CHAPTER 12

Daily Necessities

笑府卷十二
日用部

墨憨子曰:人之日用，莫切于耳目口鼻四肢，然用而忘其用者，一之也。夫 一之，猶有笑焉，況其外者?集日用部。

The Inky Simpleton Master says that the things one definitely has to use on a daily basis are ears, eyes, mouth, nose, and the four limbs. Yet one commonly uses them and forgets their usage—something that is quite funny. It is even funnier when mishaps concern things outside of the human body. So I compile the section “Daily Necessities.”

破網巾

有見人網巾甚敝，勸令修補。其人喚匠至，即于坐上伸頭令修。匠請除下，應曰:「若除下, 散矣。」

(483) Tattered Hairnet (12:1a)
A man sees somebody wearing a terribly tattered hairnet and advises him to have it mended. The owner of the broken hairnet therefore calls in a craftsman, and, sitting in his chair, he pokes up his head and directs the craftsman to repair the hairnet while wearing it. When the craftsman asks him to remove it first, he protests, “If I take it off, it will fall apart.”

又

有見人網巾太舊者，謂之曰:「兄身上何乃有仙氣？」試檢看，指網巾曰:「此是也，即日要昇天矣。」其人訝曰:「網巾何以成仙？」曰:「你看他那一處修不到了？」

(483A) Also (Tattered Hairnet) (12:1b)
A man teases a friend who is wearing an age-old hairnet, saying, “Am I detecting a certain spirit of immortality on your body?” Pretending to investigate into the origin of that immortal air, he looks up and down and finally points to his friend’s hairnet with the remark, ‘I got it. It is your hairnet—it’ll ascend
heavenward on this very day!” His puzzled friend questions how a hairnet could achieve immortality and he sneers, “Look at your hairnet! Could you tell me if there is any part of it that does not require repair (xiu bu dao—pun with ‘being uncultivated’)?”

又

一人網巾破，用布補之，久而布多于騐矣。或曰：「如此網巾，戴之熱否？」答曰：「難道布唐巾不戴了？」

此與皮補鞋說難道靴不穿了同意。又，一人蒲鞋破，屢用皮補，或見之，訝曰：「你的皮鞋，如何帶些蒲在上？」

(483B) Also (Tattered Hairnet) (12:1b-2a)
A man mends his broken mane hairnet with cloth, and over time the cloth portion has surpassed the mane portion. When asked if it would be stuffy when wearing such a hairnet, the man takes offense and retorts, “Are you saying that people should not wear Tang-styled cloth turbans?”

The above joke is in the same spirit as the one about a person who repairs his cloth shoes with leather. When criticized, he protests, “Are you telling me that people shouldn’t be wearing leather boots?”

Also, a man’s rush shoes are damaged and time again he mends them with leather. This incurs the mockery, “This pair of leather shoes of yours are most peculiar—they are decorated with rush!”

希網巾

有見人戴希網巾者，訝之曰：「尊頭要送與何人？」其人不解，問之，答曰：「既不送人，如何套盤絡在上？」

(484) Loose-Knit Hairnet (12:2a)
With feigned amazement, a man asks a fellow who is wearing a loose-knit hairnet, “To whom, Sir, are you going to give your head as a gift?” The fellow is puzzled and demands an explanation, which comes, “If you did not intend to give your head away, why did you wrap it with halters?”

破帽

有見人戴破帽者，揖之曰：「乞公一小帽。」其人曰：「何得有此？」曰：「難道尊帽只開花，不結子的？」