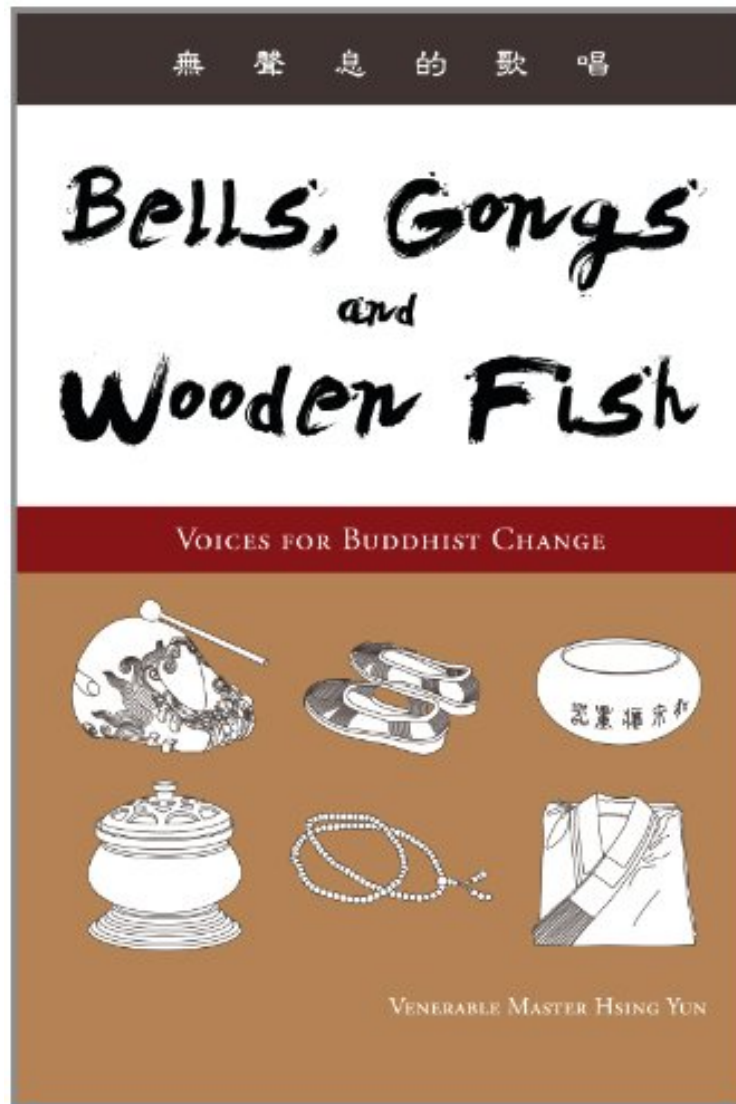


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Bells, Gongs, and Wooden Fish: Voices for Buddhist Change

Venerable Master Hsing Yun
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Venerable Master Hsing Yun : Bells, Gongs, and Wooden Fish: Voices for Buddhist Change before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bells, Gongs, and Wooden Fish: Voices for Buddhist Change:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Master Hsing Yun By Gary W. Price Master Hsing Yun has written many books. I met him in 1996 when I had my laity ordination at his Monastery. He is a knowledgeable writer and speaker although he passed on his bowl and chopsticks years ago to the presiding Abbot of Fo Guang Shan. This is a simplistic book. I bought for the photos and memories it contains. Heavily illustrated with pics. 1 of 1 people found the

following review helpful. InterestingBy greforInteresting and informative. The unusual style of giving inanimate objects 1st person characteristics holds the readers attention for a while, but as one progresses through the book reading it becomes laborious. At times it seems almost childish.

In *Bells, Gongs, and Wooden Fish*, Venerable Master Hsing Yun grants voices to the objects of daily monastic life to tell their stories in this collection of first-person narratives. From monastic shoes to robes and alms bowls, these everyday objects tell the story of their lives and the life of Buddhism from their own perspective. Originally published in 1953, the collected sketches are both lyrical and satiric. The collection of inanimate speakers describe and criticize the state of Chinese Buddhism in the early twentieth century in which educating the laity is an afterthought and the day-to-day activities of monastics are dominated by funerary rites. *Bells, Gongs, and Wooden Fish* showcases the beginnings of Master Hsing Yun's work as a Buddhist reformer, and describes a path to revolutionize, modernize, and humanize Buddhism that resonates to this day.

About the Author Venerable Master Hsing Yun is a Chinese Buddhist monk, author, philanthropist, and founder of the Fo Guang Shan monastic order, which has branches throughout Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia, and the Americas. Ordained at the age of twelve in Jiangsu Province, China, Master Hsing Yun has spent his over seventy years as a Buddhist monk building what he calls Humanistic Buddhism: Buddhism that meets the needs of people and is integrated into all aspects of life. In 1949, Master Hsing Yun came to Taiwan and began to nurture the new burgeoning Buddhist culture in Taiwan. He served as an editor and contributor to many Buddhist magazines and periodicals, authoring the daily columns "Between Ignorance and Enlightenment," "Dharma Words," and "Hsing Yun's Chan Talk," as well as starting his own Buddhist magazine, *Awakening the World*, in 1957, and the first daily Buddhist newspaper, the *Merit Times*, in 2000. Master Hsing Yun authored many important works including the *Song of Silence*, the *Biography of Sakyamuni Buddha*, and *National Master Yulin*. Master Hsing Yun also edited and sponsored the *Fo Guang Encyclopedia*, the most authoritative Buddhist reference work in the Chinese language. His contributions have reached as far as sponsoring Buddhist music and art, to creating Buddhist programming for television, radio, and the stage.