

FLOATING MOUNTAIN - Mountain Top Tea Circle

# Lu An | Dark Tea of Anhui

Tea and Zen are the same flavor

# Lu An - Dark Tea of Anhui

## 2015 Dark Tea

**Description:** Traditionally made, this tea takes seven months to craft. Produced in 2015, the tea has an aroma of pine tree bark and a taste of camphor.

**Region:** Qimen.– Anhui Province, China

**Fun Fact:** 黄山 - Huang Shan - Yellow mountains range, known for its scenery peculiarly-shaped granite peaks, Huangshan pine trees, hot springs, winter snow and views of the clouds from above - Floating Mountains. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

**Myth:** This tea often mistakenly named as Liu An.

**Truth:** The Chinese characters for Lu An are 六安. The first character has two pronunciations: Liu, which is more common, and Lu, which is the one that's actually used where this tea is grown. So the real name is Lu An, not Liu An.

**Brewing Tips:** Simple brewing, high temperature.

Parameters: Vessel - clay pot, side handle pot, boiled

Water temperature - 95-100C = 203-212F

Leaves/water ration - 1:20 (5 grams for 100 ml).

Steeping time - wash the first steeping, 2-5 splash, increase gradually.



# A Real Miracle

Once when Master Bankei was lecturing at the Ryumon temple, a priest from Shinshu sect, who taught that just by chanting the name of Amida Buddha one could be saved, came by. When he saw the large crowd of people listening to Master Bankei he became jealous.

He charged up to the front of the room and challenged Bankei, right in the middle of his talk. “The Master of our sect has miraculous powers” he began, in loud voice. “He would stand on one side of a river, holding a brush. On the other side his student would stand with a piece of paper. When our teacher wrote the holy name of Amida Buddha in the air with his brush, the word would appear on the paper on the other side of the river!”

Here he stopped and looked triumphantly at the assembled gathering. Then he turned back to Master Bankei and asked, “Can you perform such miracles as this?”

“Perhaps your master can perform such miracles but this is not in the true spirit of Zen”, answered Master Bankei in a calm voice. “My miracle is that when I am hungry I eat and when I am thirsty I drink.”

# A Real Miracle



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# Riding Donkey

One day the master was teaching his student.

“There are two kind of sicknesses in the world”, he said. “One is riding a donkey while looking for a donkey. The other kind is to ride a donkey and not let yourself get off. The first, riding the donkey while looking for a donkey is a fatal disease. Don’t do it! Wise people know this and they have given up “seeking” disease and the crazy pursuing mind.”

“On the other hand, once you have realized you are riding a donkey yet do not allow yourself to get off, this is the most difficult disease and is usually fatal!”

“Of course, you are the donkey. The great earth beneath our feet is also the donkey. How can you ride it? If you continue to ride it, you will never cure disease. If, on the other hand, you get off and don’t ride the donkey, all the worlds in ten directions will be open to you.

If, by some chance, you are able to get rid of both diseases at once, you become empty and are fit to be called a person of the Way and nothing will trouble you!”

# Riding Donkey



# Zen Story on Spiritual Path

Te-shan was sitting outside doing zazen.

Lung-t'an asked him, why he didn't go back home.

Te-shan answered, "Because it is dark."

Lung-t'an then lit a candle and handed it to him.

As Te-shan was about to take it, Lung-t'an blew it out.

Te-shan had a sudden realization, and bowed.



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