

## TRICKING A VILLAGE LEADER

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

On the way home, Uncle Ston pa passed a village where he saw many beggars lining the sides of the road. When he asked them why they were begging, they said that their greedy village leader had taken all their property, including their pots. Uncle Ston pa then went to the village leader's home and knocked on the gate. A servant came out and asked, "Who are you?"

"I'm the king's messenger," replied Uncle Ston pa while dismounting from the stallion. "Tell the village leader that I have come to borrow a pot."

The servant dashed back inside and told the village leader that the king's messenger was outside and that he wanted to borrow a pot. Surprised to hear that, the village leader went to the gate, peeked out, and was shocked to see Uncle Ston pa riding the king's horse and wearing the king's robe. He thought, "He must be the king's messenger. Otherwise, how can he have such a good horse and such fine clothes? If I lend him a pot, the king might give me more land!" He then went out, greeted Uncle Ston pa, and lent him a big pot. Uncle Ston pa thanked the village leader and went home with the big pot. The next day, he went to the village leader and returned the big pot with a small pot inside.

The village leader asked in surprise, "What's this small pot?"

"Oh, sorry, I forgot to tell you that your big pot gave birth last night, and this is the baby pot!" said Uncle Ston pa.

"Wow! Thanks! How did you do that?" asked the village leader.

"The stove at home always makes pots pregnant. Every time, I put a pot on it to cook food, a small pot appears the next day!" replied Uncle Ston pa.

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"That's interesting!" exclaimed the greedy village leader. "I have a gold pot. Can you help me to get it pregnant?"

"I've never tried a gold pot on my stove, but I can try," replied Uncle Ston pa.

"That's great!" said the village leader in great excitement, and handed his most precious gold pot to Uncle Ston pa.

"I'll come visit you tomorrow at this time," said Uncle Ston pa and left. As soon as he got home, he smashed the gold pot into many little pieces, and gave them to the poor villagers.

The next day, Uncle Ston pa took a bag of ash and went to the village leader's home. As soon as he reached the gate, the village leader dashed out and asked about his gold pot.

While weeping, Uncle Ston pa handed him the bag of ash and said, "My stove and your gold pot both died last night!"

"What? How did it happen?" yelled the village leader.

"I don't know. Last night, I put your pot on my stove, cooked food in it, and went to bed as usual. This morning, I found that my stove had collapsed and there was only a pile of ash beneath it. I think the ash is your gold pot. It's dead!" replied Uncle Ston pa.

"How is that possible?!" yelled the village leader.

"If a pot can get pregnant then it's possible for a pot to die!" said Uncle Ston pa, "My father told me that the stove would make the pot give birth if the pot was appropriate. Otherwise, it would turn the pot into ash and die!"

After hearing that, the village leader fainted from sadness and regret.

Uncle Ston pa apologized and left.

From that day on, the village leader was too sad to be cruel, and villagers started leading happy lives.

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NON-ENGLISH TERMS

ston pa ལྷོན་པ།

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