

## World Adventure Series — 英語で巡る「世界の文化と不思議」 —

### The Amazing Story of the Golden Buddha

The Golden Buddha is the largest solid gold Buddha statue in the world.

It shows the Buddha in the moment of conquering demons, and it is made of almost pure gold. Its beauty is beyond comparison.

The statue is about 4 meters tall and weighs 5.5 tons. It was created more than 700 years ago, and it is a very precious treasure for the people of Thailand and for Buddhism.

A long time ago, around the 13th to 15th century, the Golden Buddha was created during the Sukhothai Kingdom.

But then, times became dangerous because of wars. To protect the statue, people came up with a clever idea: they covered it with thick layers of lacquer and plaster so it would look like a simple stone statue.

For hundreds of years, no one knew the truth — everyone thought it was just an old, ordinary Buddha.

Then, in 1955, something amazing happened. While the statue was being moved, part of the plaster coating peeled off and a shining golden surface appeared from inside!

People were shocked. The “ordinary” Buddha was actually made of solid gold! It was like a miracle — they discovered a treasure that had been hidden for centuries..

### Vocabulary Notes

\*conquering demons 悪魔を征服する \*Sukhothai Kingdom スコータイ王朝 (タイの13～15世紀ごろの王国名)

\*come up with 思いつく \*thick layers 厚い層 \*lacquer — 漆 (うるし)

\*plaster — 漆喰 (しっくい) や石膏 (せっこう) \*ordinary — 普通の、ありふれた \*solid gold — 純金

### True / False Quiz

- (1) The Golden Buddha is the largest solid gold Buddha statue in the world.
- (2) The Golden Buddha was created during the Ayutthaya Kingdom, about 500 years ago.
- (3) To protect the statue during wars, people covered it with layers of lacquer and plaster so it looked like stone.
- (4) For hundreds of years, people knew the statue was made of gold but kept it a secret.
- (5) In 1955, part of the plaster broke off while moving the statue, and people discovered the golden surface inside.

### <Answers>

- (1) True
- (2) False (It was created during the Sukhothai Kingdom, 700+ years ago)
- (3) True
- (4) False (People thought it was only an old stone statue, not gold)
- (5) True

