

# 金山活佛

## High Level Monk Part IX

*Living Buddha could not just use his spit and saliva to heal people. He could also use his bath water! Many people would not believe it, but I have seen it with my own eyes.*



# Golden Mountain Living Buddha

**A**t that time Living Buddha and I were still living in Wu Gong Lu's 胡公律 home in Nanjing 南京. It was very hot and I had to take a bath every day. However, Living Buddha did not like taking baths or having showers. If he saw anyone have a bath or shower he would say, "That body, even if you wash it from dawn until dusk, it will still be a smelly shell 臭殼子." He meant that when we come to this world we are suffering from the many sins we have done in our past lives. We come to this world as humans to pay back all the debts we have built up. If we have no debts to repay, then we would not come back to this world and we would go to a place where there is no suffering and no death, a place like a heaven. So in Buddhism we call a body a smelly shell.

Although the weather was very hot, Living Buddha would still wear his thick robes with heavy cotton lining. Even so, he did not feel hot and he did not sweat or smell. It was very odd. However, on one occasion many people tried to persuade him to take a bath. After they pushed him many times he agreed.

Unlike most people, Living Buddha never took time to enjoy his bath. He bathed very quickly and would get out straight away. On this occasion the servant came in to pour out the water. Suddenly she smelt the scent of sandalwood 檀香. It was very fragrant as if someone was burning some. In many Buddhist temples and homes, people burn sandalwood to pay respect to Buddha. She looked around to see if any was burning but eventually realised that the smell was coming from the bath water as she was standing next to it. She could not believe it, so she bent down to smell the water. It really was the water that was giving off the smell.

She was so surprised and began shouting out to everyone to come and see. "Living Buddha's bath water has turned into sandalwood fragrant water! Come and see!" Everyone in the house could hear her and came to see, myself included.

I could not believe it! The water really smelt of sandalwood. It was impossible, but it was true. Living Buddha was still in the room and then he said to the servant, "You can drink some of this." The servant always believed and followed Living Buddha's words and so she bent over and scooped up some of the water in her hands and drank the bath water. After drinking it she was very happy and said, "It is very fragrant". Living Buddha then continued to say, "I think this water can even treat your problem, too."

The servant noticed that she started to feel warmth going through her whole body and it was getting warmer and warmer. Heat was going up from her Dantian 丹田, running over the top of her head and running down to her legs. Her whole body felt relaxed, looser and more comfortable.

The servant did have some problem with her health. She had not had a period for a few months and because of this she did not feel well and was often very tired. At that time, many women were too shy to talk about these things and even tell doctors their problems as they found it hard to talk to a man. She was very shy and had not even told Living Buddha. No one else had told him, so how did he even know?

After drinking the bath water, a little later the servant began to have her period and started to feel much better. She told other people and eventually many people around Nanjing had heard about it. From then on people would come to Wu's house asking for Living Buddha's bath water. Although Living Buddha did not like taking baths, because it was to help people, he would have one whenever anyone asked.

Every single day people would come asking for Living Buddha's bath water. Eventually people realised that they had to wait until the afternoon and so people began queuing up for his bath water. This forced Living Buddha to have a bath every single day, but he did not complain about it.

There is another story that people like to talk about. Living Buddha treated a lot of people, but he never took a penny for it. Everybody knew this, so some people started to bring him food instead. Most of the time it was fruit and other kinds of snacks. Whenever someone gave him food, straight away he would share it out with the people around and never keep any for himself. The patients gave him the food because they wanted to do something nice and help to maintain him. This is quite common in Buddhism.

Some would say to him, "We brought this food to give to you, why do you give it all away to others so you have nothing for yourself?" Living Buddha would smile and say, "People get ill because of their greed 貪, hatred 瞋, ignorance 痴 and passion 愛. All these are illnesses. Only compassion 慈, sympathy 悲, happiness 喜 and letting go 捨 are the medicines to treat them. If we can make good relationships and fate with other people, then all our illnesses will recover."

Living Buddha had a lot of unusual ways to treat people. Sometimes you would not even notice that he was treating you and releasing you from your suffering. I have an experience of my own.

I am the fourth child in my family. When I was born my mother was not strong and so I was born with a weak body. I was always ill and taking medicine all the time. When I was about seven or eight I began to suffer from very painful headaches. Every spring I would have very serious headaches which could last ten days to half a month. Neither Chinese nor Western medicine could stop them. They only eased them a little bit but never cured them.

Each time I had a headache I would tightly bind my head with a long cloth and this would help me feel a little better. After a long time the headache would slowly fade away by itself. I had come to just accept them as an illness in my life and I stopped going to see any doctors.

Since I had become a Buddhist monk I still had the headaches and thought that they would stay with me for my entire life. I could never have imagined that Living Buddha would fix me. How did he treat my problem? When I tell you it will make you laugh.

We had been staying in Nanjing for a while and it was now time to leave and say goodbye. Living Buddha told me how beautiful Golden Mountain Temple was and that we must go there in the winter for the Seven Days Chan Meditation 禪七. I had always wanted to go to Golden Mountain Temple as this was where Living Buddha had come from and the area was said to be beautiful. This seemed like a good opportunity to go.

That winter I went with Living Buddha to Golden Mountain Temple to practise the Seven Days Chan meditation. After the seven days were over it was time for me to leave. I was saying goodbye to Living Buddha and he walked with me to the main entrance. I walked out, but a few moments later Living Buddha called, "Come

back, come back!" Of course I went back. I thought he must have something to tell me.

When I came back he smiled and, without saying a word, he suddenly grabbed my head very tightly and began hitting my head! He hit my head very hard with his hand many times. It was very painful and I almost fainted. I could not get away. I almost wanted to fight with him, it hurt so much.

Finally he let me go and laughed very loudly, "It's all right now, it's all right now." That is all he said and then he ran back up to the temple. I just stood and watched him go. I did not know what to make of this strange act. Some part of me was angry, but I straight away stopped that thinking and then I just found it very funny. I did not understand why he did that to me.

The next spring, to my surprise, I did not have any headaches. I thought they might come later in the summer, but they did not. Usually I would have 3 to 5 headaches in the spring. The next spring there were also no headaches and the year after that. Then I started to realise that Living Buddha had healed my headaches by hitting my head with his hand. He was being compassionate by hitting me. I have never forgotten about how he treated me and I always think of him.

After many years I have come across several of Living Buddha's students. They have all been treated by him and he has cured the illnesses that they suffered for so many years, even when no one else could cure them. They were all touched by him and so became Buddhist, vegetarians and began chanting Amitofo. They were all affected by him and try to be better people.

By Master Le Guan 樂觀法師, translated by Michael Tse  
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