

GLOBAL NEWS



THE EXORCIST – AKA THE JAPANESE TAXI DRIVER!

A Japanese taxi driver from Nagoya was arrested recently after he convinced a regular passenger into handing over 23 million yen for exorcisms, which he told her were vital if she wanted to find the right man! Kiroku Hori, a 48-year-old taxi driver, was arrested and held for defrauding his victim regularly over a six-year period. The woman, whose identity is being withheld for privacy reasons, first hailed Hori's taxi in May 2004 when she confessed during a conversation in his cab, that she had a strong desire to get hitched but had been unable to find the right man!

Quick-minded Hori 'revealed' that he just happened to be a fortune-teller and offered his services to her! He later expressed 'surprise' to the police that his passenger had believed him so fully. "I'm afraid you are possessed by evil spirits," Hori reportedly told her solemnly after a quick fortune telling session in his taxi, "and unless you exorcise them immediately, your chances of getting married will be virtually non-existent."

The passenger admitted to being bewitched by Hori's smooth talking and she decided to ask for his help by agreeing to meet him at a later date. Just over one week later, she handed over 500,000 yen to Hori as an initial 'consultation charge. In June that year, she followed up with another payment of one million yen.

It is claimed that Hori held up to 240 'exorcising sessions' during the five year period and dishonestly charged the woman around 23 million yen for his fortune telling services. For the information of Taxi Globe readers who may be wondering where they can find a wife who always believes what they say, no, the passenger is still not married...!

ZAMBIAN TAXI DRIVER ALIEN STORY: "I LIED!"

When Taxi driver James Mwassambula claimed that he had picked up an alien in his home city - Zambian capital, Lusaka - newspapers from around the world took an immediate interest. James said that he had picked up his passenger at the main port of Mpulungu and was asked to go to a house around 5 kilometres away. "The man was the tallest person I had ever seen," James said at the time, "well over 2.2 metres tall (around 7 feet). He didn't look very well and had a grey tinge to his face, although he wore dark glasses and had a coat done up to the neck – that was quite strange as the temperature was 28C degrees (81F)."

The story got even more interesting when James said that a truck suddenly appeared out of nowhere and that the alien waved a four-fingered hand at it and it left the ground, returning to Earth on the other side of the street!

Paranormal and UFO organisations picked up on the story and claimed that the "passenger" had displayed all the characteristics of the alien breed known as the "greys." They also claimed that they believed Mr Mwassambula's story. Sadly for them and everyone who likes a good mystery, James Mwassambula has now admitted that he did it because he didn't like taxi driving and thought that he could earn some money out of coming up with the story!

"I never imagined that the story would get out like this," he said, "I only wanted to let my boss know so that he should fire me for being silly and give me money as compensation!"

Ah well...! As the late Freddie Mercury would have said: "And another one bites the dust...!"

Taxi Globe would like to thank Samuel Umlonga for his translation...

THE SRI LANKAN SCOOTER CABBIES WAY OF SCREWING!

Greedy scooter taxi drivers in Sri Lanka have been accused of laying screws and nails on roadways to disrupt the cheaper bus services by giving them punctures and then charging higher fares from stranded commuters! With no buses, the commuters scamper to the scooter taxis and the drivers charge a minimum of around 70p for a journey that would otherwise cost 20p.

The government have refused to comment so far, but bus companies have threatened to take security guards onto their buses and vowed that if they spotted any foul "screwing" then they would "take action!" One bus conductor told Taxi Globe: "The price of screwing on our Island has just gone up dramatically!"

TURTLES ARE NOT LUCKY FOR CABBIES!

Turtles are considered a symbol of good luck in Singapore, but try telling that to the taxi driver whose cab was hit and damaged by a big one that plummeted to the ground from a high-rise apartment block! The pet turtle had climbed through an apartment window and fallen more than 10 floors onto the taxi roof, which was then heavily dented. Bloodthirsty newspapers later ran photos of the turtle, splashed with blood and its shell broken in half. But it still survived!

Relatives of the turtle's owner were quoted as saying that he would now release it into the wild after compensating the driver. "My insurance claims it was an act of God," the driver told us, "but I thought that God didn't hurt anyone!"

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