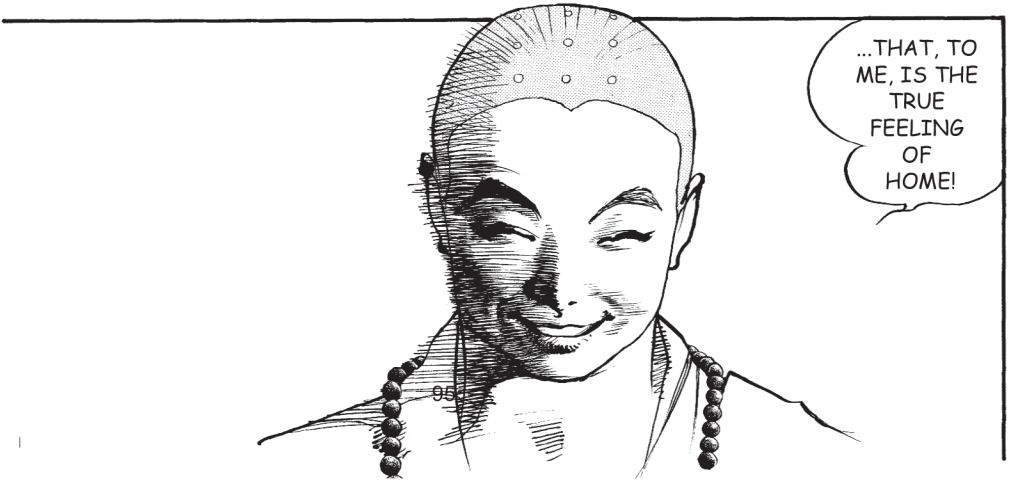




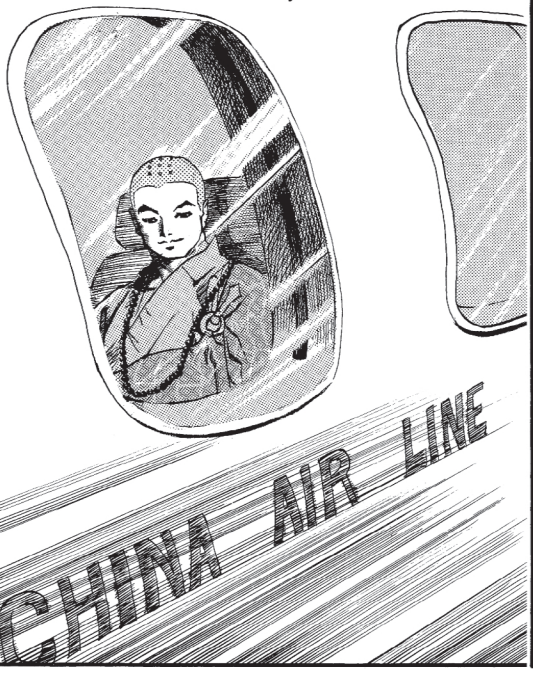
Throughout the next twelve years, the monk from the "outside" came to feel completely at home in the city and hills of Ilan.



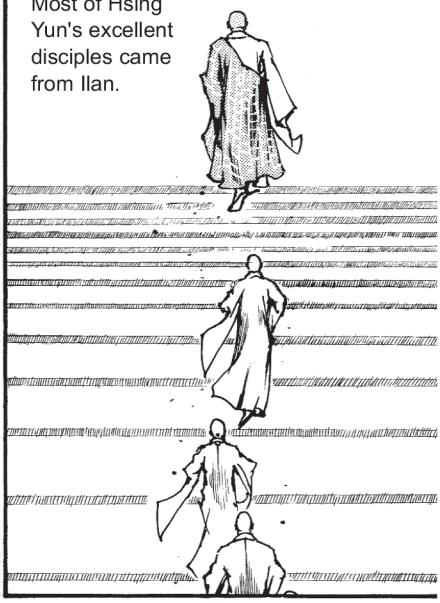




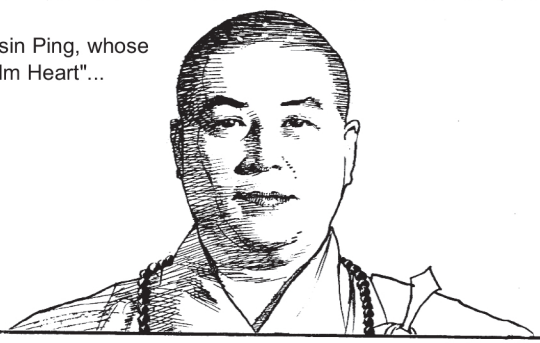
Later travel would take him far and wide, but his heart was always in Ilan.



Most of Hsing Yun's excellent disciples came from Ilan.



Monks such as Hsin Ping, whose name means "Calm Heart"...

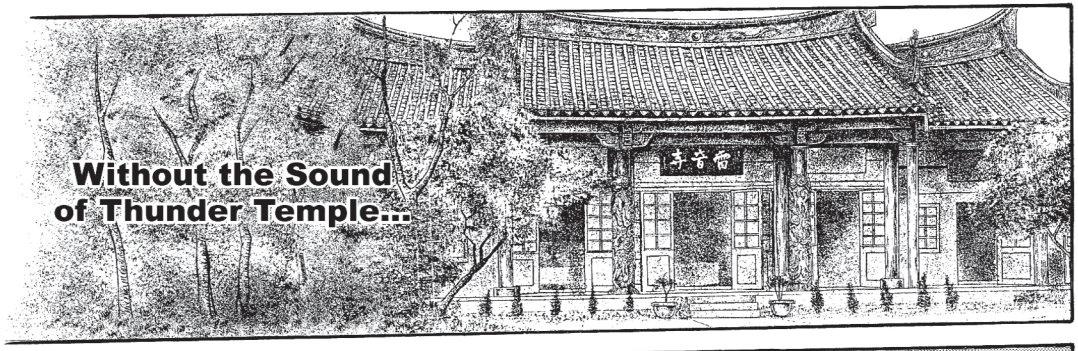


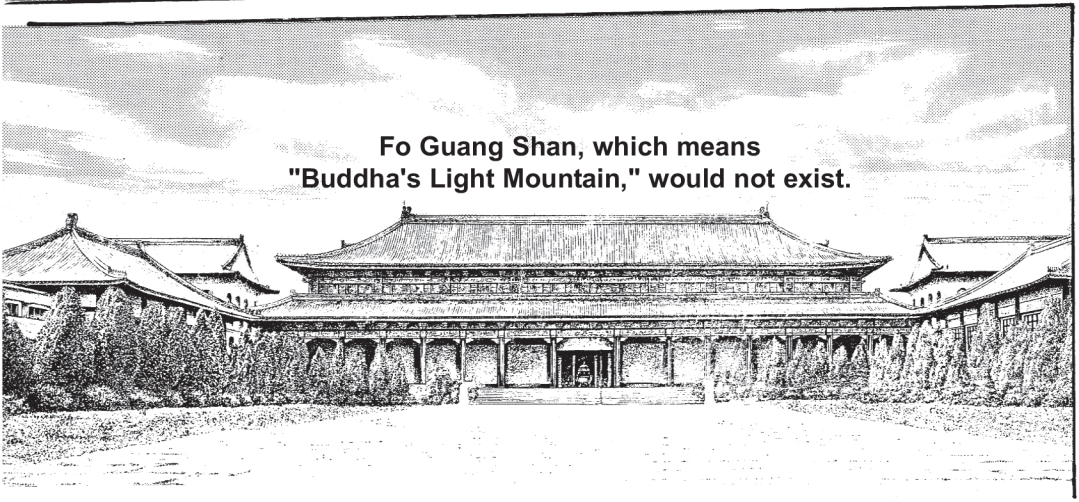
...and nuns such as Tzu Chuang, "Magnificent Compassion"; Tzu Hui, "Kind Compassion"; Tzu Chia, "Excellent Compassion"; and Tzu Jung, "Tolerant Compassion."

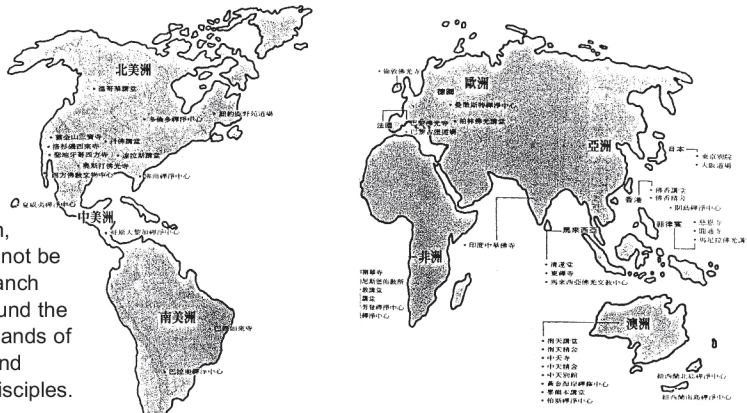




These disciples became important leaders and decision makers in the Fo Guang Shan community.

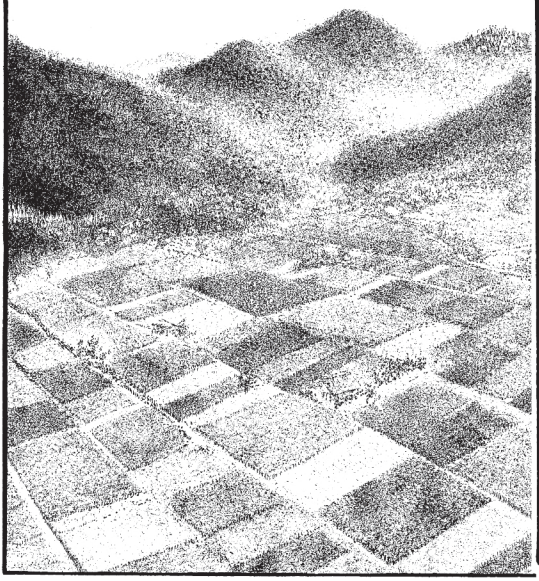






Without Fo Guang Shan, there would not be over 100 branch temples around the globe, thousands of monastics and millions of disciples.

The city of Ilan nourished the seed of one of the century's supreme Buddhist masters...

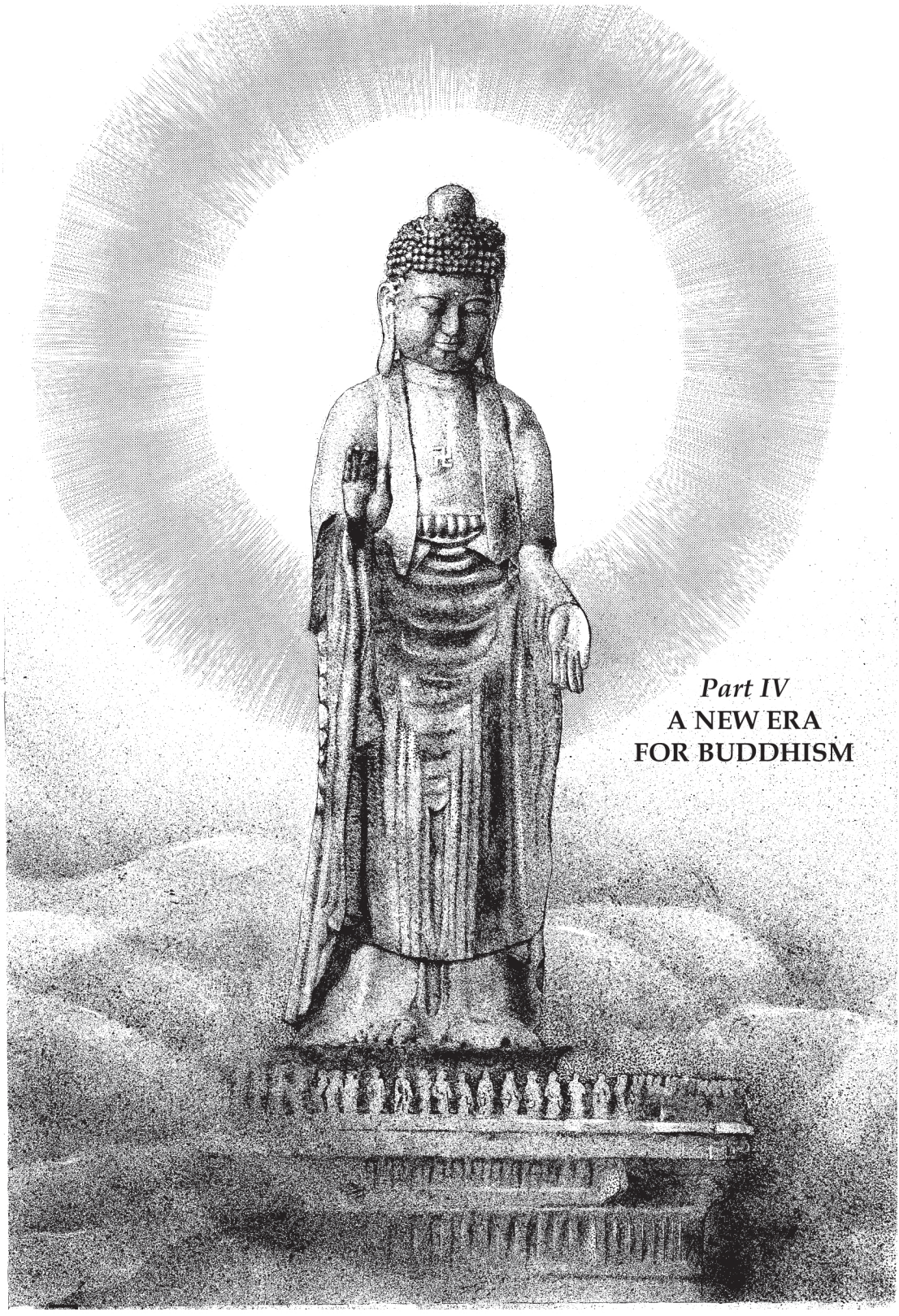


...and contributed to the flourishing of the Fo Guang Shan endeavor.



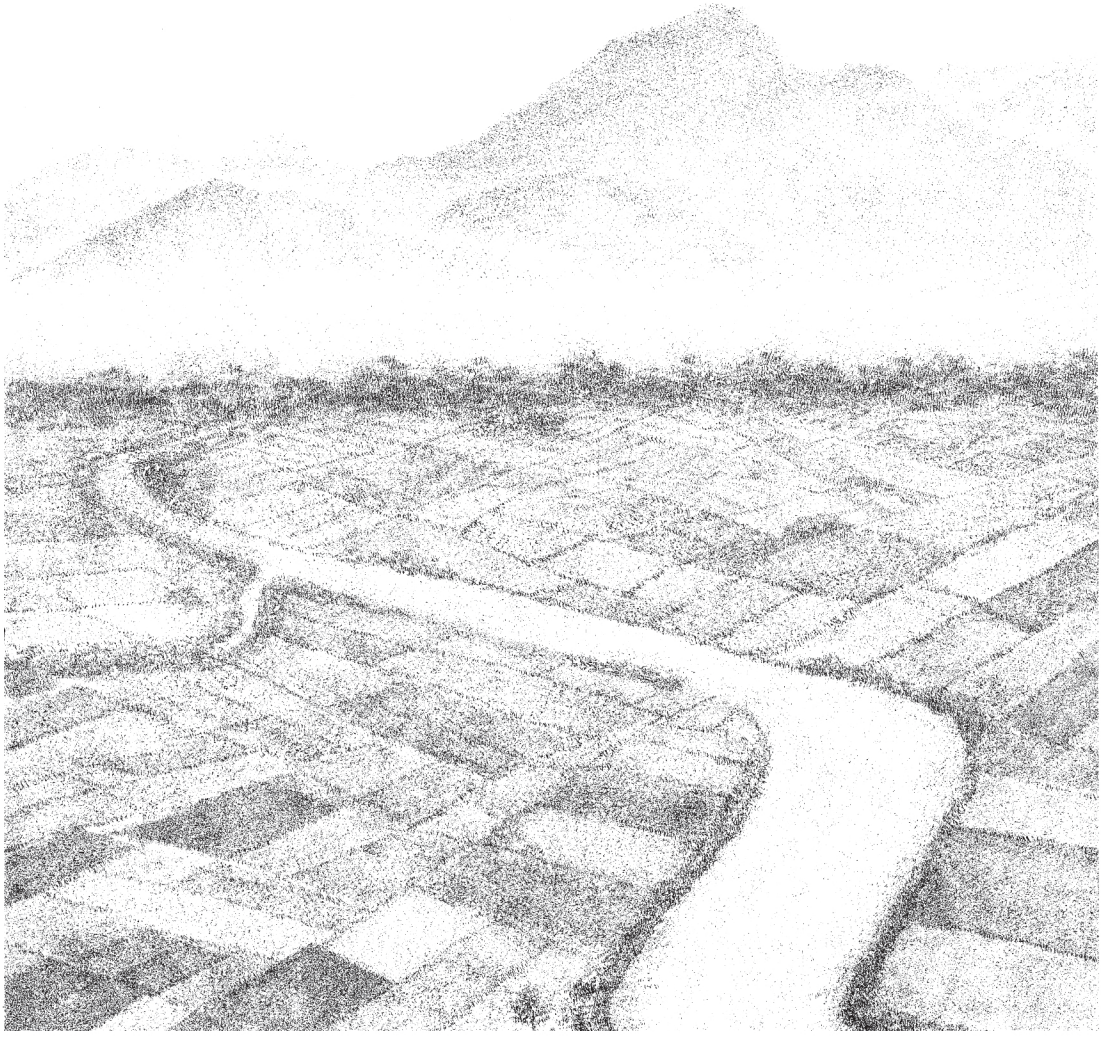
The modernization of Buddhism in Taiwan had its roots in beautiful Ilan!



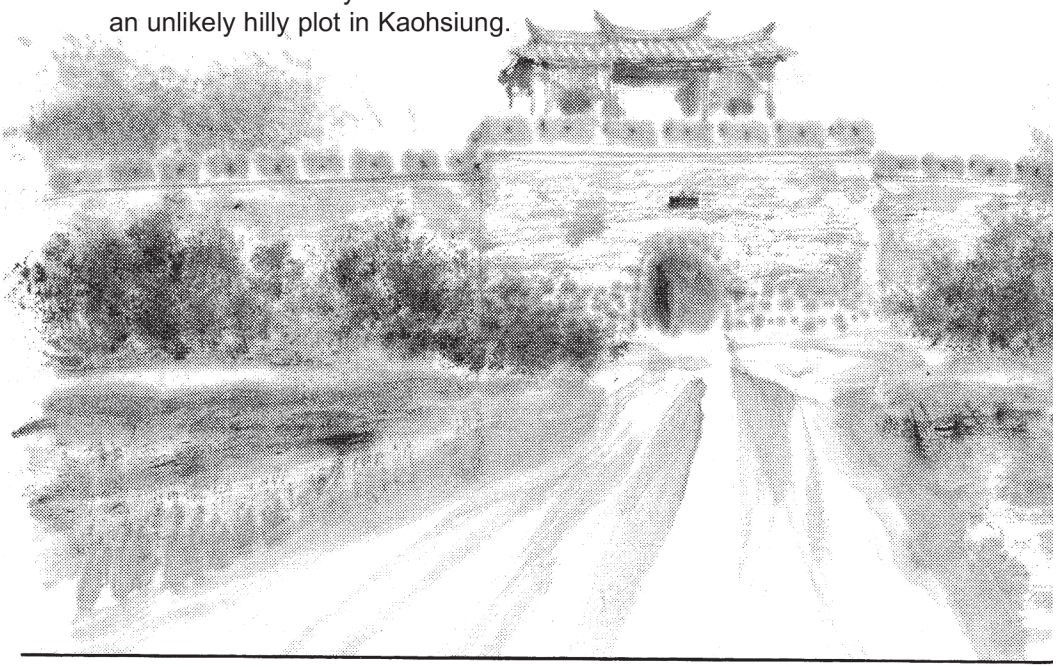


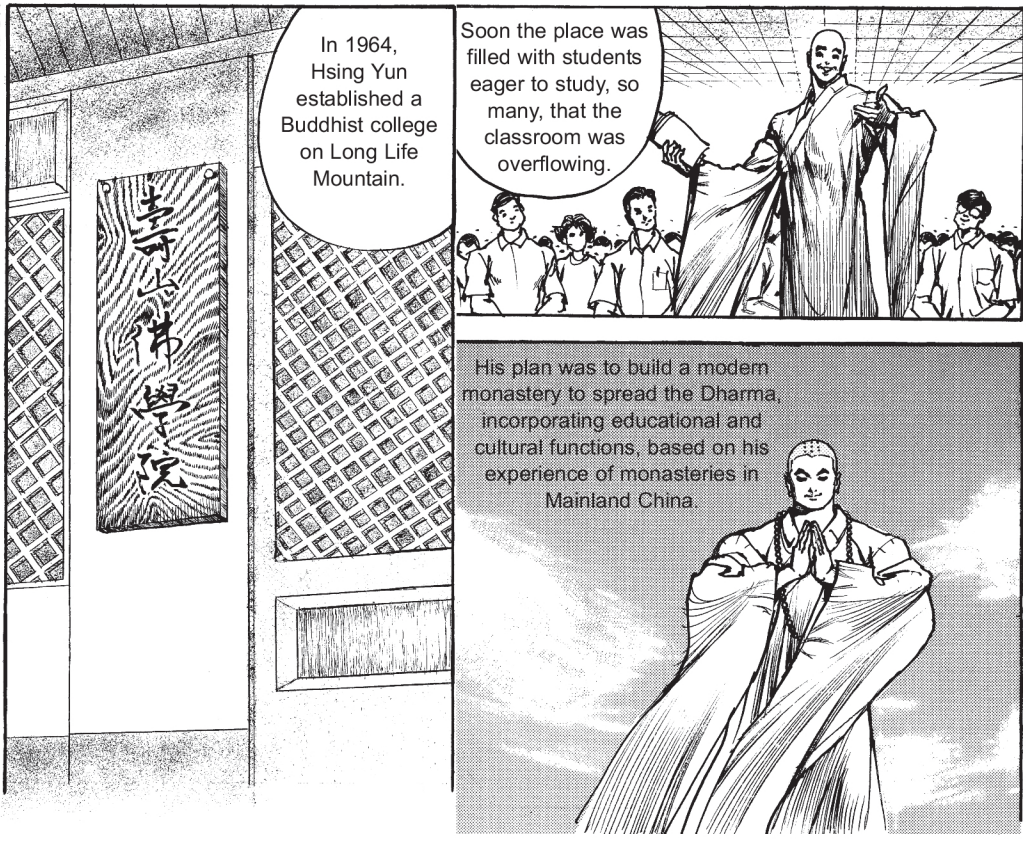
Part IV
A NEW ERA FOR BUDDHISM

Charming and lovely as Ilan was, Hsing Yun realized he needed more space and more resources in order to spread Buddhism.



His attention eventually turned towards an unlikely hilly plot in Kaohsiung.



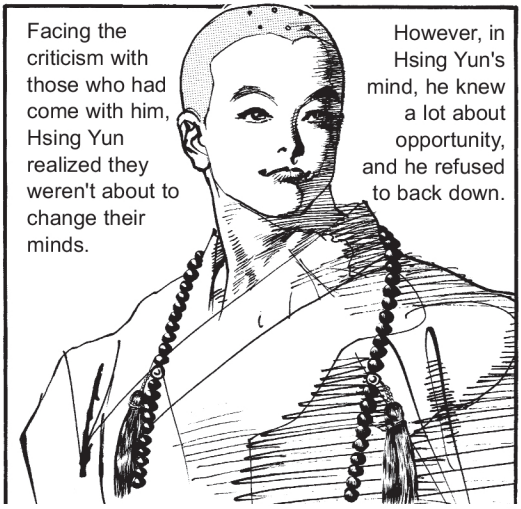


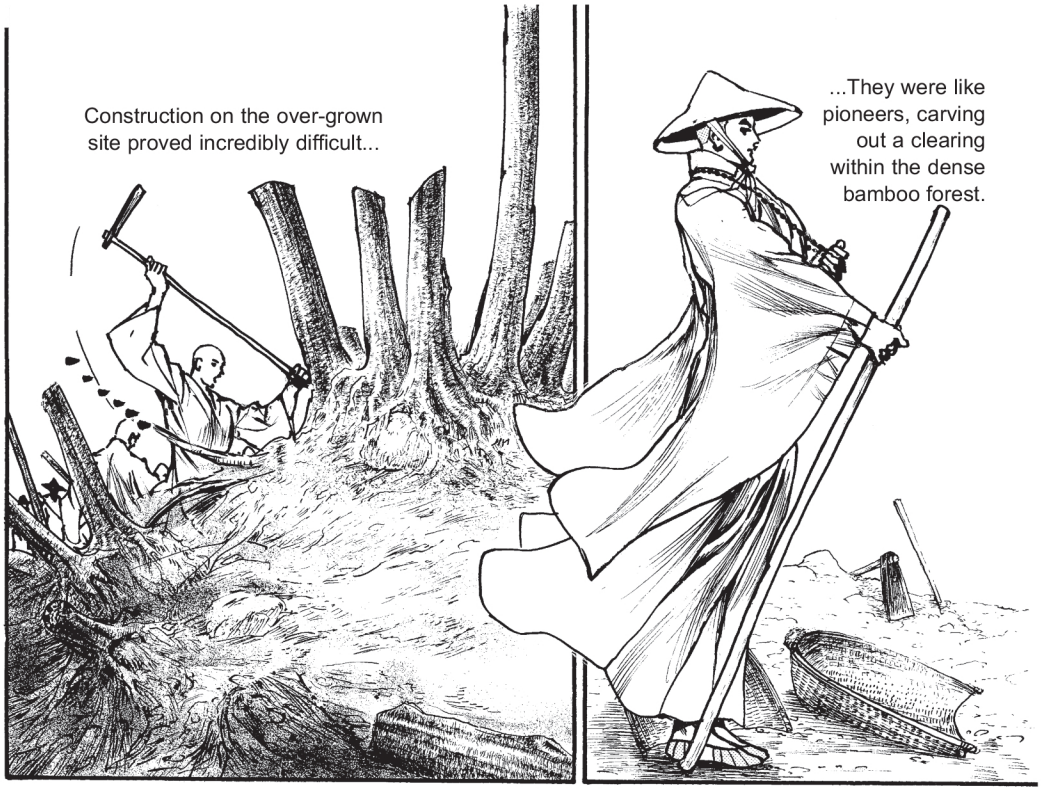
When others heard of his heartfelt wish, they quickly joined in support.

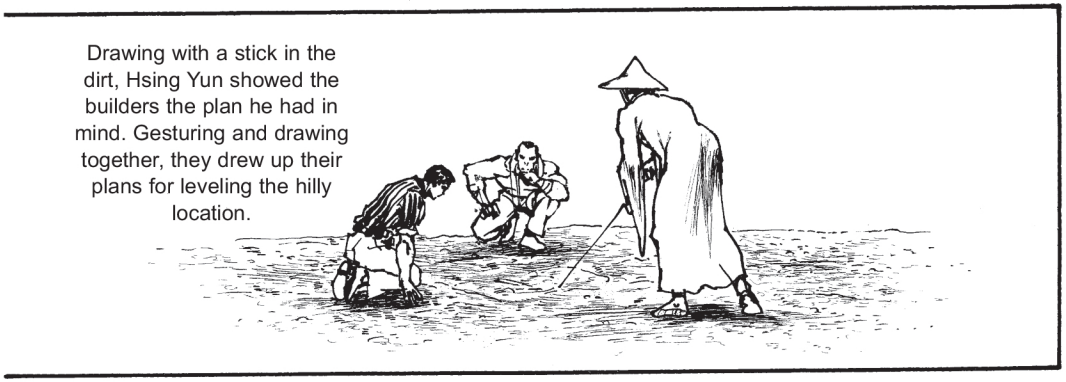


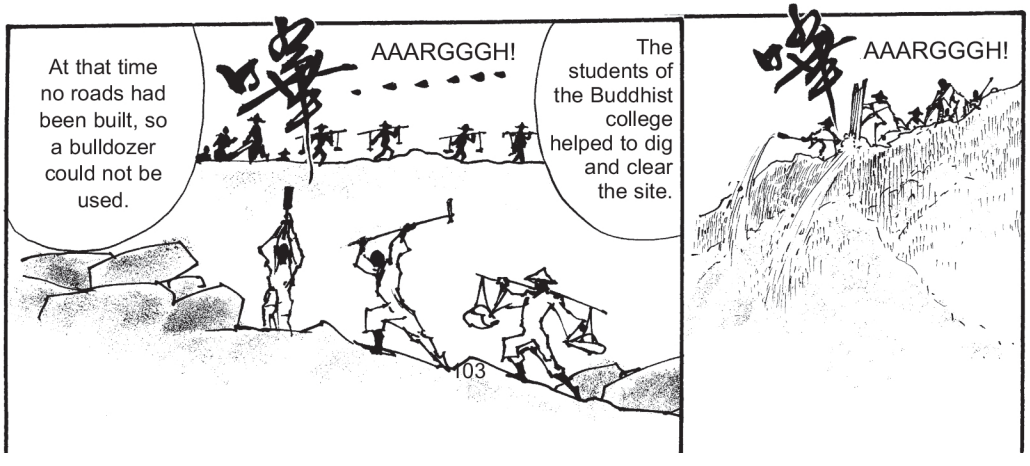


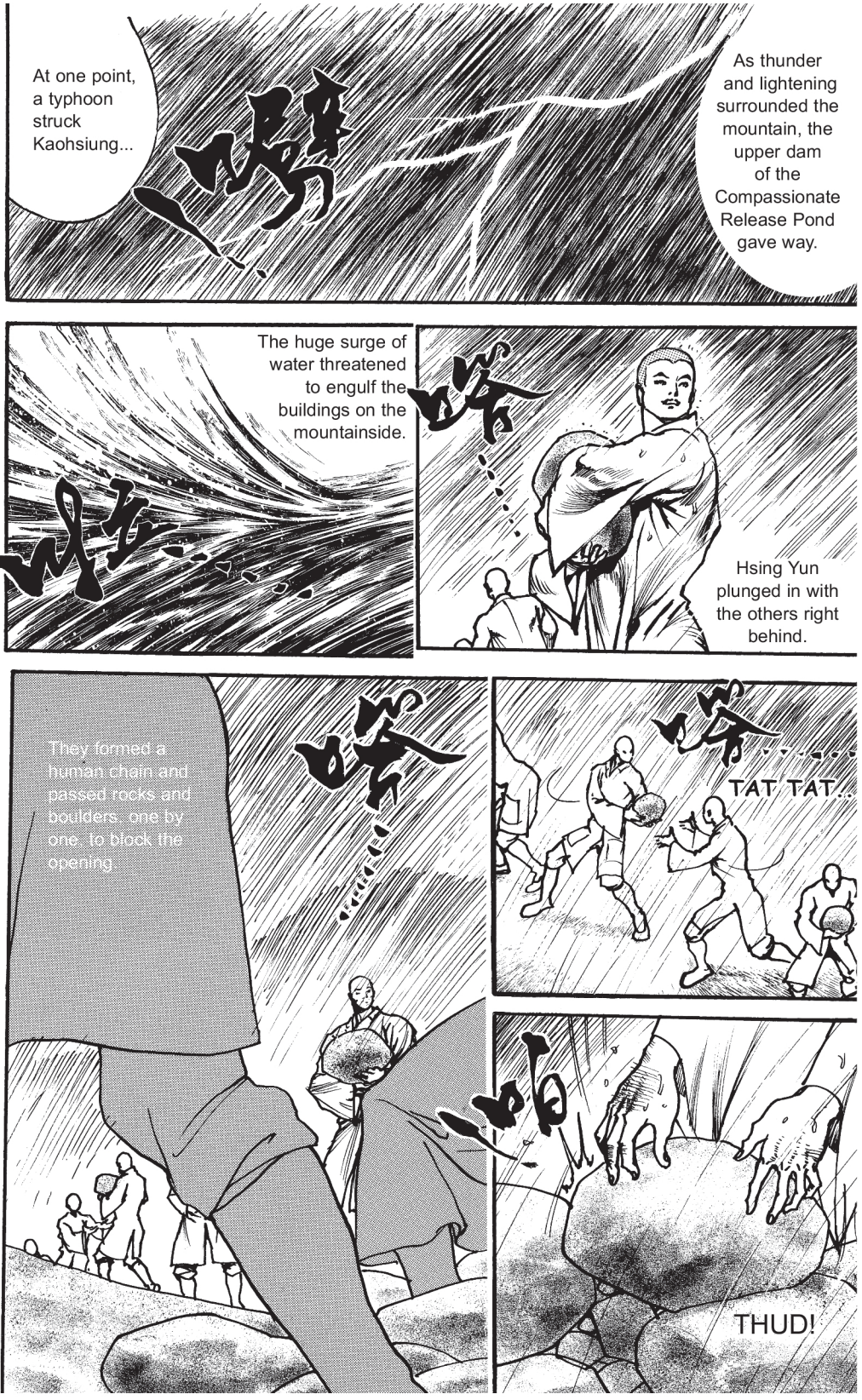


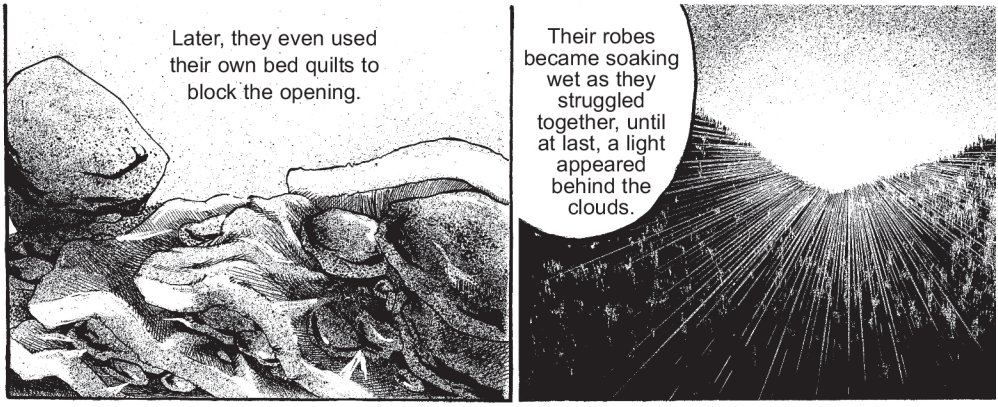


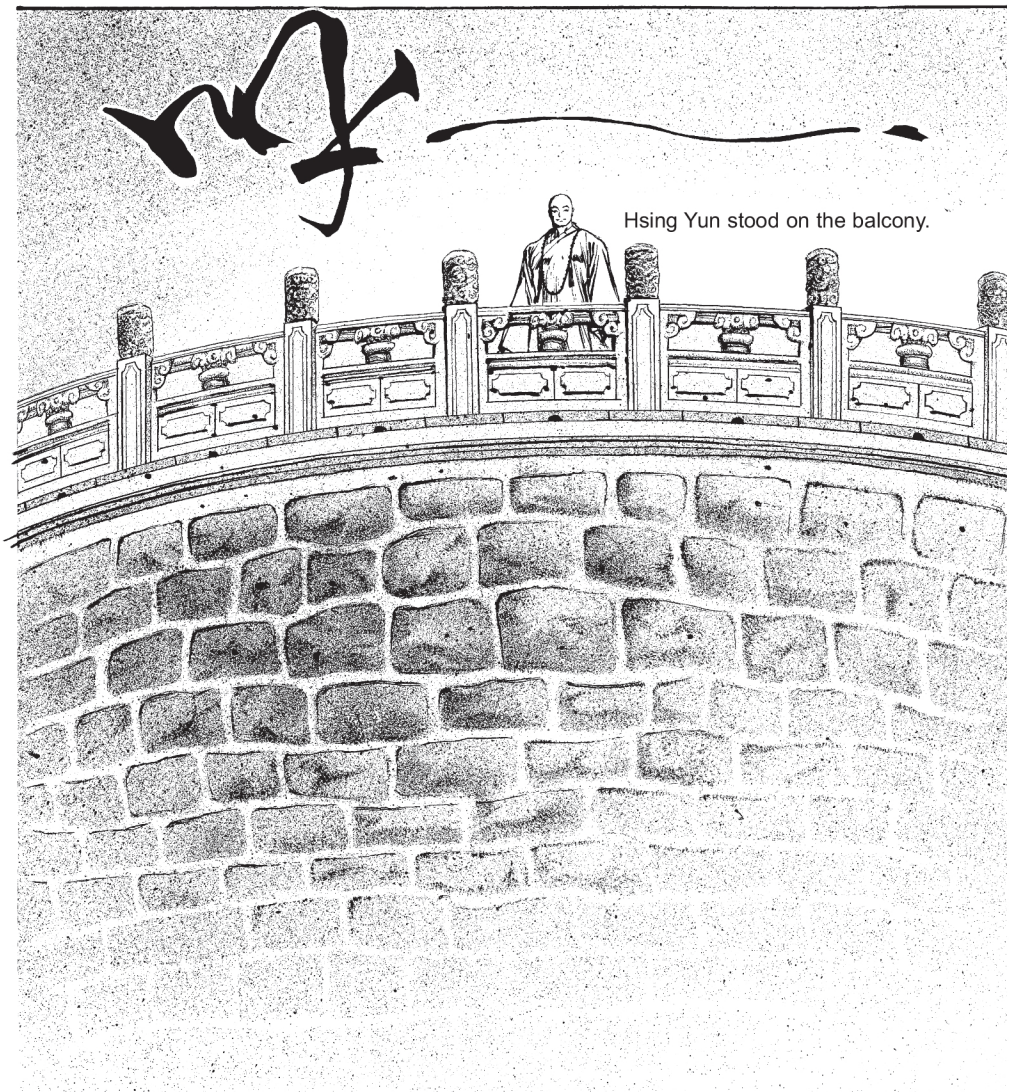

Construction on the over-grown site proved incredibly difficult...
...They were like pioneers, carving out a clearing within the dense bamboo forest.


Drawing with a stick in the dirt, Hsing Yun showed the builders the plan he had in mind. Gesturing and drawing together, they drew up their plans for leveling the hilly location.

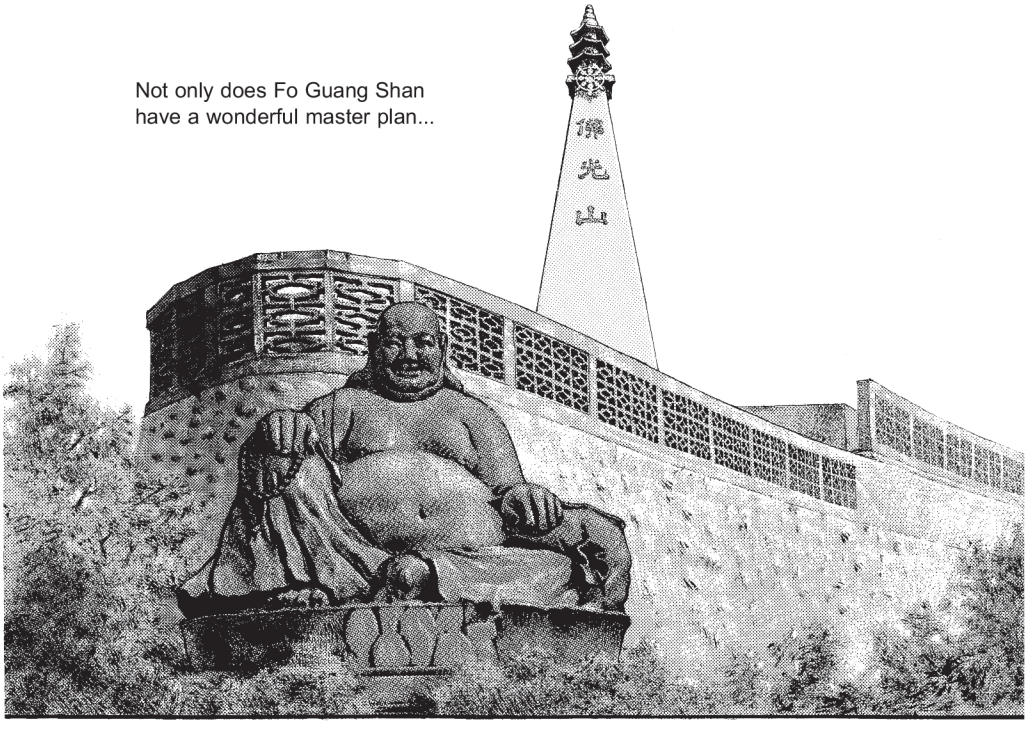

At that time no roads had been built, so a bulldozer could not be used.
AAARGGGH!
The students of the Buddhist college helped to dig and clear the site.
AAARGGGH!
103

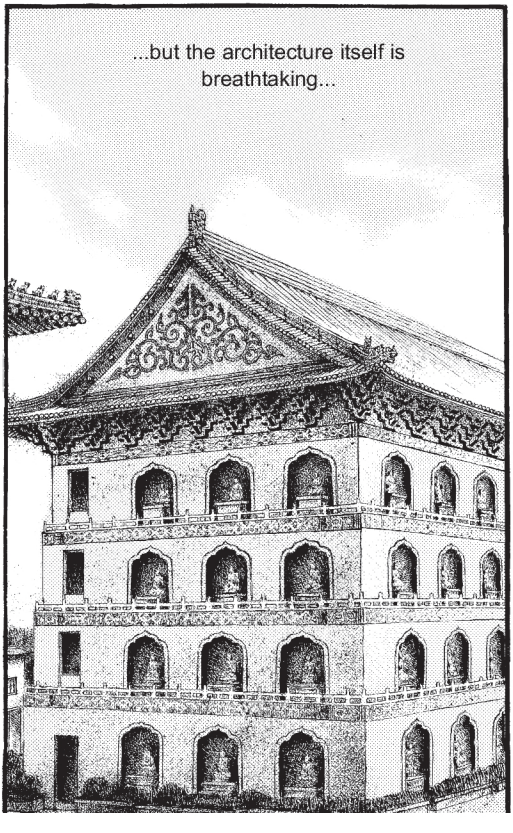

At one point, a typhoon struck Kaohsiung...
As thunder and lightening surrounded the mountain, the upper dam of the Compassionate Release Pond gave way.
The huge surge of water threatened to engulf the buildings on the mountainside.
Hsing Yun plunged in with the others right behind.
They formed a human chain and passed rocks and boulders, one by one, to block the opening.
TAT TAT...
THUD!


Later, they even used their own bed quilts to block the opening.
Their robes became soaking wet as they struggled together, until at last, a light appeared behind the clouds.

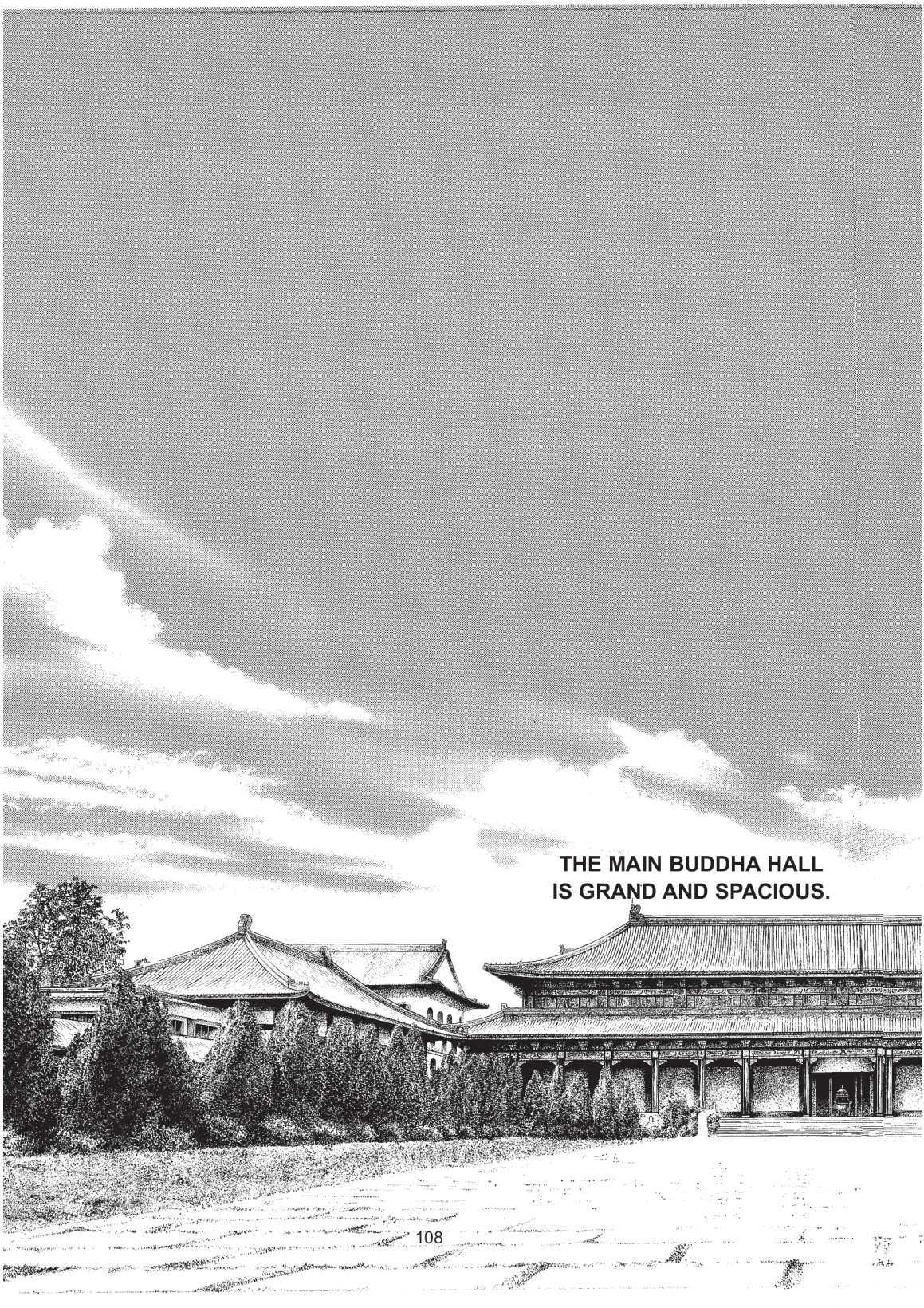

Hsing Yun stood on the balcony.

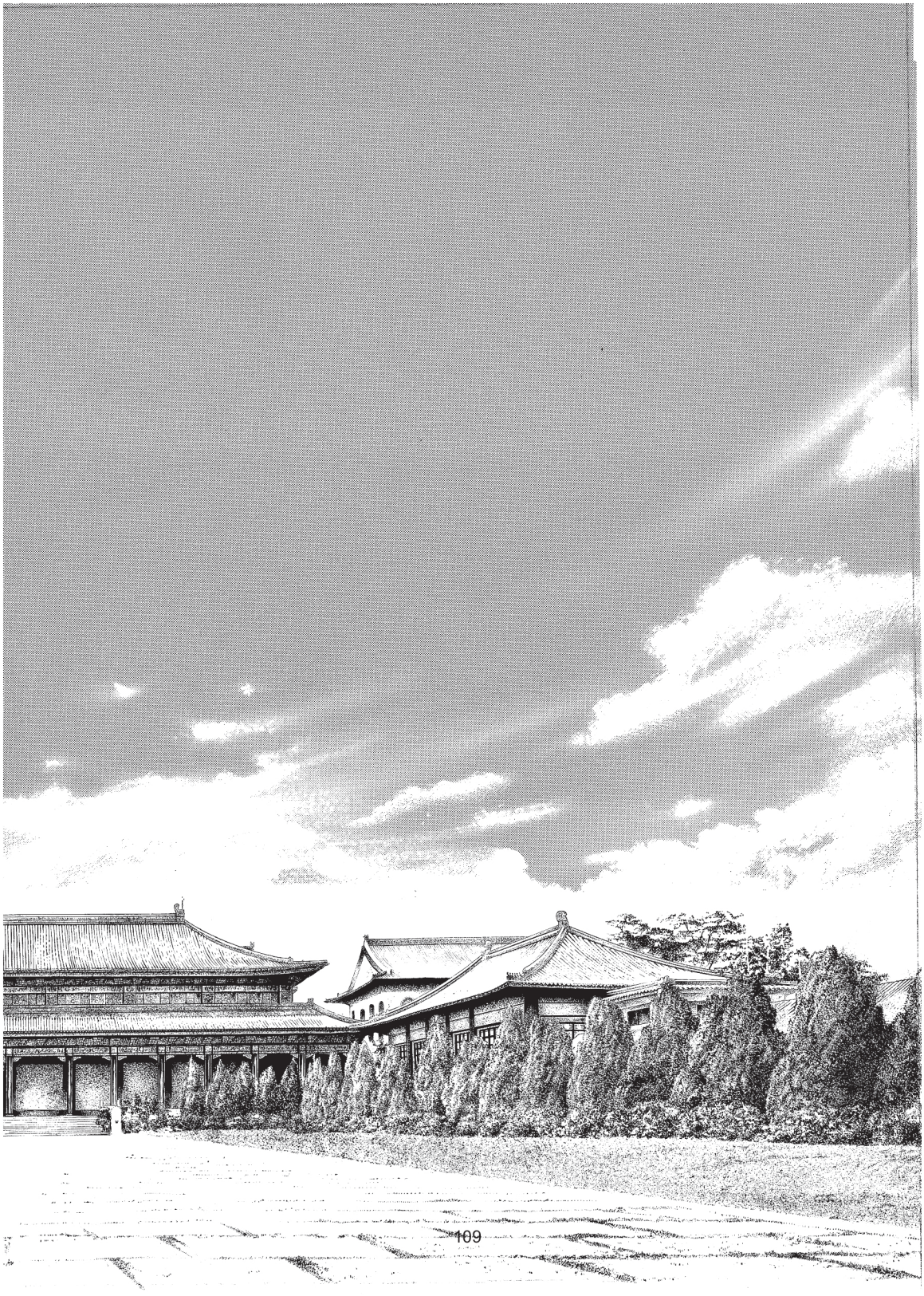

IT'S LIKE AN ARMY OF ANTS MOVING A GREAT MOUNTAIN!


Not only does Fo Guang Shan
have a wonderful master plan...


...but the architecture itself is
breathtaking...

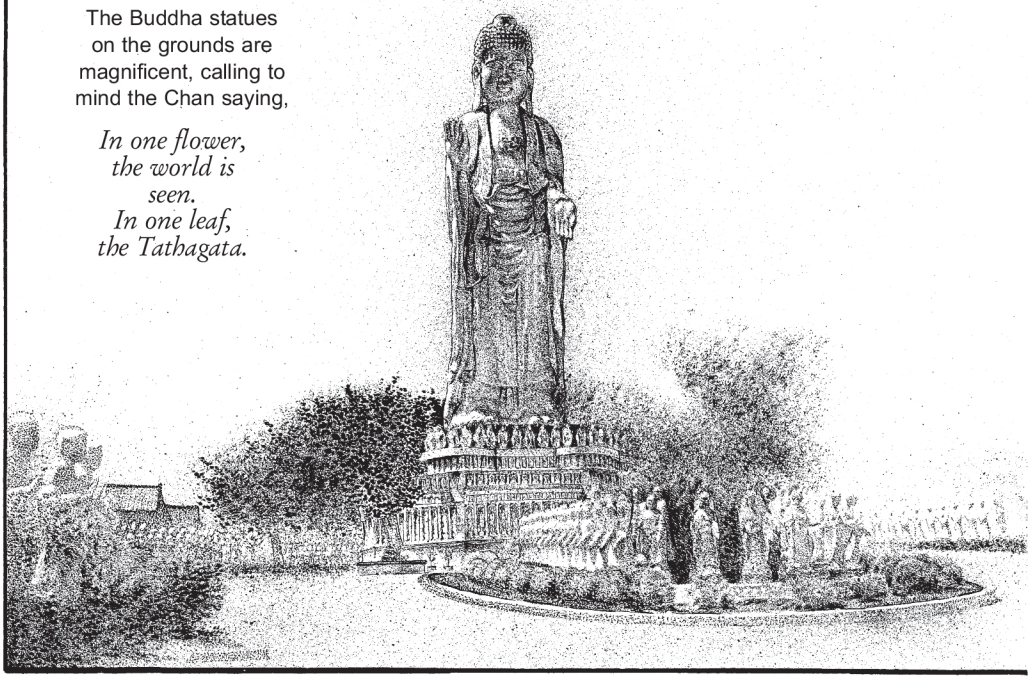

...the buildings are beautifully decorated.


THE MAIN BUDDHA HALL
IS GRAND AND SPACIOUS.

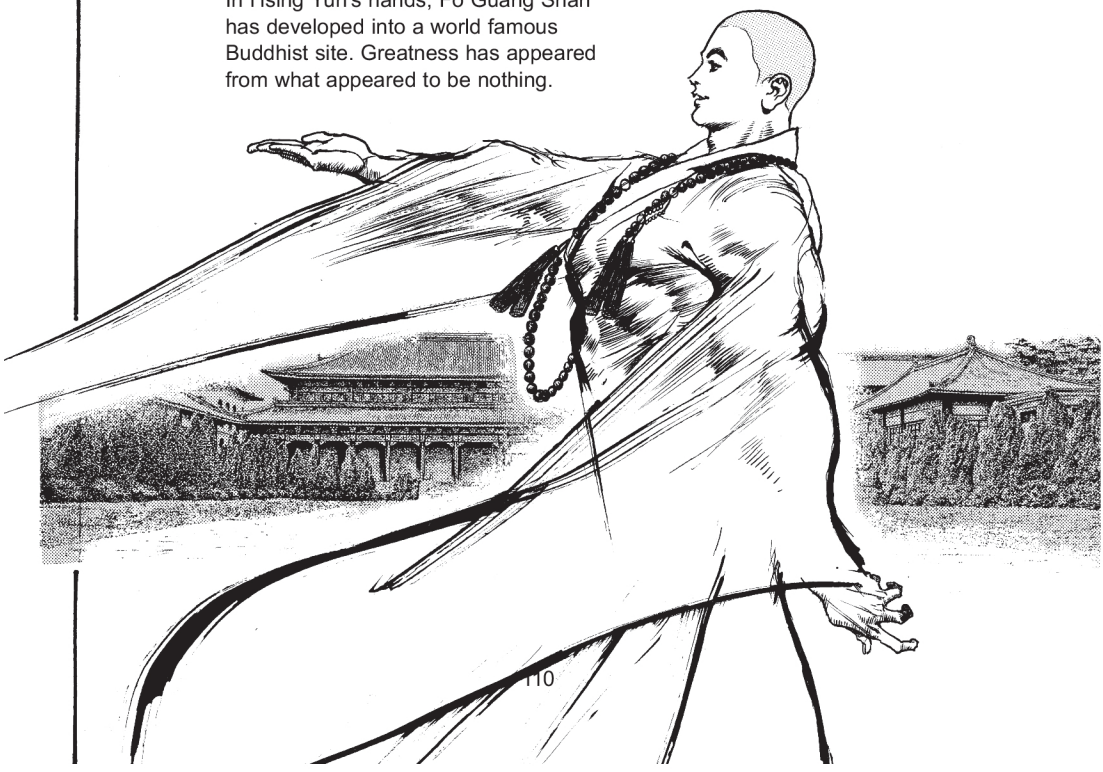


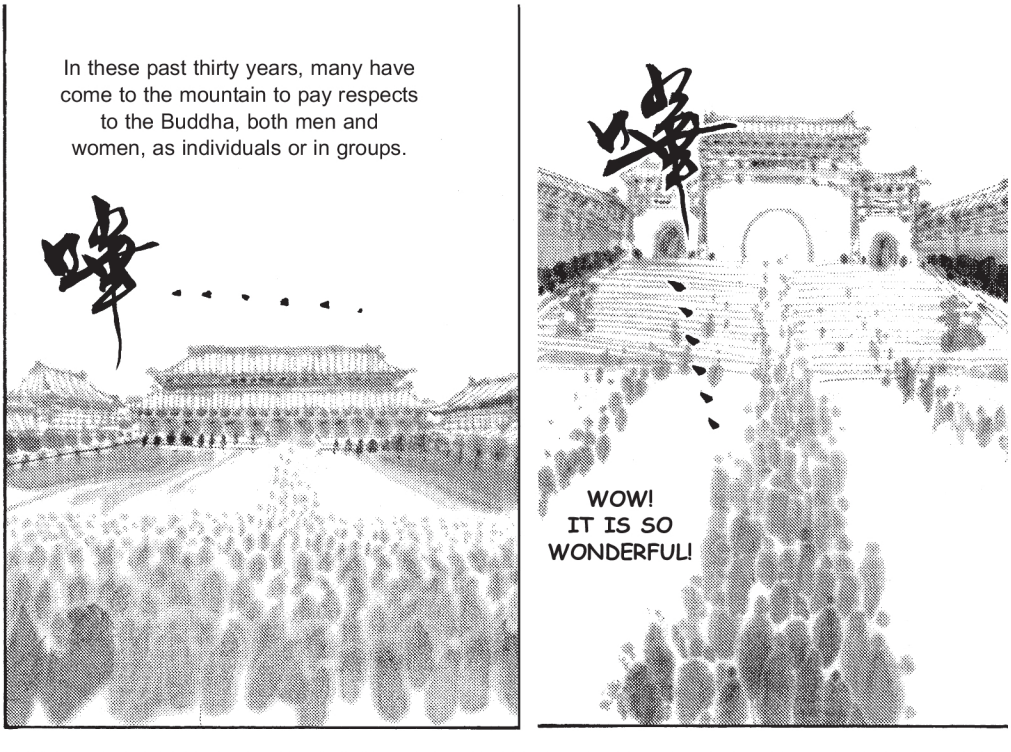
The Buddha statues on the grounds are magnificent, calling to mind the Chan saying,

In one flower,
the world is
seen.
In one leaf,
the Tathagata.



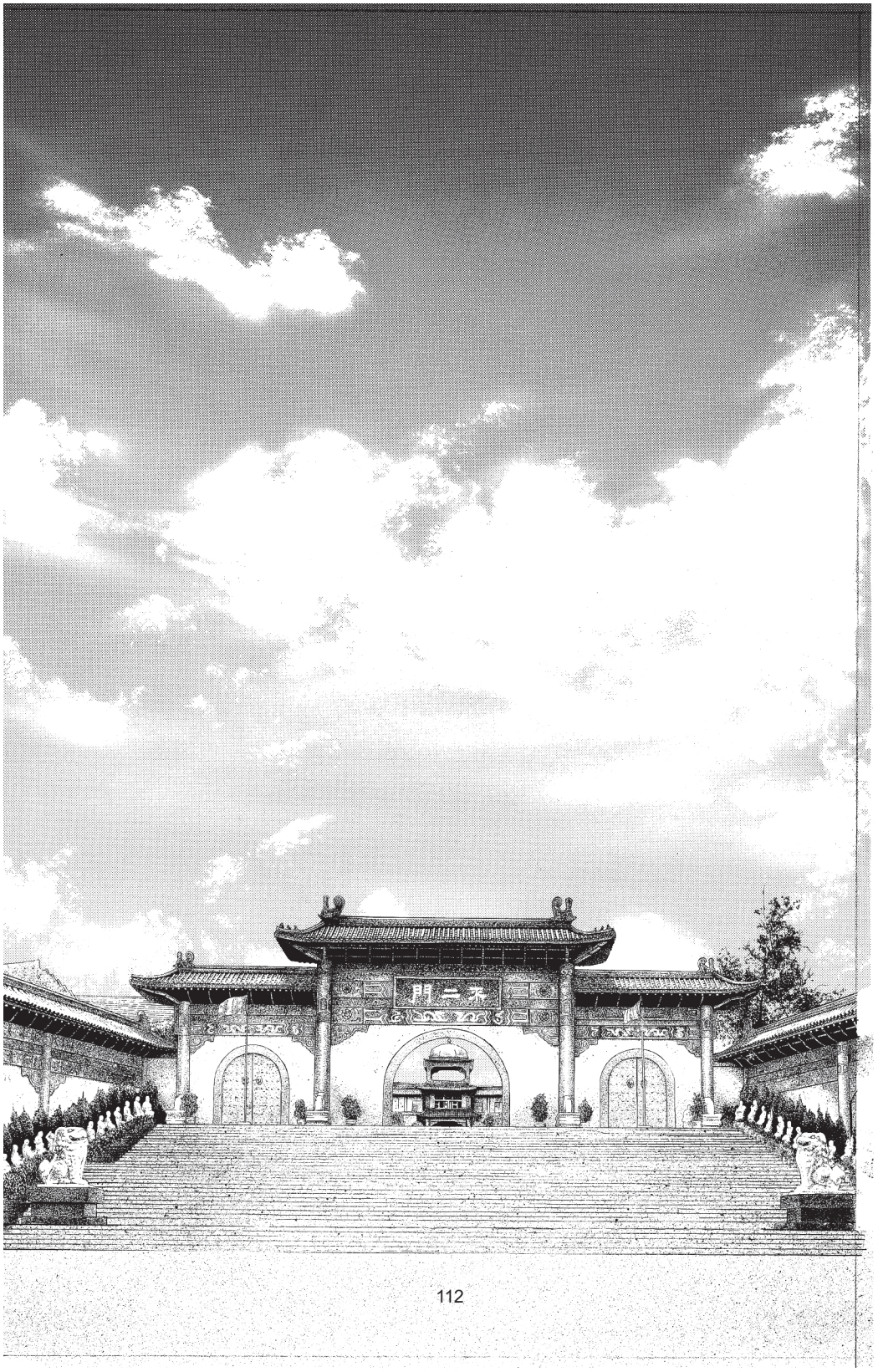
In Hsing Yun's hands, Fo Guang Shan has developed into a world famous Buddhist site. Greatness has appeared from what appeared to be nothing.





Countless famous people from around the world have come to visit as well.

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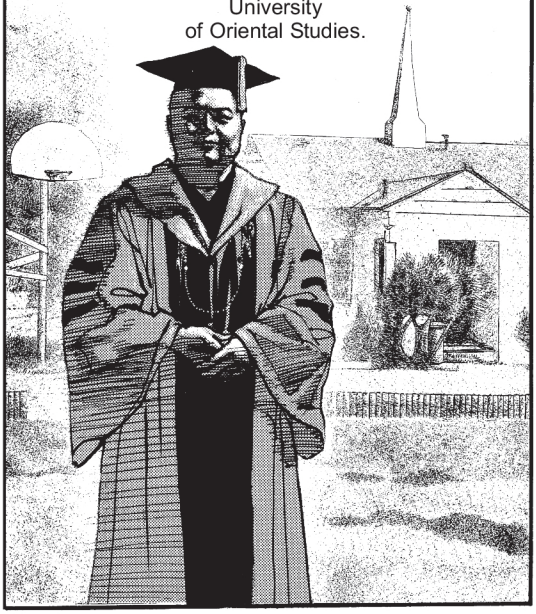
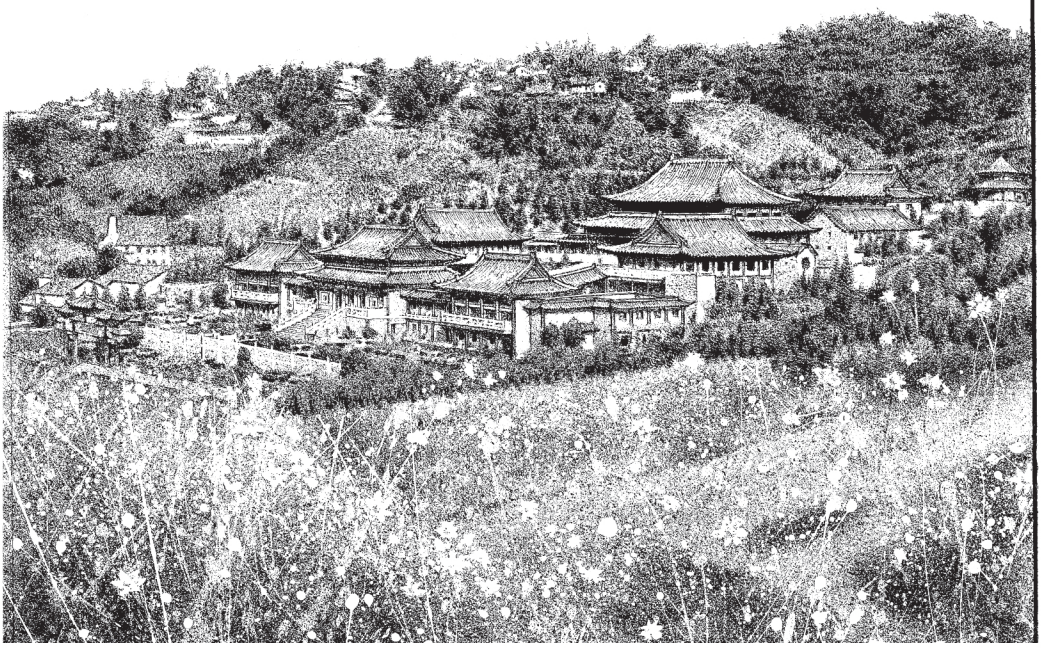
In 1978, Hsing Yun became the president of the International Buddhist Progress Society, and received an honorary Ph.D. from the American University of Oriental Studies.



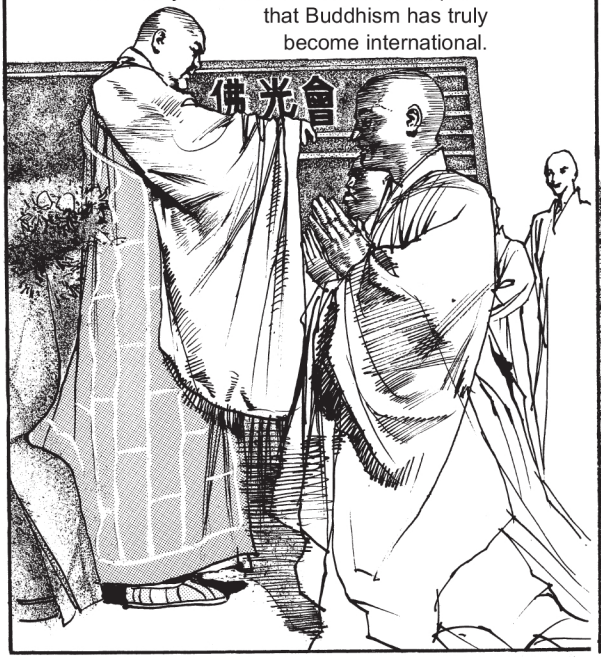
In order to spread the teachings of Buddhism in the West, Hsing Yun established Hsi Lai Temple; the temple's name in English means "Coming West Temple."



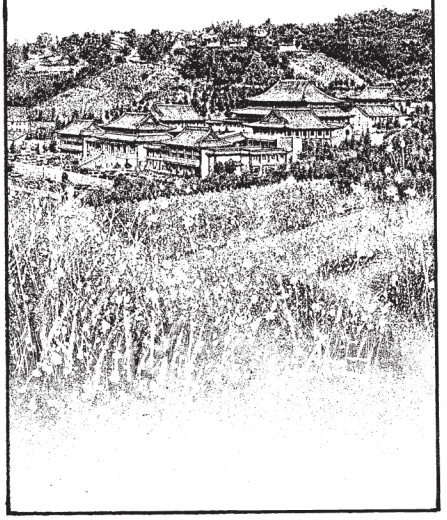
Hsing Yun established Hsi Lai Temple as an international multicultural center. For American Buddhists, Hsi Lai Temple is a peaceful place for both body and mind.



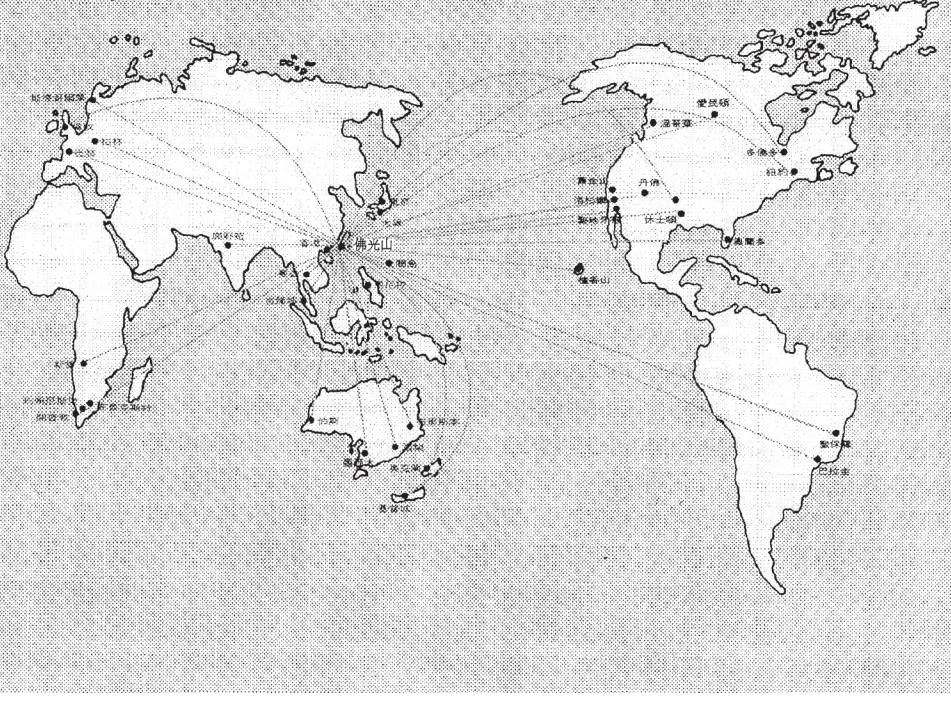
The monastic disciples of Hsing Yun come from over thirty different countries. This is proof that Buddhism has truly become international.

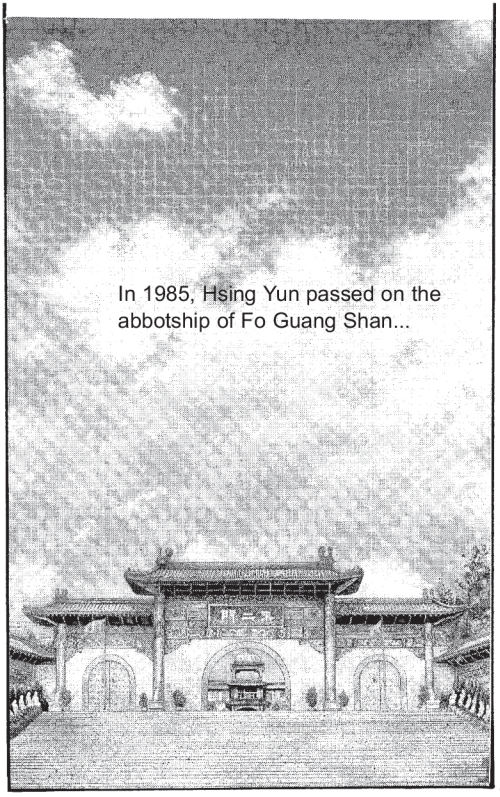


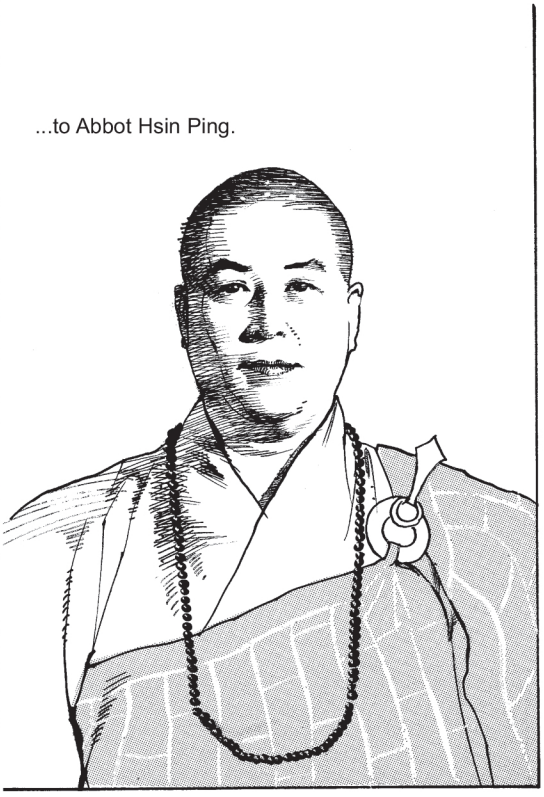
The small step taken to develop Hsi Lai Temple is actually a great step in the development of Buddhism.

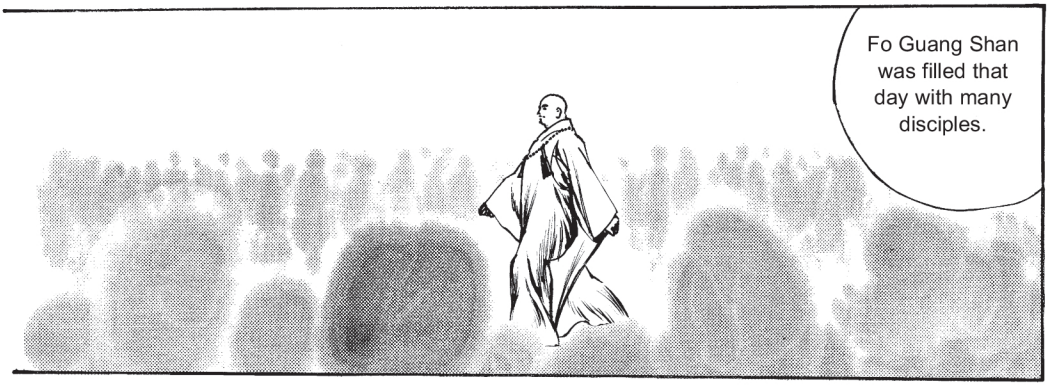


Many of the overseas temples look to Hsi Lai as an example. The branch temples around the world developed very quickly, each contributing to the spread of Buddhism.



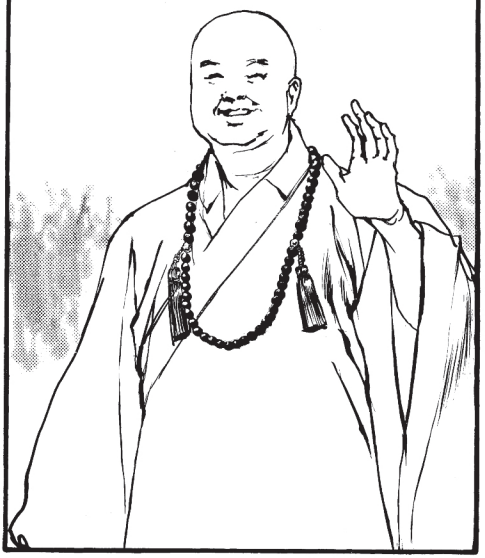

In 1985, Hsing Yun passed on the abbotship of Fo Guang Shan...


...to Abbot Hsin Ping.

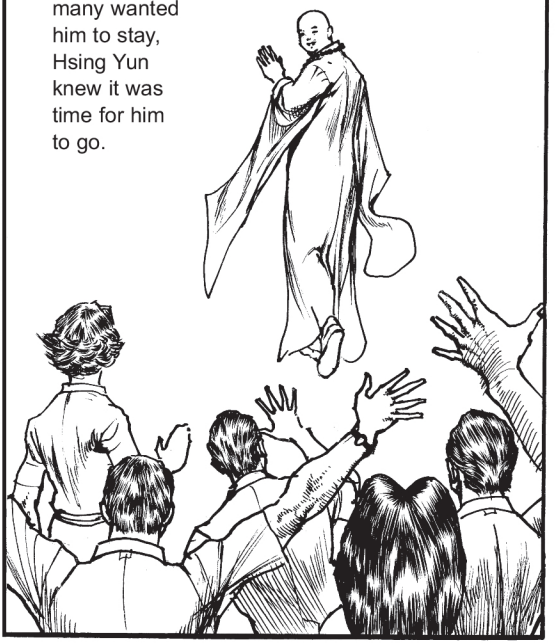

Fo Guang Shan was filled that day with many disciples.


MASTER, PLEASE TAKE CARE!
MASTER, COME BACK SOON!
MASTER, PLEASE REMEMBER US!

Smiling throughout, Hsing Yun waved to the disciples, heartfully thanking all of them.



Although so many wanted him to stay, Hsing Yun knew it was time for him to go.





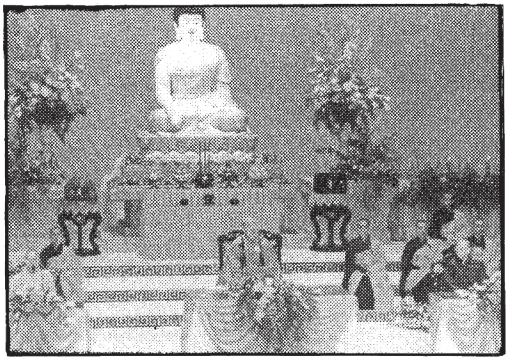
He wanted to follow the Fo Guang Shan rule about leaving at the right time, as well as step down from his tremendous administrative duties.

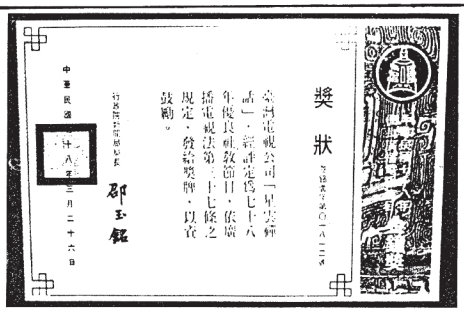




This would leave him free to pursue his own practice, educate his disciples, and continue his writing.

Fo Guang Shan has accomplished many things in the ten years since Hsing Yun stepped down. Hsing Yun has also created for himself a wonderful second career.





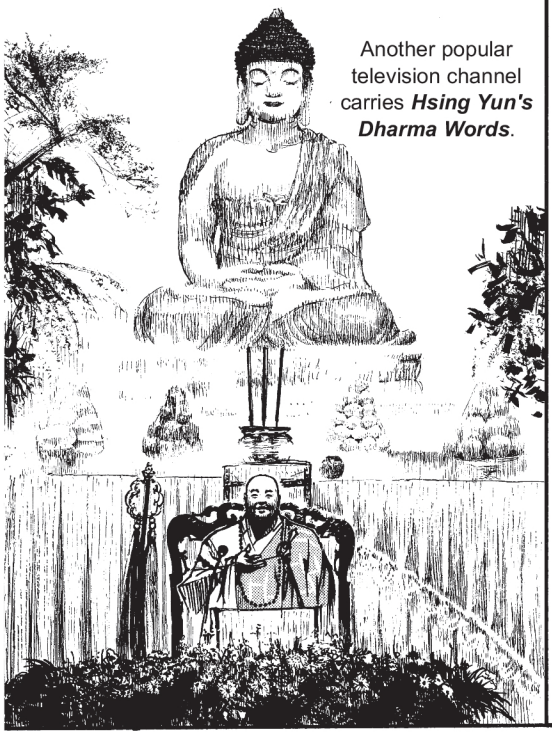
Hsing Yun's Chan Talks are a popular feature on the Taiwan Television Channel.

The Fo Guang Buddhist Dictionary has won the Golden Cauldron Award for outstanding publications.

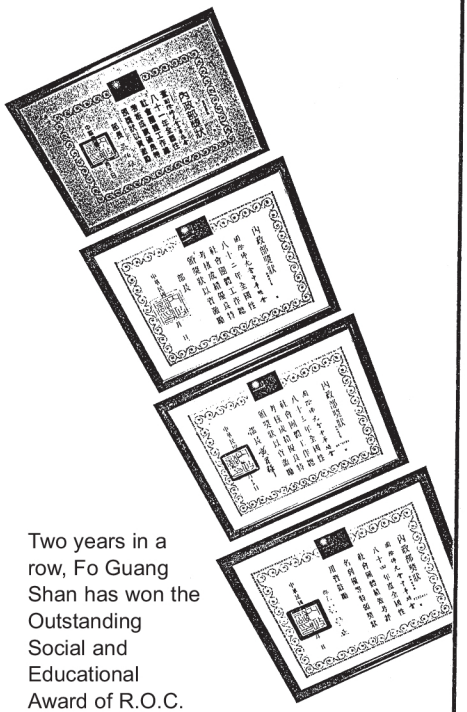




The Fo Guang Shan Cultural and Educational Foundation was established, and the Buddha's Light International Association won the award for outstanding service organization in Taiwan.



Another popular television channel carries ***Hsing Yun's Dharma Words***.

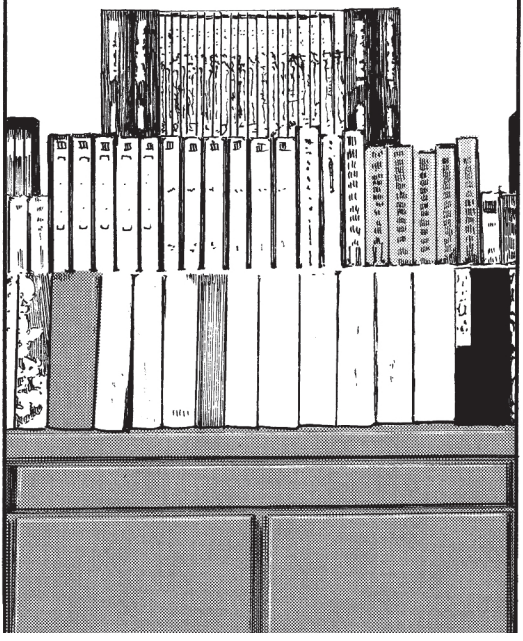


Two years in a row, Fo Guang Shan has won the Outstanding Social and Educational Award of R.O.C.

President Li Teng-hui asked Fo Guang Shan to assist in relief efforts during the disaster of August 12th.



Hsing Yun's Diary, as well as many other works by Hsing Yun have been published.

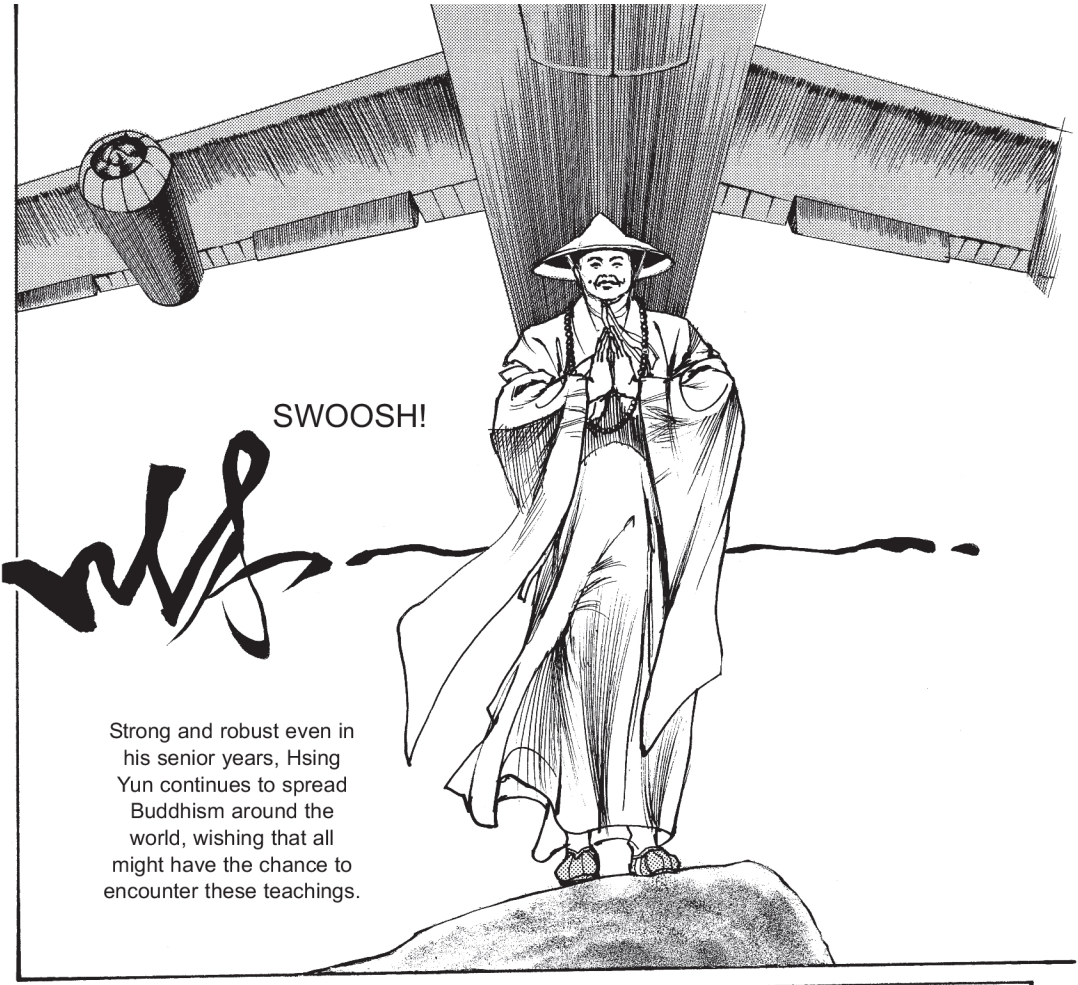


喻說雲星

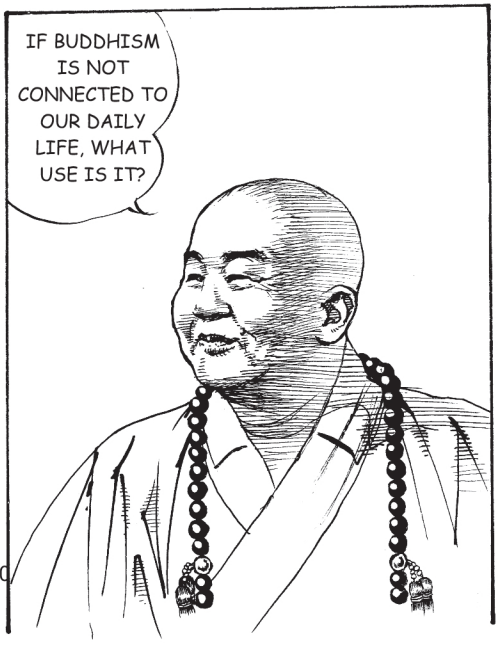
Taiwan television carried the program *Hsing Yun Similies.*

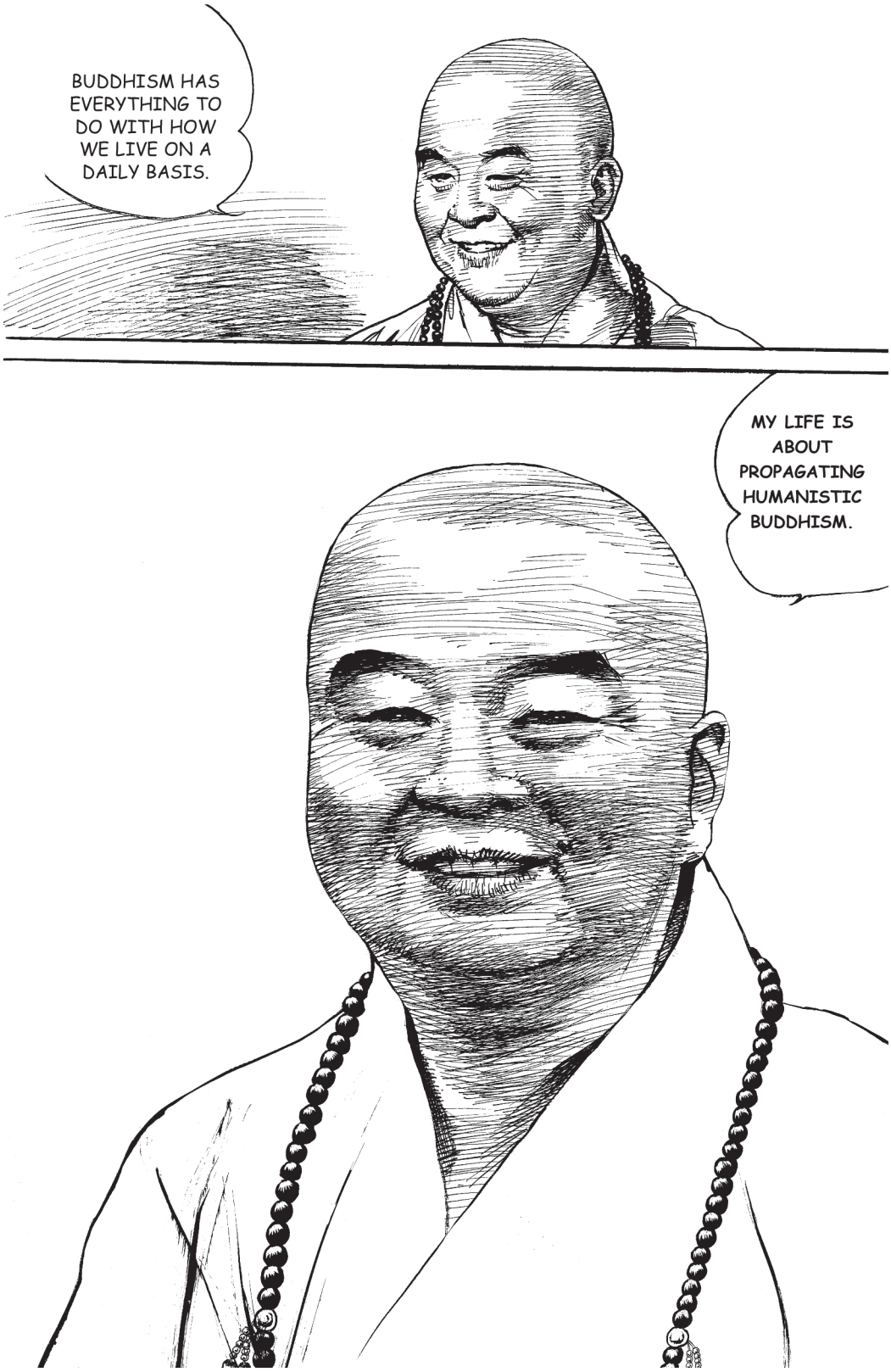
Hsing Yun has became the Honorary President of the World Fellowship of Buddhists. He is also the president of the BLIA World Headquarters.

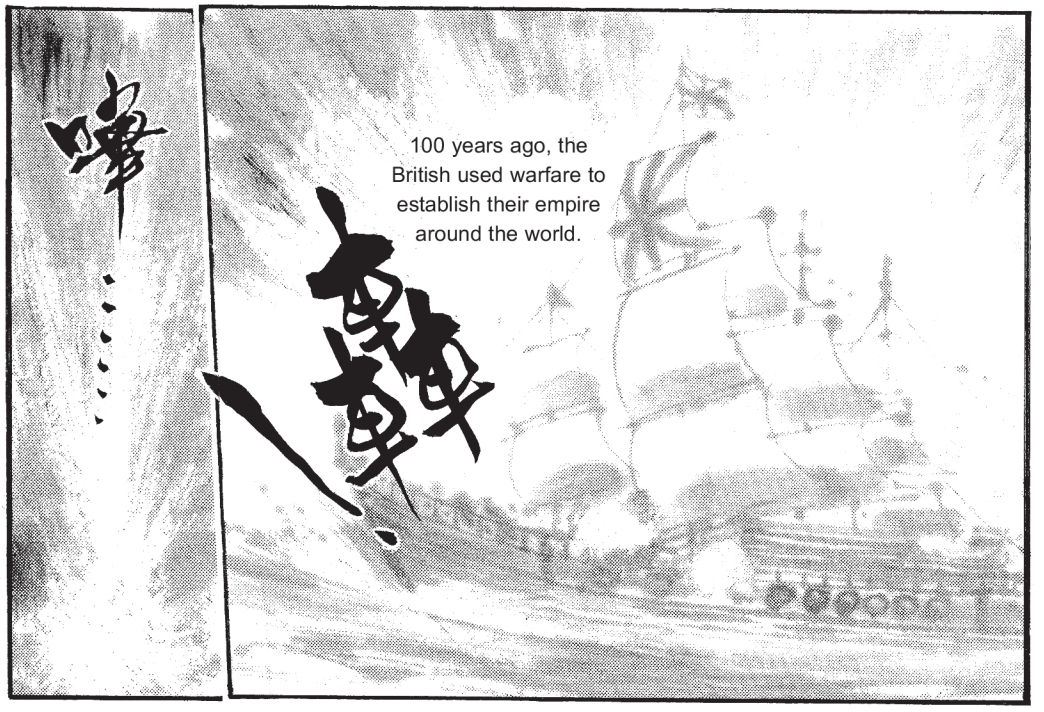



SWOOSH!
Strong and robust even in his senior years, Hsing Yun continues to spread Buddhism around the world, wishing that all might have the chance to encounter these teachings.


Constantly working to share Humanistic Buddhism wherever he goes...


IF BUDDHISM IS NOT CONNECTED TO OUR DAILY LIFE, WHAT USE IS IT?


BUDDHISM HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH HOW WE LIVE ON A DAILY BASIS.
MY LIFE IS ABOUT PROPAGATING HUMANISTIC BUDDHISM.


嘩
100 years ago, the British used warfare to establish their empire around the world.
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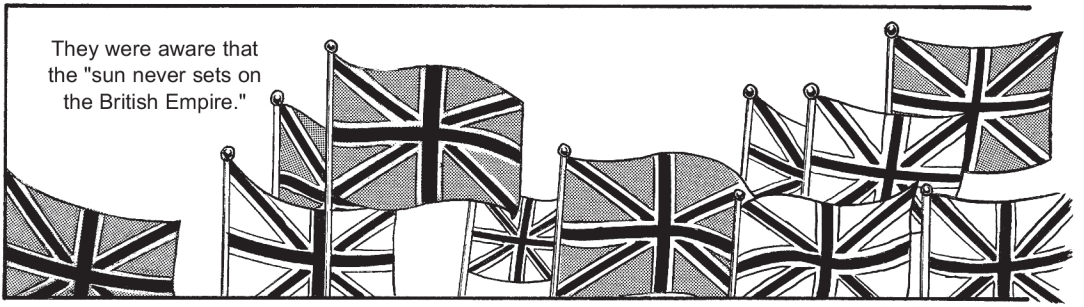
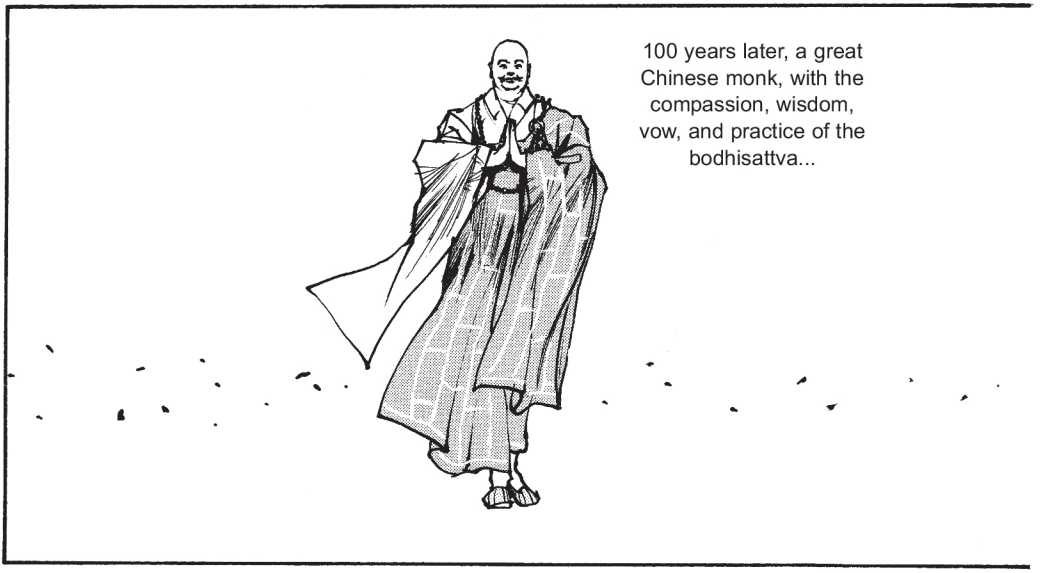

They were aware that the "sun never sets on the British Empire."

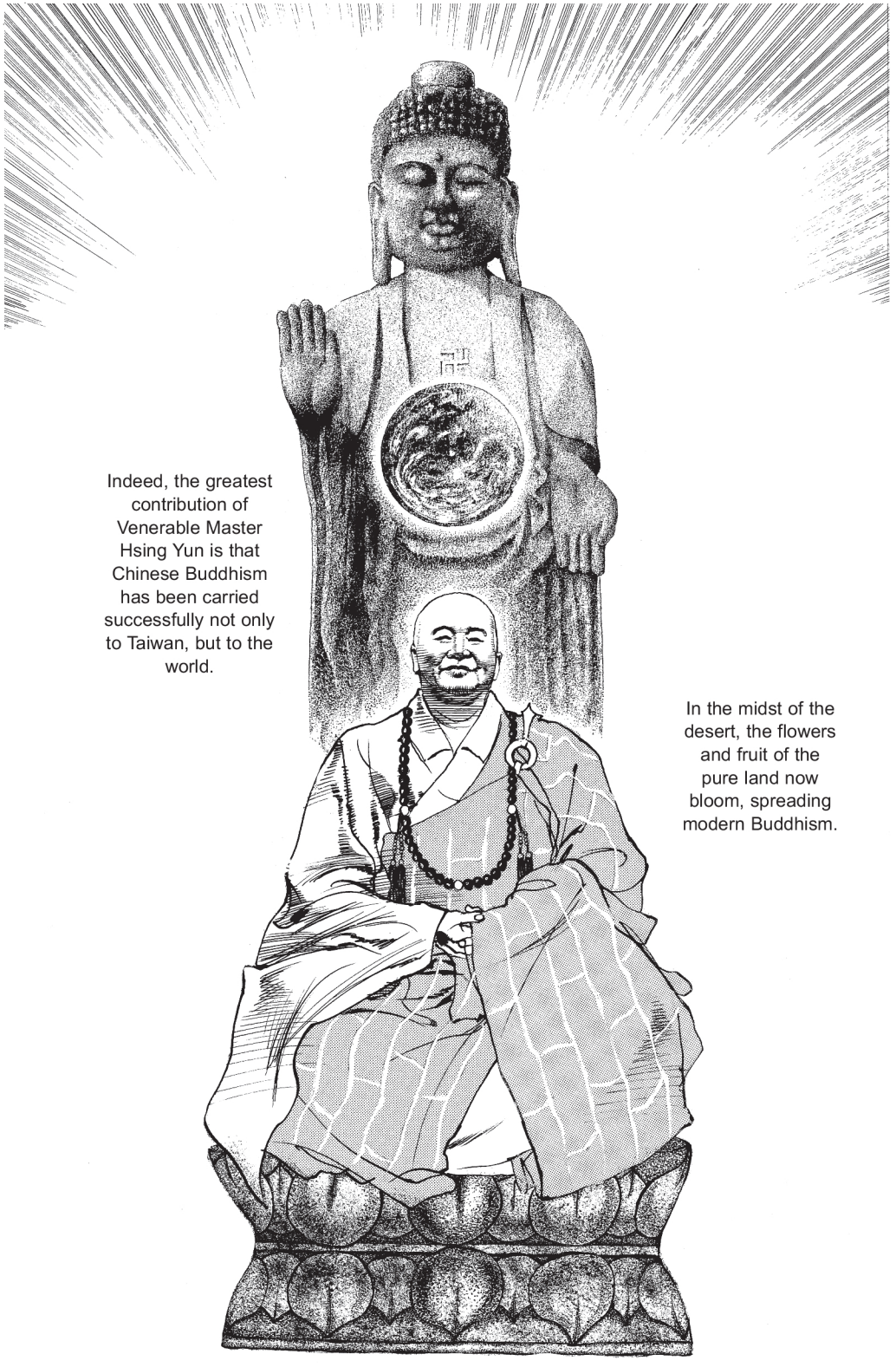

100 years later, a great Chinese monk, with the compassion, wisdom, vow, and practice of the bodhisattva...

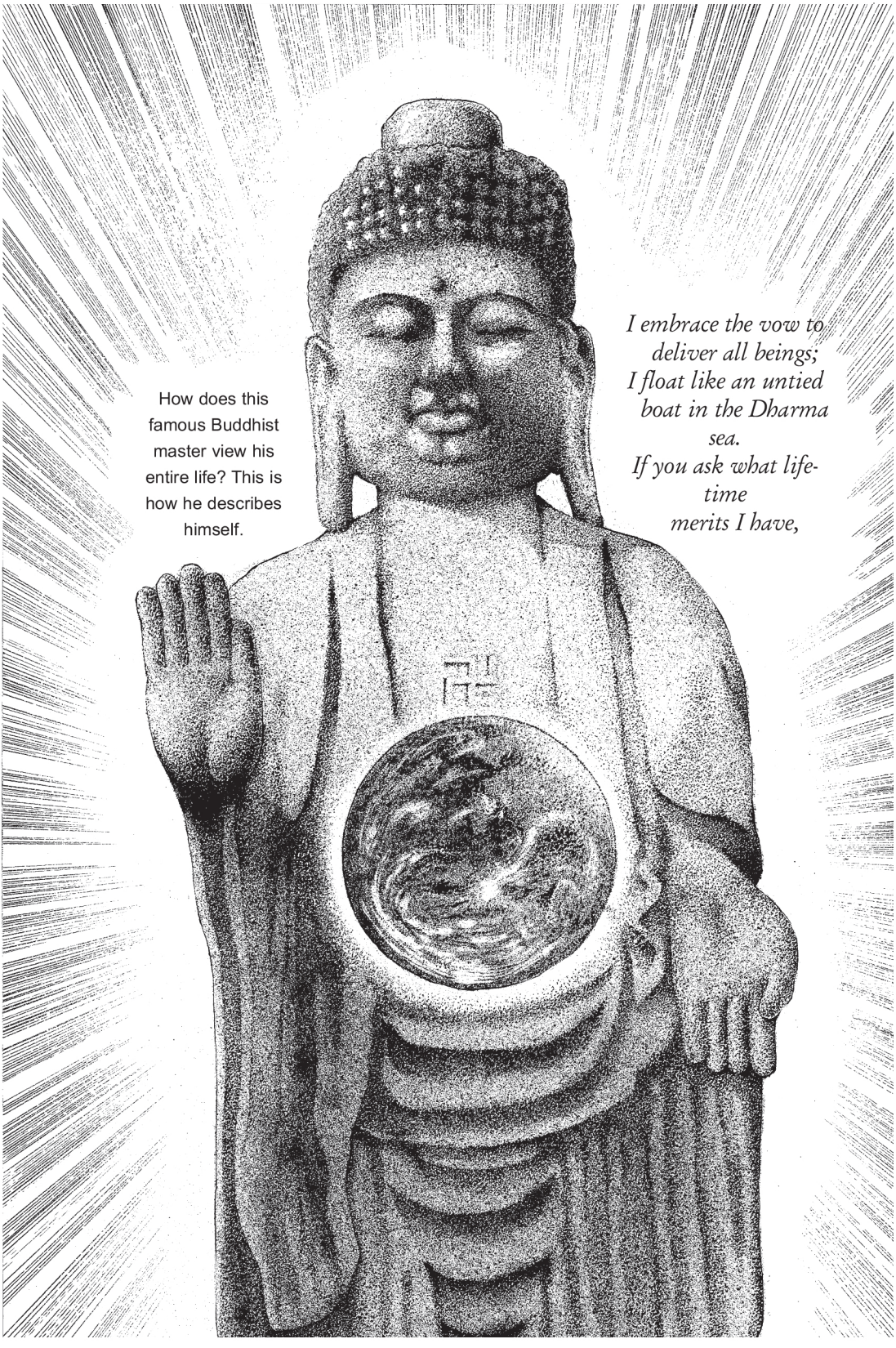
...aided by the Buddha's Light International Association, has sown the seeds of Buddhism with peace and equanimity, spreading the Dharma throughout the world, and establishing universal Buddhism.

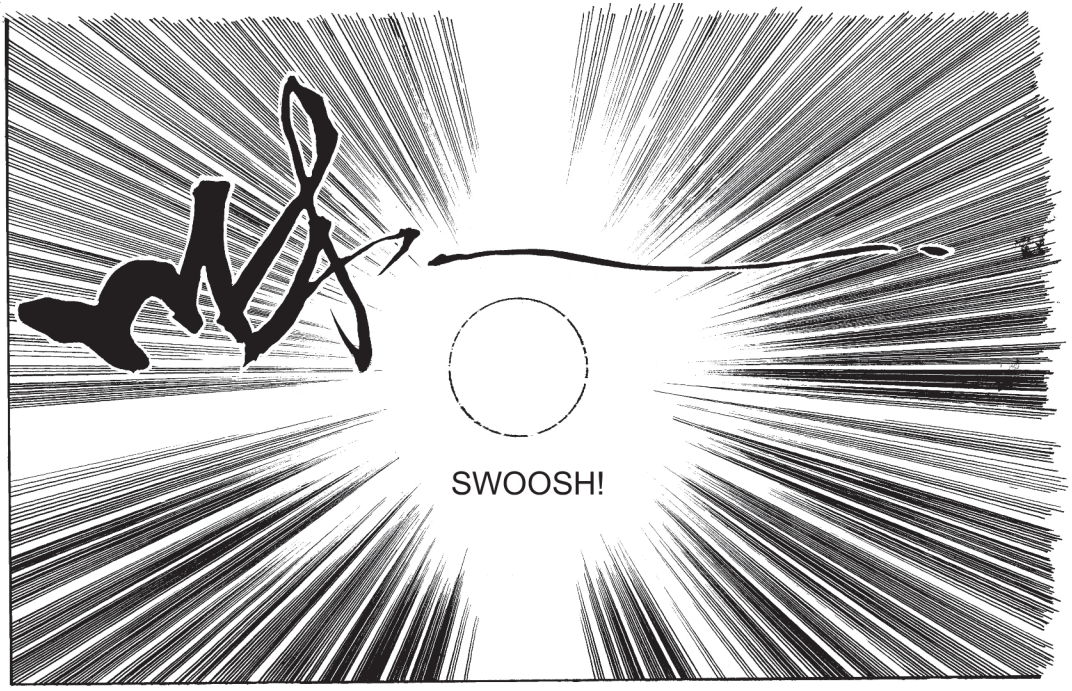


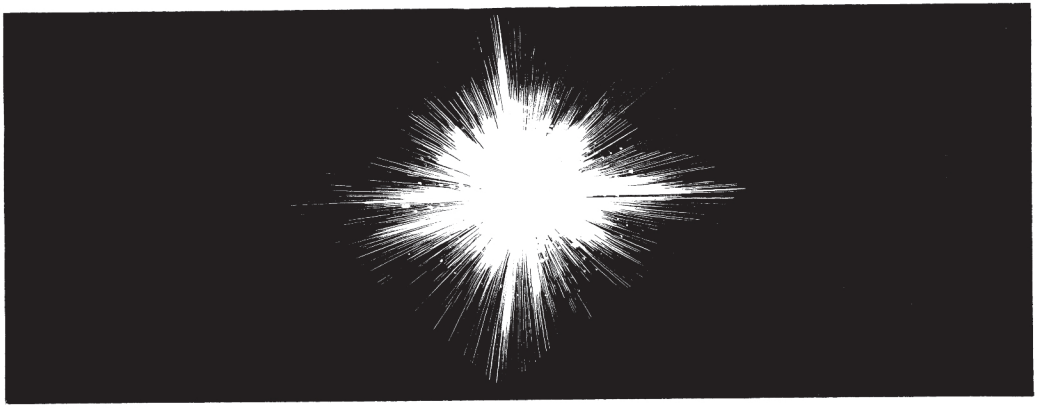
Now, wherever the sun rises, there is Dharma.

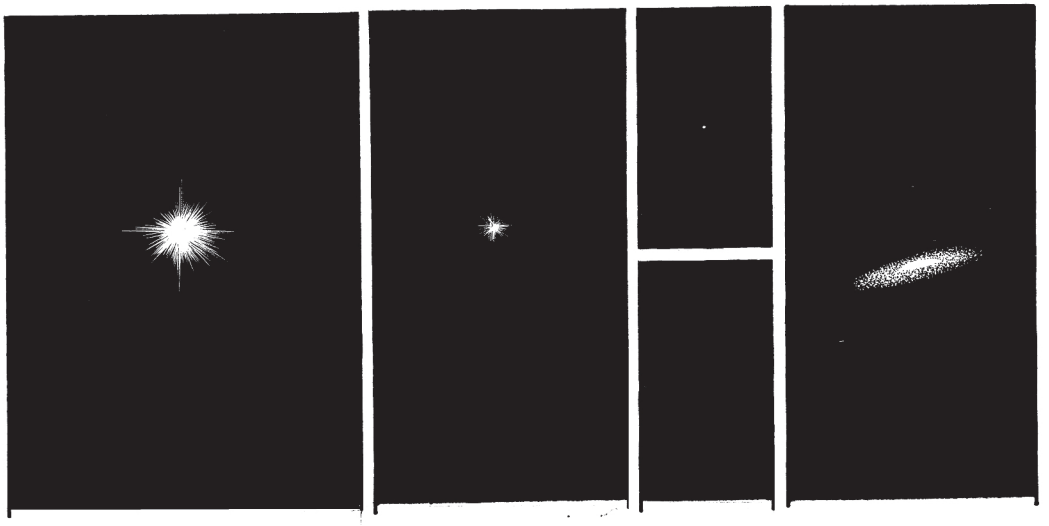


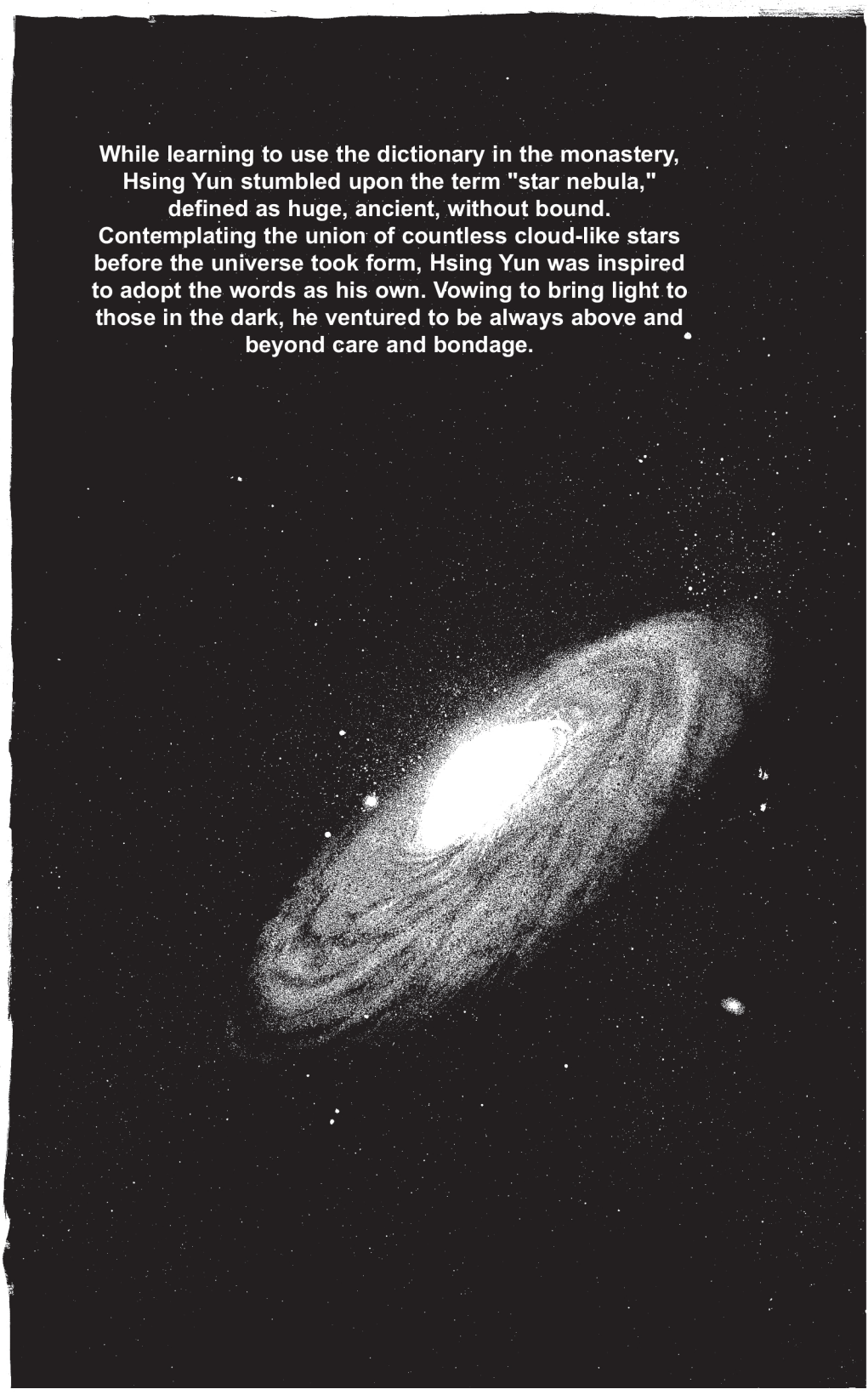

Indeed, the greatest contribution of Venerable Master Hsing Yun is that Chinese Buddhism has been carried successfully not only to Taiwan, but to the world.
In the midst of the desert, the flowers and fruit of the pure land now bloom, spreading modern Buddhism.

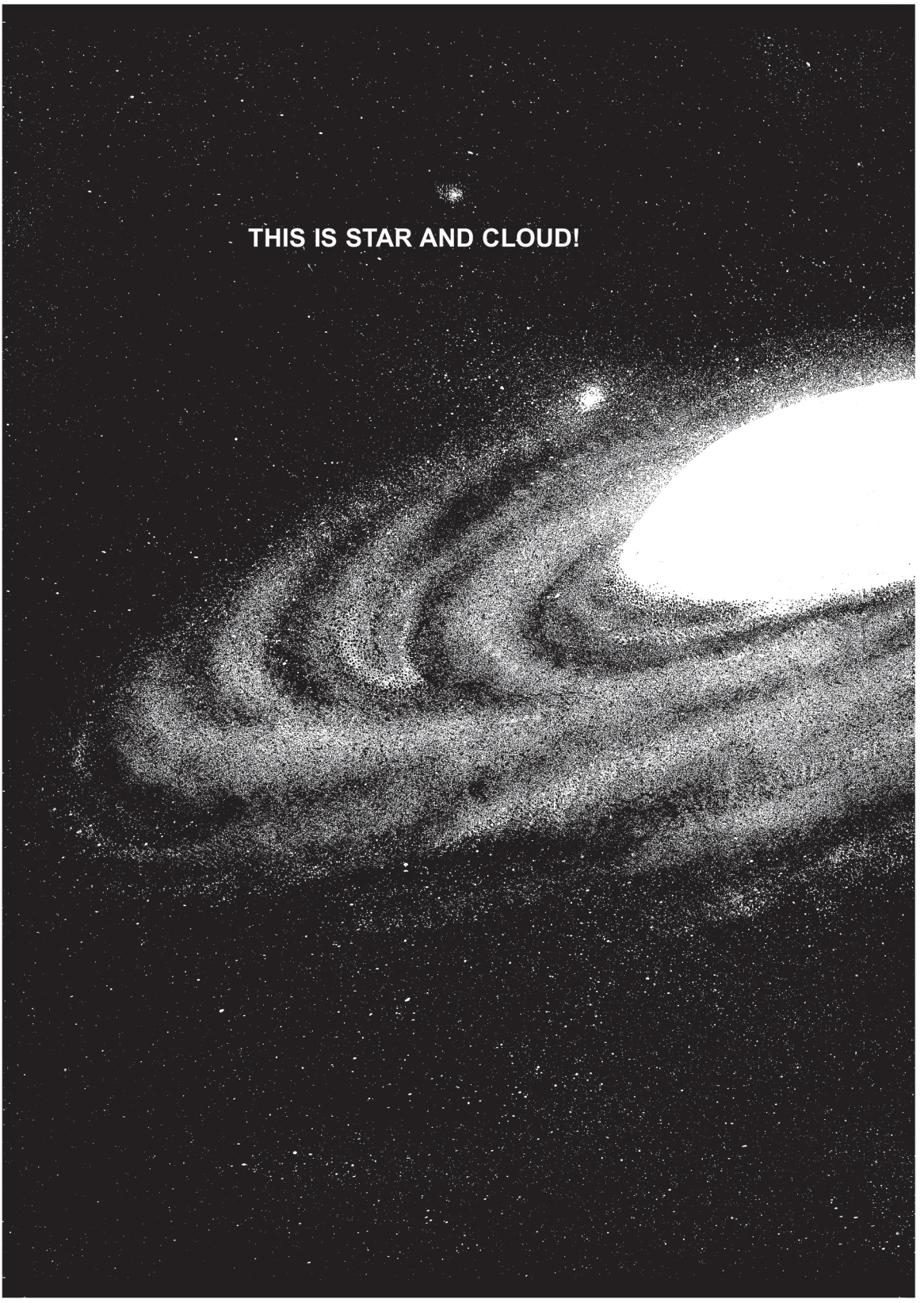

How does this famous Buddhist master view his entire life? This is how he describes himself.
I embrace the vow to deliver all beings;
I float like an untied boat in the Dharma sea.
If you ask what life-time merits I have,


SWOOSH!






While learning to use the dictionary in the monastery, Hsing Yun stumbled upon the term "star nebula," defined as huge, ancient, without bound. Contemplating the union of countless cloud-like stars before the universe took form, Hsing Yun was inspired to adopt the words as his own. Vowing to bring light to those in the dark, he ventured to be always above and beyond care and bondage.


THIS IS STAR AND CLOUD!

