



Virgin Mary holy water a scam say police 警方表示 聖母「聖水」是詐騙手段

A South Korean medical professor who invented a digital device he claimed could transform tap water into holy water is facing fraud charges, Seoul police announced.

They said the professor claimed to have digitally captured the supposed curative powers of holy water on devices that he sold to more than 5,000 people for a total profit of nearly 1.7 billion won (US\$1.3 million).

Eight other people including the professor's wife and brother-in-law face charges for manufacturing and selling the devices, an officer heading the investigation told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Police said the 53-year-old professor claimed he obtained holy water from the **shrine** to the Virgin Mary at Lourdes — a world-famous Catholic pilgrimage site in France — and preserved its supposed healing powers in digital form.

He claimed to be able to digitally transfer those powers onto ceramic and paper filters and plastic cards used in water purifiers.

He and his **associates** allegedly told customers that different devices cured different illnesses including diabetes and tumors, but police say his claims **don't hold water**.

The professor sold the ceramic filters, which cost 1,500 won in stores, for 40,000 won (US\$33). Filters for **insulin** and cancer treatments sold for 90,000 won (US\$73). (AFP)

南韓首爾警方表示，該國一名醫學教授自稱發明了一種可將自來水轉化為聖水的數位儀器，現在他將面臨詐欺指控。

警方表示，這名教授宣稱已透過數位方式將聖水所含的療癒能量擷取到儀器中，受騙購買的民眾超過五千人，非法獲利近十七億韓元（一百三十萬美元）。

主導調查行動的一名警官匿名向法新社表示，包括教授妻子和

妹夫在內的其餘八人，則被控製造及販售該設備。

警方表示，這名五十三歲的教授聲稱自己從世界知名天主教朝聖地——法國盧爾德市的聖母瑪利亞聖壇——取回聖水後，將其所謂的療癒能量轉化成數位格式保存。

他宣稱能把那些能量轉化至淨水器的陶、紙濾心及塑膠電路板上。

據傳，他和他的同夥告訴顧客，不同的儀器能治癒包括糖尿病和腫瘤在內的不同疾病，但警方表示他所言不實。

一般店家賣一千五百韓元的陶製濾心，這名教授賣四萬韓元（三十三美元）；治療糖尿病和癌症用的濾心則賣九萬韓元（七十三美元）。

(法新社/翻譯：林倩如)

The statue of the Madonna of Fatima is pictured at the Chapel of the Apparitions in Fatima's Sanctuary on May 12, 2010. PHOTO: AFP

五月十二日攝於法蒂瑪聖殿顯靈禮拜堂的法蒂瑪聖母像。照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **shrine** /ʃraɪn/ n.

聖地 (sheng4 di4), 神龕 (shen2 kan1)

例: Hundreds of worshippers offered prayers at the shrine.
(數百名信徒在聖壇前祈禱。)

2. **associate** /ə'soʊʃi,et/ n.

夥伴 (huo3 ban4)

例: I went for lunch with some business associates.
(我和幾個生意夥伴共進午餐。)

3. **insulin** /'ɪnsəlɪn/ n.

胰島素 (yi2 dao3 su4)

例: Mitch has to take regular insulin injections.
(米契得定時注射胰島素。)

LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

not hold water 不合情理，假的

If a theory, idea or story **doesn't hold water** it appears to be untrue. According to the article, the professor's claim that his "holy water" can cure diabetes or tumors **does not hold water**.

Example: "The defendant's story **didn't hold water** with the jury."

「not hold water」用來形容某理論、想法或描述並非事實。上文中提到，該名教授自稱他的「聖水」可治癒糖尿病或腫瘤，根本就是胡扯。
例如：「陪審團不采信被告漏洞百出的說詞。」