

## UNCLE STON PA VISITS XI'AN

Sangs rgyas bkra shis སངས་རྒྱལ་བཀྲ་ཤིས།

Uncle Ston pa heard people talking about monks from his home community who visited such big cities as Beijing and Shanghai where they met many rich Chinese. They made a lot of money and then bought expensive cars and houses when they got back home.

Uncle Ston pa thought about it and then decided to go to Zi ling by bus. When he arrived, he went to a store and bought an outfit of monk's clothes. By this time, he was very hungry and went to the area near the train station where many Tibetans operated businesses. He met a man he knew and said, "Hello! What are you doing here? Such a lucky coincidence to meet you here!"

"Yes, I'm here to buy coral. How about you?" the man replied.

"I'm here to buy a car. I did some caterpillar fungus business this year and earned a lot. Come and eat something with me," Uncle Ston pa said, putting his arm around the man's shoulder.

The man trusted Uncle Ston pa and followed him to a Tibetan restaurant where Uncle Ston pa ordered a big platter of boiled mutton, two bowls of noodles, and a thermos of milk tea. They enjoyed the food and tea as Uncle Ston pa talked authoritatively about his successful business.

"I've got to go to the toilet," Uncle Ston pa said when he was full.

His companion waited for Uncle Ston pa until it got dark, and then the boss forced him to pay for the food and tea.

Meanwhile, Uncle Ston pa found a cheap hotel and was soon blissfully asleep.

Early the next morning he got up, put on the monk's clothes, bought a ticket, and soon started his journey to Xi'an. When he arrived, he asked people how to reach the Big Wild Goose Pagoda.

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Sangs rgyas bkra shis. 2017. Uncle Ston pa Visits Xi'an. *Asian Highlands Perspectives* 47:173-175.

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After getting the directions he needed, he took a bus and was soon admiring the large image of Tang Seng near the Pagoda. He then sat cross-legged and pretended to chant.

Many Chinese people noticed his unusual clothes and very curiously came and listened to what none of them could understand.

A bit later, Uncle Ston pa heard someone calling to him. He slowly opened his eyes, and saw a middle-aged woman. He spoke to her in broken Qinghai Chinese dialect, which the woman could barely understand.

She then began weeping and told him that she had divorced her husband a few days earlier, and also confided that this was her third divorce.

Uncle Ston pa closed his eyes, pretended to be meditating, and then said, "There is something wrong with you. I can help you if you like."

The woman joyfully invited Uncle Ston pa to her luxurious apartment, where she offered him fruit, and cooked and served delicious food.

After eating, belching loudly, and farting silently, Uncle Ston pa took out a very old scripture book and pretended to read and chant.

After a couple of hours, the woman asked Uncle Ston pa to rest. She then cooked more food for their supper, which they ate together.

"It's already dark and you certainly can't easily find a hotel now. Why not stay here tonight?" the woman suggested.

Uncle Ston pa pretended to be very reluctant but, of course, he eventually agreed.

The woman then suggested that he take a bath and showed him to the bathroom. Uncle Ston po enjoyed taking a bath, while hoping his host would pay him for his chanting. After finishing his bath, Uncle Ston pa returned to the living room where the woman was lying on a long sofa, wearing only panties and a red bra. She held up a big towel and rubbed Uncle Ston pa's body gently, but suggestively.

Uncle Ston pa was unable to control himself and they soon made love on the thickly carpeted floor.

The next morning, neither of them mentioned anything about the previous night. The woman thanked Uncle Ston pa for chanting and gave him 5,000 *yuan*.

Uncle Ston pa looked very regretful and sad, gave her his cellphone number, and then went to a sauna where he enjoyed himself. While there, he got a text message from the woman that said, "I'm sorry to have seduced you. I heard that monks are very fresh and pure and women who have sex with them will become younger. That was why I cheated you. I've never been married. I'm sorry."

Uncle Ston pa laughed loudly when he finished reading this and responded, "It's OK. Don't be sorry. I'm not a real monk. I have three children."

#### NON-ENGLISH TERMS

Beijing 北京

Qinghai 青海

sangs rgyas bkra shis སངས་རྒྱས་བཀྲ་ཤིས།

Shanghai 上海

ston pa ལྷོན་པ།

Xi'an 西安

*yuan* 元

zi ling ཟླ་ལིང་།