

## Omi's Blessing

A scamp in pink tights—wings, wand, tutu too, faces the hot pool at Harbin Hot Springs with her hands raised in supplication. She blesses everyone and everything; the land, water, people and the air around them.

Even though she might catch your eye with an impish grin, you can tell she's serious.

She climbs the wet steps to Quan Yin, then back down to the Cold Plunge, Heart Pool and Swimming Pool, missing no one; a tiny rainbow in tough times.

Winter has been truly cruel, we were marooned in snow and power was out for days; the sun barely shines through gloomy skies.

There's a tsunami in Japan, revolution in the Middle East, and radiation in the wind.

But even if you are estranged from your family, recently divorced, or brittle of bone, you wonder if you might ever have it this good again:

Floating in a pool of warm water  
Surrounded by naked people who are trying to love you  
Catching Omi's blessing.