
 TRICKING THE LANDLORD'S FRIEND AGAIN

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

One morning Uncle Ston pa was going to have breakfast when he saw Tshe ring, the oil merchant whom he had tricked, coming to take revenge. Uncle Ston pa jumped up and ran for a long time on an empty stomach. At around noon he saw a nunnery in the distance. Even though he was exhausted from hunger and thirst, he used his last bit of strength to dash to the gate. It was locked. He heard many nuns chanting loudly inside. He called to the nuns to open the door, but he was so exhausted that his voice was very low. Finally, he gave up and lay in the shade of a prayer pole by the gate, hoping someone would eventually come.

While he was lying on the ground, looking up at the sky, he saw several bits of white cloud right above him and the prayer pole. He imagined the clouds to be big pieces of thick bread, giant pots of hot noodles, large plates of steaming mutton, and many other delicious foods. The clouds slowly moved far behind the prayer pole and he felt the pole was falling on him. He closed his eyes, hoping someone would save him.

Suddenly, Uncle Ston pa heard footsteps. He opened his eyes and saw Tshe ring angrily looking at him. "Stand up! You devil!" yelled Tshe ring.

"Oh, hi!" said Uncle Ston pa. "Thanks for coming. Do you have any food with you?"

"I don't have any food, but I have you!" replied Tshe ring.

"The nuns are chanting inside," said Uncle Ston pa. "They might give us some food if you tell them that this prayer pole is falling down."

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"What? You want to trick me again by saying this prayer pole is falling down? This prayer pole is standing straight. It isn't moving!" replied Tshe ring.

"No, no, no! It is falling. Look at the top of the prayer pole and the clouds above it," explained Uncle Ston pa.

Tshe ring gazed at the top of the prayer pole and the clouds above it for a while. The clouds were moving and the distance between the pole top and the clouds seemed to be getting bigger. Tshe ring then also felt the pole was falling. Without a second thought, Tshe ring started yelling loudly, "Oh my Buddha! This pole is falling. Please come help!"

"Call more loudly," said Uncle Ston pa, "They're chanting and won't hear you if you don't yell really loudly."

Tshe ring used his mightiest voice. A few young nuns dashed out and screeched at Tshe ring, "You're crazy! The prayer pole is not falling down!"

Tshe ring looked at the nuns in surprise and checked the prayer pole again. He noticed that the pole was still standing straight up. Tshe ring tried to explain, but the nuns were furious because they thought he was bringing bad luck to the nunnery by shouting "The prayer pole is falling down!" They threw stones at Tshe ring and chased him away.

Luckily, the young nuns noticed Uncle Ston pa lying on the ground in great hunger, thirst, and exhaustion. They carried him into the nunnery where he was safe from his enemy, Tshe ring.

NON-ENGLISH TERMS

ston pa ལྷོན་པ།

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tshe ring ཚེ་རིང་།