

《少林寺方丈释永信缺席活动引揣测》

Monk's absence sparks rumors

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Speculation rose after a controversial Shaolin Temple abbot failed to appear at a cultural exchange activity in Thailand this weekend.

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The 50-year-old abbot was expected at the weeklong "Shaolin Culture on Silk Road" event but sent a letter of apology saying he had to deal with "unexpected official duties".

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Qian Daliang, the general manager of the temple's Shaolin Intangible Assets Management Co, said Shi didn't go to Thailand because he was being investigated by religious affairs authorities in Dengfeng, Henan.

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Controversy swirled around Shi Yongxin after being accused by a self-proclaimed follower as an "embezzler and womanizer".

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