

WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

FAKES!

October 16, 2022

ARE YOU A FAKE?

Number 71

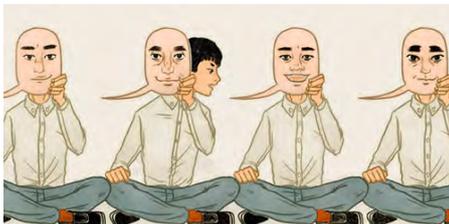


SCRIPTURE
BASED OUT-
LOOK ON A
VARIETY OF
TOPICS



God bless you. For some reason I feel I should share this section of a book I wrote about China, from around 2004-5 during the decade or so we lived in China. I don't know what the Lord is going to tell me to write after this article here below, but if you read this patiently, we will try to apply some of this in a spiritual way to our walk with the Lord. This article by no means applies only to China!

COUNTERFEITS AND FAKES. (Introduction) and YOU ARE A FAKE!



Source: <https://www.china-mike.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Chinese-Cult-of-Face.jpg>

For whatever reasons, China is both the land of the 'Fake' and the land of 'Face'. Two potentially dangerous, to you, four letter words.

Things that appear to be, are not what they actually are. This is true

in the concept of 'Face', which is not confined to China of course, and it is also true in fakes. Good fakes, not just your ordinary, common or garden fakes. This is the land of the art form of fakes, the cutting edge of the 'industry'.

The bottom line regarding fake things in China is this: anything that can be humanly made and produced probably has a counterpart (fake version) or will have.

Sometimes fake stuff is harmless and a joke, and at other times it can be catastrophic. Making fake malarial pills, for example, copied from the Guilin Pharma-



ceutical company in China, and sold onwards to the hospitals in Southeast Asia suddenly becomes very unfunny. Several people have died in these incidents since the hospitals in Burma and other countries depend upon them for quality and reliability but tragically find they are, in fact, sophisticated fakes, thus resulting in unnecessary deaths.

The same goes for Panama. Pharmaceutical supplies designed for the health of the population there, have been found to contain Chinese manufactured antifreeze that contains the solvent diethylene glycol, which is fatal to humans and consequently killed 100 Panamanians. This solvent was labelled as a 'sweetener' coming from China! This particular 'sweetener' has shown up in various countries. It is considerably cheaper for producers to put this chemical in than (usually glycerin), the genuine article. The other toxic chemical is often placed into medicines, cough syrups etc.

So, China has become a major

supplier of counterfeit drugs. When we say 'China' we should understand that we are not talking necessarily about the government but rather groups of lawless and small time or even big-time crooks, or 'miscreants' as the Indian Press would say!

However, this toxin is not for export only, the Chinese population also "benefits" from the poison of these counterfeiters.



There was also a very famous case in Anhui province a couple of years ago of fake milk which provided only about 6% of the nutrition it should have. As a result, more than 50 babies died there and more than 100 experienced severe malnourishment.

I guess a poisoned mind results in a poisoned product. A poisoned soul results in passing on poisonous goods to others.

The 'fake barons' (as in 'drug barons') never really stop to think of the consequences. My mental impression of them is that they meet secretly in some dingy place while sipping Maotai and having a beautiful girl on each arm. More likely they have their own plush office in many cases and the girl can wait until the evening or late afternoon.

Whatever scenario it is, it's certain the Chinese Fakers are still in big demand everywhere. 'Pianzi' 骗子 is the word for 'trick' or 'cheat' (you) in Chinese something you will hear often. Some of the fakes are so good, you can't tell, as the recent rash of fake Hong Kong \$1,000 bank notes proved were so good, that it took experts to

really shine the light on them and root them out. The fakes were all traced to Mainland Chinese sources through Hong Kong connections. Old story.

But the world has become weary of this story, this gargantuan rip-off of us by thousands of, well..... Chinese. As much as wonderful, precious and kind Chinese exist, there are also these counterfeiters. Perhaps though, they do in a smaller way what many banks and governments do to us, so maybe we are really looking in the wrong place, who knows? The purpose of this section is just to inform that China is the place where you will find and get and receive something you don't want- a fake! I think it will be difficult to spend any time in China and not pick up something bogus.

China is considered the fake art capital of the world; from fake Tang dynasty horses to fake art and expertly faked porcelain which is incredibly hard to tell the difference. Fake ancient coins, fake wood, fake archaeological artifacts.

The greatest artists in China in history often learned their art simply by copying, so copying became an art form, done for centuries. Perhaps this explains why copying and later faking became almost blurred into one, where one ends and the other begins. And if it makes money, why not?

A FAKE IS A FAKE IS A FAKE! OR IS IT?

Perhaps the **Praemium Imperiale** for recent fakery should be awarded to this situation that happened, embarrassingly, in Beijing.

This shocking situation was introduced by a reporter from Beijing TV!

Chinese people like to buy 'baozi' which are a type of dumpling that is round and usually has a meat or vegetable filling. This is a staple of many a Chinese breakfast. Usu-

ally, these baozis are sold on the street by licensed sellers. However, it was disclosed by the above reporter, that one seller in Beijing, had in fact, made the filling of his baozi with... guess what? Well, you won't guess, so I will tell you! He got cardboard and mixed it with some chemical and soaked it in this solution then ground up the solution until it became a soft pulp, and finally added pork flavouring and bits of pork fat to make it taste authentic. Anything to save money, right?

This idea of citizens in the capital city of the Middle Kingdom eating ground up cardboard and chemicals caused national outrage almost overnight. The reporter produced a film showing the process one seller used and of him actually chopping and grinding the cardboard up with chemicals.

The Beijing food and safety watchdog investigators sprang into action, checking baozi sellers everywhere!

Baozis were taken to laboratories for analysis and in every case were found to be ...'cardboard free'. The investigation turned to suspicion of the original reporter from BTV, who eventually 'confessed' he had made up the story in order to boost circulation or viewing audience. He had paid some legitimate vendors to do this and fed the fake baozis to some nearby poor construction workers. So, **the report** was a fake. Or was it? The TV station immediately distanced itself from the reporter, saying he was only 'temporary staff.' Illustrious BTV made a public apology on its prime-time news, but some of the public wasn't buying it. Not the baozis, I mean the story! Netizens were indignant the TV channel heaped the blame on the reporter, rather than taking responsibility themselves. They also heaped scorn on the claim that it was fake! 'Who can we turn to find the

truth about the cardboard baozis?' One netizen pleaded. So, was it actually a fake, or was it a true story?

Paper profit for Chinese stalls' cardboard buns



Customers buy steamed buns at a roadside stall in Beijing. Photograph: Greg Gabe/AP
Chopped cardboard, softened in an industrial chemical and made tasty with pork flavouring, is a main ingredient in batches of steamed buns sold in a Beijing neighbourhood, state television said.

The report highlights the country's perennial problems with food safety despite government efforts to improve the situation.

Was it just easier for the TV authorities to suppress the story through their vilification of the original reporter? As with most fakes and scams, not many people really know the truth!

YOU ARE A FAKE!

On a lighter side of 'fakes' is the very real possibility that you can be transformed into a fake yourself if you live in China for any length of time! What, Me? Never! I could never be a fake, I am after all, **me** and myself and yours truly, the original cool dude and hip, groovy guy/gal or whoever you think you are.

Well yes, this is certainly true, and we all know this don't we? Or do we?

Let me explain:

A couple of years ago, when we were still living in south China, and still trying to eke out a living, out of the blue I received a call from a foreigner. How he quite obtained my personal mobile number is still not too 'qingchu' (清楚), clear. But anyway, he did call me one lunch-time.

Since I had met him once before, and he seemed like a nice guy, I listened to what he had to say.

'How would you like to earn about 600 RMB in an hour and half for doing nothing?'

Intrigued more by the 'nothing' than the money, I asked him to continue.

Yes, the situation was indeed desperate. A brand-new international shopping mall was having its opening ceremony in Zhujiang, a town somewhere south from Guangzhou (historically called Canton). This enormous shopping centre was to be opened by no less than I can't quite remember his name, but some high up communist official in Guangdong, as well as being attended by all the Managing Executives of all the participating construction companies, further hangers-on and the national TV and newspapers.

The problem was there were too few foreigners to fill the front rows of this meeting hall where great speeches would be made, and bouquets of flowers would flow like the Pearl River, passed out by gorgeous young Chinese women all of matching height (within a half centimetre) with enormous splits up their long legged Qipiaos, and where the thought of money and greater money would excite the brains of all present for at least two hours, while being washed down with the best local drinks and rice wines afterwards. Sounds irresistible, doesn't it?

And so, with the bait of sitting there representing a foreign manager of a company who had invested in this auspicious project, I arrived in my best suit and sparkling red (fortunate colour) horse stirrup silk tie! With much bowing and scraping I was shown to my seat. Still though, foreigners were few, and it became impossible to tell who was real, and who like I, was just a plant or a fake! The difference could be found as to who was invited up at the end for the photo shoot with the Communist Party officials.

During my almost two hours of sitting there and listening to speeches in Putonghua, (most of which I couldn't understand fully

at the time), an assortment of various TV station cameramen, came within inches of my lovely face, broadcasting it later for all to see across the Guangdong area and possibly beyond! My only real claim to fame so far in the Middle Kingdom! Imagine all those masses of Chinese pointing their fingers at me 'the long-nosed foreigner' that night on TV wondering which of the foreign companies I represented.

And so, the capitalist orgasm was suddenly over, the crescendo passed, TV cameras were switched off and the place began to empty. At which time, my minder, another beautiful long-legged girl, proclaimed to our translator; 'Well that's it, we'll take you home now.'

A beautiful Shanghai Buick drove us back to our very door, not only 600 RMB richer, but more importantly, richer in the insight of how things work in the Land of both the Fake and Face!

Closing thoughts!

Thank you for making it to the end of this quite long edition! In this world of scammers, fakers there are also those Jesus said 'who shall deceive if it were possible, even the very elect. This is a good time to reflect on two things: am I really cognizant about how much fakery and wokery surrounds me and voices that will lead me down the wrong road in my life? There are many voices around and inside, but we should only be seeking "the counsel of the Lord which shall stand? It seems fakery and wokery and scams are commonplace now. Let's ask the Lord for wisdom to discern them.

Secondly, I think we should pray and ask the Lord that we never become fakes ourselves. If we love Jesus, then let's just Love Him and be genuine followers of the Master. When others look at us then, they will see the real thing in

us 'Christ in us the Hope of Glory!' both our brethren and those in the world need to see the real thing, the real deal.

'Lord, I pray You will deliver me from evil, fakery and scams and lies of the enemy. Help me to keep following You faithfully, spending time in your Word and Loving You first. Let me never be a fake myself, but rather let me be sincere in your Love and Holy Spirit, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Until Next week, God willing,

Jerry



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