



Two Monks



Letting Go

It is widely understood in Buddhist cultures that it is forbidden for a monk to touch or be touched by a woman. Journeyers on the Way, keep their distance from all distractions. Be



that as it may, once upon a time, in a vast forest two monks were walking. As they came to a river there was a woman standing, alone. A lovely woman in a silk robe.

As the two monks approached, the woman asked if they could help her. She needed very desperately to cross the stream but with the current as strong as it was, after the Spring rains, she was afraid to try it on her own. Besides, there was the mud.

One monk said that he would be happy to help her. With that, he lifted her into his arms and carried her across to the other side. She thanked him for his kindness and the two monks proceeded with their journey.

The next day, or perhaps it was two days later, the other monk exclaimed, “I can’t believe you did that!”

Taken aback, the first monk asked, “what are you talking about?”

The other monk exclaimed, “that. . . that woman, not only did you touch her, but you also carried her all the way across that stream!”

The first monk responded, “I left that woman at the stream, you are the one who is still carrying her.”

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