

## HELPING A POOR MAN

Tshe dbang rdo rje ཚེ་དབང་རྡོ་རྗེ། (Caixiangduojie 才项多杰)

While fleeing the nunnery, Uncle Ston pa heard, "Help me! Buddha!" He followed the sound and saw a poor young man kneeling on the ground and shouting. Seeing the man's patched clothes and worn-out shoes, Uncle Ston pa asked, "Hey! Young man! What's wrong?"

"My turnips..." replied the man with a trembling voice, "are not growing!"

"Well, plant something else," suggested Uncle Ston pa.

"It's easy to say that..." retorted the man angrily, "Do you know how much I've lost in this evil field?"

"Sorry, I don't know. Please tell me," encouraged Uncle Ston pa.

"I've lost everything!" exclaimed the man. "My only ox died suddenly while we were plowing this field. I lost my family's only treasure, a coral necklace, while I was sowing seeds in this field. My wife and only son got a strange illness when we were irrigating this field and they both passed away today!"

"Oh! I'm very sorry to hear that," Uncle Ston pa commiserated.

"I've lost everything in this evil field! The turnips that we planted in this field are not growing. What should I do?!" the man exclaimed and began wailing even more loudly.

"Please stop. I can help you," said Uncle Ston pa.

"Really?" asked the man with surprise.

"Yes, but you have to do what I suggest!" replied Uncle Ston pa.

"Tell me. I'll do it even if I die. I'm a man with nothing!" the man said.

"It's not that difficult," explained Uncle Ston pa. "Just chant, 'I wish my turnips would grow as big as a donkey's penis' 108 times

every day for a month. After a month, take all the turnips and lay them in front of your village's nunnery and shout 'Penises for sale!' With the money you earn, invite the nun who asks you about Ston pa to your home and take good care of her."

"I'll do as you say, but who is Ston pa?" asked the man.

"It's my name. I'll visit you after a year!" concluded Uncle Ston pa, and then he left.

The farmer did what Uncle Ston pa suggested. After a month, the field was full of turnips as big as donkey penises. He brought them to the nunnery gate and shouted, "Penises for sale! Penises for sale!"

First, the abbess sneaked out and bought the longest penis-shaped turnip. Then, other nuns dashed out and bought more. Finally, at sunset, a pregnant nun came and asked, "Dear Uncle, do you know a man named Ston pa?"

"Yes!" replied the man in great surprise. "He is my savior!"

"Is he well? Does he live with you?" asked the eager nun.

"Yes, yes, he is very well! He left on the same day we met. But he is coming back in a few months. May I invite you to my home? I promised him that I would take good care of you!"

"Really?!" exclaimed the nun joyfully, "He's a great man!"

"Yes, yes," agreed the man. "He'll be back in a few months. Let's go to my home."

The nun followed the man, stayed at his home, and soon gave birth to a lovely boy who had Uncle Ston pa's face, which reminded the man of his own son. The man took good care of the mother and the son. They had a happy life together.

#### NON-ENGLISH TERMS

ston pa ལྷོན་པ།

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