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Gold Leaf for Covering Dead Body of Holy Abbot: A Specific Culture in Indochina

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Abstract

Specific culture in different regions is interesting. The religious related culture is usually specific and reflects belief of local people. Here, the authors discuss on a specific culture in Indochina, gold leaf for covering death body of holy abbot. This reflect local belief on holiness of famous Buddhist monk.

Keywords: gold lead, dead, body, abbot.

Introduction

Specific culture in different regions is interesting. The religious related culture is usually specific and reflects belief of local people. Here, the authors discuss on a specific culture in Indochina, gold leaf for covering death body of holy abbot. This reflects local belief on holiness of famous Buddhist monk.

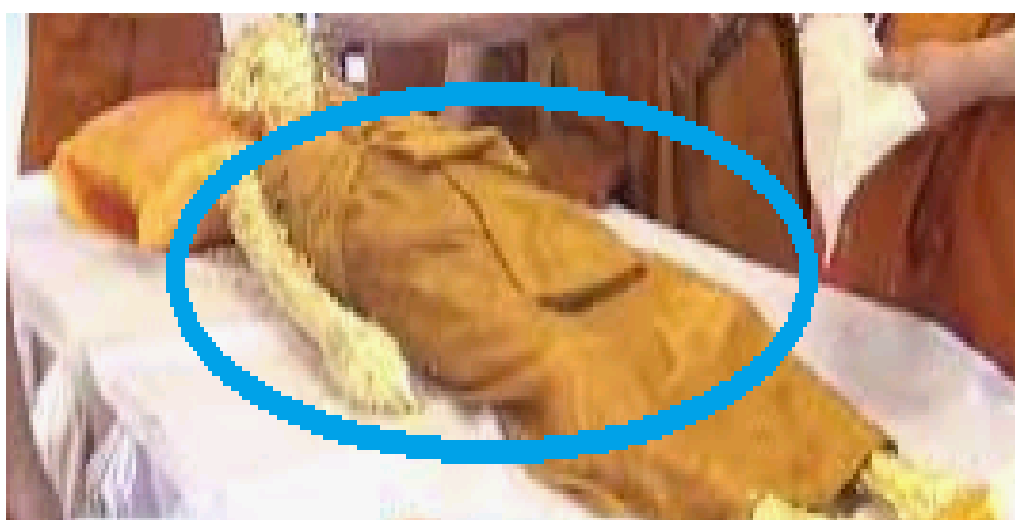


Figure 1: Gold leaf for coverage of dead body of Buddhist monk

Case studies

There are many cases of using gold leaf for coverage of dead body of holy Buddhist monk. The common practice is seen in northern region of Thailand. The examples are shown in Figure 1. After death, the dead body of Buddhist monk will be cleaned and specific gold leaves are prepared and used for covering of the dead body.

Discussion

Specific practice for paying respectful to religious image, object of person is usually interesting. The specific practice might be different in different area. In Indochina, it is previously known as Suvannabhumi or land of gold, hence, gold is usually as a symbol for paying respectfulness. In this article, a specific use of gold leaf for coverage of dead body of famous local abbot is presented.

Indeed, there are many styles for managing dead body of local Buddhist monks. Some dead bodies of Buddhist monks are kept in glass coffin or ossuary. The use of gold leaf for coverage is another interesting practice. This is based on the belief on value of gold and it can represent the interesting way of application of gold. The dead body that is covered by gold leaf might be further put in coffin and the coffin is displayed for local people for worshipping. Some specific decorations might be used and good example is using mirror coffin for reflecting the dead body.

Style and use of gold leaf coverage are specific culture and the in depth analysis of art will be interesting area of researching.

Conflict of interest: None

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