



Metal Cast with Real Human Body Inside: A Specific Religious Art for Management of Incorruptible Body

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Abstract

The role of art in religion is an intriguing topic. There are numerous religious items that are regarded as masterpieces. The art of the metal case is fascinating in Buddhism. In this brief piece, the writers discuss and illustrate a remarkable item found in Indochina: a metal cast of a real human dead and incorruptible body. This article presents a detailed case study of a metal cast of a local famous venerable that includes an actual, incorruptible body.

Keywords: Metal case, body, dead, Religion.

Introduction

An intriguing topic is art in religion. Numerous religious objects are regarded as masterpieces. The art of the metal case is fascinating in Buddhism. The architecture of religious holy places, like a cathedral or pagoda, may be used to display the religion art. It can even take the shape of little things like amulets. The writers of this brief essay explain and present a remarkable item found in Indochina: a metal cast of a real human body. This article presents a specific case study of a metal cast of a local famous venerable that contains an actual, uncorruptible dead body.

Case study from Thailand

Buddhist metal casts are common in Thailand. There are numerous metal statues of Buddha and other well-known Buddhist figures that were created locally. The metal cast is constructed using a variety of metal types, such as bronze, silver, and gold. The use of priceless stones as ornamentation is also possible. The unusual situation, however, is the metal cast that contains an actual human corpse. The most well-known metal sculpture featuring a real human organ is located at Wat Kakang in Thailand's Pichit region. A local craftsman created this sculpture out of metal casting. The goal is to inspire worship. Following the cremation of a well-known local Buddhist monk, this cast was created. The revered person is Laungphor Yongyuth. His entire

body was eventually placed in a metal cast for local worship after he passed away since he was incorruptible (Figure 1; video demonstrating the process for containing dead body in metal cast at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUBNGKvswgY>). The current scene of this case is at Wat Khao Maidang, a Buddhist temple close to the renowned seaside resort of Pattaya.

Discussion

An significant unique belief in Indochina is incorruptibility. The art of coffins and ossuaries is particularly fascinating, and many Buddhist monks' sacred dead remains are kept there [1–2]. The religious artwork created for certain situations is typically unique and very artistic. Here, the authors discuss a more extreme scenario with a metal cast that contains actual human remains. This style of painting is actually extremely uncommon.

An earlier instance of a metal cast containing a human eyeball may serve as a good comparison [3]. The current situation, nevertheless, is more extraordinary. It is quite difficult to keep the true, uncorruptible body from being used in the local worship ritual. The holy, incorruptible body is used as the artistic medium in this instance. As a result, a precise metal cast containing the actual body of a famous monk may be created. A local Thai craftsman could currently design a cast with success because the technique is so high. In Thailand's metal cast building, this may reflect local wisdom.



Figure 1. Metal cast containing incorruptible death body of a Buddhist monk

Conflict of interest: None

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