



# Indian dad avoids washing for 35 years

## 印度老爹三十五年不洗澡

An Indian man who fathered seven daughters has not washed for 35 years in an apparent **attempt** to ensure his next child is a boy, newspapers reported.

Kailash “Kalau” Singh replaces bathing and brushing his teeth with a “fire bath” every evening when he stands on one leg beside a bonfire, smokes marijuana and says **prayers** to Lord Shiva, according to the *Hindustan Times*.

“It’s just like using water to take a bath,” Kalau was reported as saying. “A fire bath helps kill germs and infection in the body.”

Kalau, 63, from a village outside the holy city of Varanasi, outraged his family by refusing to take a **ritual** dip in the river Ganges even after his brother died five years ago.

“I still don’t remember how it all began,” he said in the paper. “I just know it started about 35 years ago.”

Kalau’s hygiene regime has taken its toll on his professional life.

The grocery store that he used to own closed when customers stopped shopping there due to his “unhealthy personality” and he now tills fields near Varanasi airport.

Kalau, who wears two **pullovers** all through the Indian summer, said his pledge not to wash was a commitment to

the “national interest.”

“I’ll end this vow only when all problems confronting the nation end,” he said.

But Kalau’s explanation for the boycott **didn’t wash** with neighbors.

“A seer once told Kalau that if he does not take a bath, he would be blessed with a male child,” a man called Madhusudan told the paper.

Most Indians prefer sons, who are typically regarded as breadwinners, while girls are seen as a burden because of the matrimonial dowry demanded by a groom’s family and the fact that their earnings go to their husband’s family. (AFP)

報導指出，印度一名育有七女的男子為了求子，已經三十五年未曾洗澡。

《印度斯坦時報》報導，凱拉許·「卡勞」·辛格用「火浴」取代洗澡和刷牙，他每天晚上會單腳站在火堆旁，一邊抽著大麻，一邊向濕婆神祈禱。

報導中引述卡勞的話說：「就像用水洗澡一樣，火浴有助於殺死人體的細菌和感染。」

六十三歲的卡勞來自聖城瓦拉那西外的一個村落，五年前的兄弟過世，他拒絕到恆河參加沐浴儀式惹怒了全家人。

報導中他說：「我還是不記得這一切是怎麼開始的，只知道大約是三十五年前開始的。」

卡勞的衛生之道讓他丟了工作。

他本來經營一家雜貨店，後來因為他的「不健康人格」，顧客不再上門而倒閉。他目前在瓦拉那西機場附近種田。

即使在夏天也穿著兩件套頭毛衣的卡勞說，他立誓不洗澡是為了「全國福祉」。

他說：「只有國家面臨的所有問題都解決了，我才會終止這個誓約。」

但卡勞對其不洗澡的解釋並無法讓鄰居信服。

一位名叫麥德哈蘇丹的男子對該報表示：「曾經有一位先知告訴卡勞，若不洗澡就能獲得福子。」

印度人大多重男輕女，他們認為兒子能賺錢養家，而女兒則因為出嫁時必須準備嫁妝給夫家，賺的錢也歸夫家，所以被視為負擔。

(法新社／翻譯：袁星塵)

Above: A Hindu devotee takes a holy dip in the polluted water of Sangam, the confluence of rivers Ganges, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati, in Allahabad, India, on Dec. 7, 2008.

PHOTO: AP

上圖：二〇〇八年十二月七日，一名印度教徒在受污染的三江水域進行聖浴，三江是恆河、雅姆納河和神話中薩羅室瓦底河的匯流處，位於印度安拉巴德。

照片：美聯社

### TODAY'S WORDS

#### 今日單字

1. **attempt** / t mpt/ n.

企圖 (qi4 tu2)

**例：**Ryan passed his driving test at the second attempt.  
(萊恩考了第二次路考才過關。)

2. **prayer** /pr r/ n.

祈禱 (qi2 dao3)

**例：**Landon usually says a prayer before going to bed.  
(藍登睡前通常會禱告。)

3. **ritual** / r l/ n.

儀式 (yi2 shi4) • 規矩 (gui1 ju3)

**例：**It’s important to be aware of the rituals when you visit a temple.  
(參觀寺廟時，弄清楚規矩很重要。)

4. **pullover** / p l,ov / n.

套頭毛衣 (tao4 tou2 mao2 yi1)

**例：**Terrence is wearing a pullover, even though it’s the middle of summer.  
(即使現在正值盛夏，泰倫斯還是穿著套頭毛衣。)

### IDIOM POINT

#### 重要片語

**not wash**  
不可信，站不住腳

If somebody says a reason or explanation **doesn’t wash**, they mean they don’t believe it or aren’t convinced by it. In the article, Kalau’s neighbors didn’t believe his reason for not bathing.

Examples: “Caden told me that he lost his money on the bus, but that **didn’t wash** with me,” or “It’s no use blaming the economy for the poor sales figures. That just **won’t wash**.”

若某人說某個理由或解釋「doesn’t wash」，就表示他不相信或無法被說服。文章中說，卡勞的鄰居不相信他不洗澡的理由。

例如：「卡登跟我說他在公車上弄丟了錢，但我不信他的說法」，或是「把差勁的銷售量怪罪在景氣上也沒用，那說法完全說服不了人」。

### OUT LOUD

#### 對話練習

**Miles:** Hi Charlie, can I borrow \$1,000 off you?

**Charlie:** No chance! Why do you need the money anyway? You’ve got a good job.

**Miles:** I know. But I went to Macau at the weekend and had a bit of bad luck at the poker table.

**Charlie:** So how much did you lose?

**Miles:** I lost my entire paycheck on one game.

**Charlie:** Haha! You really got **taken to the cleaners**!

**邁爾斯：**嗨，查理，我可以向你借一千元嗎？

**查理：**想都別想！你借錢幹嘛？你的薪水又不少。

**邁爾斯：**我知道，但我週末去了一趟澳門，在撲克牌桌上小輸了一點。

**查理：**那你輸了多少？

**邁爾斯：**那一把就把我一個月的薪水輸光了。

**查理：**哈哈！你真的是輸到脫褲子！

**taken to the cleaners** 輸了一大筆錢

If somebody gets **taken to the cleaners**, they lose a lot of money, or get beaten at something.

若說某人「get taken to the cleaners」，就表示他們輸了一大筆錢，或是被某事打敗。