

Nara Priest Arrested for Drunk Driving – “I was eating Nara pickles”

Citing operation of a vehicle under the influence and ignoring a traffic signal, the Kashihara Precinct of the Nara Police announced on the 24th their arrest of Sairenji Temple Chief Priest Masateru Hasumoto (age 49) of Matsuzuka, Yamato Takada City on suspicion of traffic violations (drunk driving, ignoring a traffic signal).

At first he denied [the charges], saying “I was eating Nara pickles,” but in a subsequent investigation admitted that he had been drinking whiskey at a bar in Kashiba City.

According to the police announcement, suspect Hasumoto is believed to have been driving a passenger vehicle in an intoxicated state on National Route 24 in Soga-cho, Kashihara at about 1:20 am on the 24th, and to have made a right turn at an intersection on a red light. An officer from the Nara police noticed [Hasumoto] during his patrol and asked him to stop, but [the suspect] fled approximately 1 kilometer.

(10:20 am, Jan 25, 2011, Yomiuri Shimbun)

奈良の住職、酒気帯びで逮捕「奈良漬食べた」

奈良県警橿原署は24日、酒を飲んで車を運転し、信号無視をしたとして、大和高田市松塚、西蓮寺住職蓮本正照容疑者(49)を、道交法違反(酒気帯び、信号無視)の疑いで現行犯逮捕したと発表した。

当初は「奈良漬を食べた」と否認していたが、その後の調べて、香芝市内の Snackbar でウイスキーを飲んだと認めている。

同署の発表では、蓮本容疑者は24日午前1時20分頃、橿原市曾我町の国道24号で、酒気を帯びた状態で乗用車を運転し、赤信号の交差点を右折した疑い。パトロール中の同署員が発見し、停止を求めたが、約1キロ逃走した。

(2011年1月25日10時20分 読売新聞)



Nara pickles

奈良漬