



中译经典文库·中华传统文化精粹[汉英对照]

中国幽默故事选

Chinese Jokes Through The Ages

卢允中 编选、英译

Compiled and translated by Lu Yunzhong



中国出版集团
中国对外翻译出版公司



本书收录的一百篇幽默故事选自隋初至清末的二十五种笑话集，其中包括隋初侯白所撰的《启颜录》，明代著名文学家冯梦龙编纂的《笑府》《广笑府》《叙谭概》等。书中各篇笑话均具幽默精简的特色，折射出中国历代社会的生活面貌、人情思想。每篇均加中文注释、生僻字注音以及全篇英译、白话文翻译。

This book selects 100 humorous stories from 25 joke collections from the early Sui to the late Qing Dynasty, including among many others *Smile Alluring Records* written by Hou Bai in the early Sui Dynasty, *Laughter Mansion*, *Laughter Mansion Expanded*, and *Telling Tales* compiled by Feng Menglong, famous writer of the Ming dynasty. The pithy and humorous jokes show in a profile the lifestyle and mentality of Chinese people over the long history.

上架建议：双语古典文化

ISBN 978-7-5001-1815-2



9 787500 118152 >



定价：16.80元



中译经典文库·中华传统文化精粹【汉英对照】
Chinese Classical Treasury - The Traditional Chinese Culture Classical Series
(Chinese-English)

中国幽默故事选

Chinese Jokes Through The Ages

卢允中 编选、英译 周晓宇 白话文翻译



中国出版集团
中国对外翻译出版公司

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

中国幽默故事选: 汉英对照/卢允中, 周晓宇选译. —北京: 中国对外翻译出版公司, 2007.11

(中华传统文化精粹)

ISBN 978-7-5001-1815-2

I. 中… II. ①卢…②周… III. ①汉语—英语—对照读物②笑话—作品集—中国 IV. H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2007) 第 175253 号

出版发行 / 中国对外翻译出版公司

地 址 / 北京市西城区车公庄大街甲 4 号物华大厦六层

电 话 / (010) 68359376 68359303 68359101 68357937

邮 编 / 100044

传 真 / (010) 68357870

电子邮箱 / book@ctpc.com.cn

网 址 / <http://www.ctpc.com.cn>

出版策划 / 张高里

策划编辑 / 李 虹

责任编辑 / 于国君

封面设计 / 大象设计工作室

排 版 / 艾林视觉·陈默 ailincc@yahoo.com.cn

印 刷 / 河北省高碑店市鑫昊印刷有限责任公司

经 销 / 新华书店

规 格 / 880×1230 毫米 1/32

印 张 / 8.875

字 数 / 150 千字

版 次 / 2007 年 12 月第一版

印 次 / 2007 年 12 月第一次

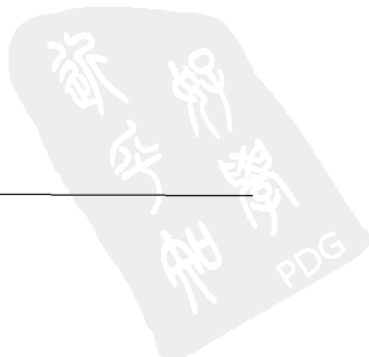
印 数 / 1-4 500

ISBN 978-7-5001-1815-2

定价: 16.80 元



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中国对外翻译出版公司



世界从书中认识中国
中国通过书走向世界

出版说明

“中华传统文化精粹”丛书脱胎于我公司出版的 20 世纪八九十年代中国最富盛名的双语读物“英汉汉英对照一百丛书”。这套丛书曾经影响了几代英语和中华文化学习者、爱好者，深受读者的喜爱，以至今天还有许多翻译界、外交界、教育界等各界取得卓越成就的人士，对这套书籍仍怀有浓重的情结。这套书不仅仅是当初他们学习英语的课外启蒙读本，亦是他们的良师益友，是他们追求知识、拼搏向上的青春记忆。

这套丛书最初由中国对外翻译出版公司于 20 世纪八九十年代同香港商务印书馆合作陆续推出，丛书的编者和译者都是在各自领域做出贡献的学者、教授，使得该套丛书在读者中获得了很好的口碑，创造了良好的社会效益和经济效益。

为了将这一品牌发扬光大，我公司对“英汉汉英对照一百丛书”进行了修订、重组，聘请了享誉海内外的中国翻译界专家组成阵容强大的顾问团，在题材、选篇、译文、栏目设置等方面进行了严谨的论证、精心的编辑，打造出适应新时代读者需求以及提升中国文化新形象的精品图书——“中华传统文化精粹”。

“中华传统文化精粹”丛书内容丰富。秉承以中外读者为本的宗旨，我们增加了白话翻译、中文注释、汉语拼音、经典名句等栏目，删除了晦涩、冗长的篇目，使丛书更加通俗、实用。

“中华传统文化精粹”丛书整体性强、版式精致且与内容和谐统一，相信必将受到中外读者的喜爱。

⁷ The Classics Bring a
Modern China to the World



The Traditional Chinese Culture Classical Series originated from the Chinese-English 100 Bilingual Series, the most popular one in the last two decades of the 20th century in China. The series had so impressed generations of English learners and admirers of Chinese culture that still leaves a deep impression in readers' mind. The books were their primary reading materials of English language, resourceful teacher and intimate friend, witnessing a perennial youth in pursuit of knowledge and success.

The series gradually came into being through the cooperation between China Translation and Publication Corporation (CTPC) and Hong Kong Commercial Press in 1980s and 1990s. The series was compiled and translated together by a group of outstanding scholars and professors.

To bring the superb quality of the previous series into full play, CTPC has put enormous effort in revising and reorganizing it, drawing from the contributions by renowned translation scholars and experts in China. Their critical assessment and compilation with regards to topics, original selections, English translations, and overall layouts will surely stand to the reader's demand and create a new image of Chinese culture, that is, in "The Traditional Chinese Culture Classical Series".

The Traditional Chinese Culture Classical Series enjoys rich content and realizes our reader-oriented principle. To these ends, we add modern Chinese renditions, annotations, pronunciations, and highlighted classical sentences while removing those obscure and tedious sections, in an effort to make the series both popular and pragmatic.

Characteristic of holistic configuration and harmonious unity between the fine format and the excellent content, the Traditional Chinese Culture Classical Series will certainly be cherished by readers from both home and abroad.

前言

PREFACE



这里翻译的一百则笑话选自王利器辑录的《历代笑话集》(上海古籍出版社1981年出版),收录了自三国直至清末我国各类笑话集约七十种以上,基本上反映了各个朝代笑话作品的概貌。这些笑话以其短小精悍的独特形式,描绘了中国历代人民当时的社会生活片断,是世代代中国人民积累下来的高度智慧结晶。历代笑话的素材大多来自民间,直接从现实生活中撷取而来。作者通过复杂微妙的生活表象进行广泛深入的概括,选取并抓住其中最能体现本质的素材,再通过高度集中的处理,把反面人物加以丑化,突出其中带有普遍意义的特征,维妙维肖地再现了这些我们似曾相识的反面人物嘴脸;或采用夸张的手法,对一些虚伪的风尚,予以无情的揭露,淋漓尽致的描绘和讽刺。

我国历代笑话著作颇多,以三国魏邯郸淳所撰《笑林》为最早。历代笑话的创作过程,一般地说,首先以口头创作的形式在民间广泛流传,然后通过集体修改、加工或士大夫阶级文人的再创作而形成书面作品。这些笑话大多以真人真事为创作素材,富有浓郁的生活气息,具有通俗、生动、清新、明快的特色。读者可以从中窥见各时代的中国人民一些有趣的生活侧面、他们的思想感情以及所经历的忧患和疾苦。有些人也许可以在这些笑话中发现自己的影子

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并从中吸取教益。有些人则可以在笑声中尝到人世的苦味。

就艺术形式及表现手法而言，我国历代笑话著作的特征是：作者总是用高度集中的形式抓住典型事物，并通过人物的典型性格表现丰富的幻想力和合理的蠢化，从而反映了对该时代的共同看法。历代的笑话作品，重点都是放在描写讽刺典型的反面特征上。笑话的作者通过精简的笔墨、辛辣的笔触勾勒出五光十色的人生脸谱——伪善、迂腐、贪婪、愚昧、无能、欺诈、怠惰等。他们挖苦嘲弄的对象虽然多半是封建社会的豪门贵族或贪官污吏，但作品中的讽刺与鞭挞即使在今日仍有其深远的现实意义。

笑话的作用之一是针砭时弊。南朝萧梁时代，刘勰在他所撰的《文心雕龙》中，为笑话这种文学形式写过一篇《谐隐》的评介文章，并总结了谐隐的含义：“古之嘲隐，振危释惫。虽有丝麻，无弃菅蒯。会议适时，颇益讽诫。空戏滑稽，德音大坏。”刘勰指出了笑话这类讽刺文学作品的作用，在于中肯（会议）而及时（适时），从而收到“振危释惫”的效果。刘勰肯定了这种中国古代民间文学的艺术价值，并指出其教育意义及不良倾向，说明了笑话创作的起源和发展是合乎时代要求的。元、明以后，笑话还直接影响和丰富了小说及戏曲的创作内容。

另一方面，笑话中描绘的不一定都是真人真事。作者根据其丰富的生活经验，完全可以虚构一些具体情节。所谓虚构，乃是作家概括生活、塑造形象、突出主题的一种手法。读者要求的其实并非现象的真实，而是本质的真实。鲁迅说过：“讽刺的生命是真实；不必是曾有的实事，但必须是会有的实情。”虚构的艺术形象如果酷似生活、符合生活的真实，同样可以具有很高的文学鉴赏价值



和重要的历史科学研究价值。

当然,笑话和其他民间文学一样,也有优劣之分。一些笑话之所以脍炙人口,历代相传,正是由于作者能巧妙地利用人物之间的特定关系,内在矛盾和各自的独特语言,显示了人物形象的不同个性,并通过诙谐的笔触,把正反人物的两种典型置诸爱憎分明的读者面前。

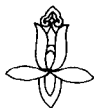
本书收集的一百则笑话,其年代大致上从隋初一直到清末。全书的排序也是按着时代先后编排的。这些笑话大都具有朴素、风趣、构思新颖、含义深刻的特色。一些旨在迎合小市民低级趣味的庸俗猥亵作品均在剔除之列。

译者这次把《中国幽默故事选》翻译成英文,目的在于把这种中国古代民间文学的精华部分介绍给英语读者。此外,也希望本书能成为一本研习中译英的参考书。

卢允中谨识



PREFACE



The one hundred humorous stories collected in this volume have been selected from ANTHOLOGY OF CHINESE HUMOROUS STORIES THROUGH THE AGES compiled by Wang Liqi and published by the Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House in 1981. Humorous stories written by Chinese writers through the ages are legion and the earliest dates back to the Kingdom of Wei (220–265) when Handan Chun wrote his JEST BOOKS. The anthologist chose his pieces from more than 70 books of all kinds, covering a period from the Three Kingdoms up to the latter part of the Qing Dynasty. The pieces chosen generally embodied the characteristic features of the humorous stories written by prominent writers at different epochs. Short and pithy, they dramatized the farcical episodes of the common people's life under the prevailing social conditions. The real life of the common people was the fountainhead of source material for creative writing. On the basis of the superficial phenomena of all affairs of life, writers of humorous stories were able to draw the most sweeping generalizations. They probed into the essence of things and by highlighting the salient features of universal significance uglified the





villains in their stories, thus reproducing characters remarkably true to life. And by artistic exaggeration they brought out with their trenchant pen the wickedness of the feudal society and the evils of bureaucracy and corrupted morals.

Generally speaking, humorous stories in ancient China were originally and for many years circulated orally among the people. Later, it was through the re-creative efforts of the literati in feudal China that many of them appeared in manuscript.

Naturally enough, the appeal of the humorous stories lies mainly in their humour—pure, spontaneous and irresistible. This notwithstanding, humorous stories are at bottom an unrelenting indictment of injustice and of humanity in general at any time. Permeated with the rich flavour of life and characterized by simplicity, freshness and creditability—often accompanied with a moralizing message—they offered comic glimpses of the Chinese people of all walks of life. Enormously interested in people, these writers were capable of swift and compassionate insights into the average person and their sympathy invariably went to the underdog, the little man or woman struggling on in the maze of contemporary life.

Writers of humorous stories in ancient China were noted for the sharpness of their observation, the trenchancy of their social criticism and the depth of their concern for human suffering. As to artistic form and technique of expression, they were adept at grasping typical cases and refining the literary raw material gathered from life. In the process



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of creative writing, they gave full play to their imagination; yet their negative characters, though usually made to look exceptionally stupid and clumsy, were nevertheless true to type. These characters, moreover, were so shown and so brought into action that as little as possible of them had gone to waste. With simple, light touches and in a succinct style, the writers of humorous stories laid bare the true features of certain great personages—hypocrisy, pedantry, avarice, ignorance, incompetence, deceit, indolence, etc. and past personages were often used to disparage their present-day counterparts. Therefore, as the writers jibed at the heartless rich and the venal officials, some of us, perhaps, may have the feelings that their thrusts have been directed at them.

Not all humorous stories are based on actual persons and events. One of the time-honoured techniques of writers of this genre of folk literature is to invent plots for their stories. Fantastic as they are, the plots usually reflect reality. By drawing on their life experience, the writers epitomize life, create images of their heroes and give prominence to the theme. As a matter of fact, the reader does not ask for truth of phenomenon but truth of essence. An invented artistic image, if portrayed true to life, possesses an indisputable artistic value and affords important materials for historical research.

Of course, like other genres of folk literature, there are good humorous stories and bad ones. Some of them enjoy great popularity because their authors have been able to exploit the given relationships



and inherent contradictions between the characters and clothe their thoughts with languages peculiar to each.

The stories collected in this volume have been arranged in chronological order. In rendering them into English, I have made every endeavour to be faithful to the original and capture the spirit of this genre of folk literature in ancient China. I hope lovers of classical Chinese literature and those interested in Chinese-English translation may find this collection worthy of their attention.

Lu Yunzhong
February 1985



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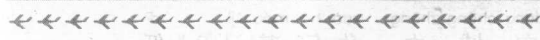
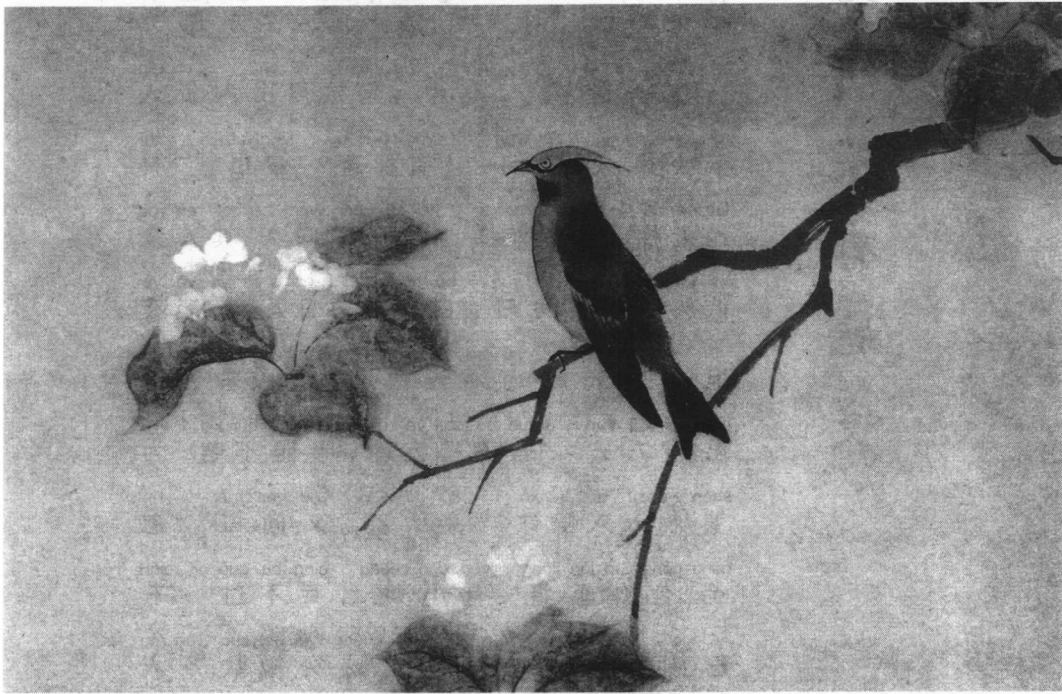
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中华传统文化精粹

中国民间故事选

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中国民间故事选



CHINESE JOKES
THROUGH THE AGES

中国民间故事选

腊
月
何
处
有
蛇
咬

suí cháo yǒu rén mǐn huì rán ér kǒu chī yáng sù měi
隋朝有人敏慧^①，然而口吃，杨素^②每

xián mēn jí zhào yǔ jù tán cháng suì mù wú shì duì zuò
闲闷，即召与剧谈^③。尝岁暮无事对坐，

yīn xì zhī yún yǒu dà kēng shēn yī zhàng fāng yuán yì
因戏之云：“有大坑深一丈^④，方圆亦

yī zhàng qiān gōng rù qí zhōng hé fǎ dé chū cǐ rén
一丈，遣公入其中，何法得出？”此人

dī tóu liáng jiǔ nǎi wèn yǒu tī fǒu sù yuē zhī
低头良久，乃问：“有梯否？”素曰：“只

lùn wú tī ruò lùn yǒu tī hé xū gèng wèn qí rén yòu
论无梯，若论有梯，何须更问？”其人又

dī tóu liáng jiǔ wèn yuē bái bái bái bái rì yè yè yè yè
低头良久，问曰：“白白白白日？夜夜夜夜

dì sù yún hé xū yún bái rì yè dì ruò wéi dé
地？”素云：“何须云白日夜地？若为得

chū nǎi yún ruò bù shì yè dì yǎn yǎn bù xiǎ wèi
出？”乃云：“若不是夜地，眼眼不瞎，为

shèn wù rù rù lǐ xǔ sù dà xiào yòu wèn yuē hū
甚物入入里许？”素大笑。又问曰：“忽

mìng gōng zuò jūn jiàng yǒu xiǎo chéng bīng bù guò yī qiān
命公作军将，有小城，兵不过一千

yǐ xià liáng shí wéi yǒu shù rì chéng wài bèi shù wàn rén
已下，粮食唯有数日，城外被数万人

wéi ruò qiān gōng xiàng chéng zhōng zuò hé móu jì dī
围，若遣公向城中，作何谋计？”低

tóu liáng jiǔ wèn yuē yǒu yǒu jiù jiù bīng fǒu sù yuē
头良久，问曰：“有有救救兵否？”素曰：

zhī yuán wú jiù suǒ yǐ wèn gōng chén yín liáng jiǔ
“只缘无救，所以问公。”沉吟良久，

jǔ tóu xiàng sù yún shěn shěn rú rú gōng yán bù miǎn
举头^⑤向素云：“审^⑥审如如公言，不免



A Snake in the Twelfth Moon Doesn't Bite



During the Sui Dynasty (581–618), there lived a clever man who spoke with a slight stutter. Whenever the Minister Yang Su felt bored and listless, he would invite this man over to have a chat. One evening toward the close of the year when they sat facing each other, Yang asked him more in jest than in earnest:

“Supposing you find yourself in a pit ten feet deep and ten feet in circumference, how would you get out?”

The man lowered his head, meditating for some time, and asked:

“Is there a l-l-ladder?”

“No,” replied Yang. “I wouldn’t have asked you if there were a ladder.”

Again the man lowered his head meditating. Some time later, he inquired:

“In br-br-broad daylight? Or at n-n-night?”

“No need to ask whether it’s in broad daylight or at night,” replied Yang. “The question is how would you get out.”



xū bài sù dà xiào yòu wèn yuē jì gōng duō néng wú
 须败。”素大笑。又问曰：“计公多能，无
 zhǒng bù jiě jīn rì jiā zhōng yǒu rén shé yǎo zú ruò wéi
 种不解。今日家中有人蛇咬足，若为
 yī zhì cǐ rén yīng shēng yún qǔ wǔ yuè wǔ rì nán qiáng
 医治？”此人应声云：“取五月五日南墙
 xià xuě xuě tú tú jí jí zhì sù yún wǔ yuè hé chù
 下雪雪涂涂即即治。”素云：“五月何处
 dé yǒu xuě dá yún wǔ yuè wú xuě là yuè hé chù yǒu
 得有雪？”答云：“五月无雪，腊月何处有
 shé yǎo sù xiào ér qiǎn zhī
 蛇咬？”素笑而遣之。

suí hóu bǎi zhuàn qǐ yán lù
 隋 / 侯百撰《启颜录》

白话
翻译



隋朝的时候，有一个人他的内心非常敏捷、有智慧，但却有一个天生的缺陷——口吃。官高气盛的杨素常常在自己闲暇无聊的时候，就把他召来畅谈取乐。有一年年底的一天，杨素与这个人在府中无事闲坐，于是对他开玩笑地说道：“有这么一个大坑，深一丈，方圆也是一丈，假如把你放到里面，你可有什么办法出来？”这个人低头想了好长时间，忽然抬起头来问道：“坑……坑里有……有梯子么？”杨素说：“咱们只说没有梯子的情况，假如有梯子的话，还用再问你吗？”这个人又低着头，想了好大一会儿，问道：“那是在白……白……白……白天？还是在夜……夜……夜……夜里？”杨素不耐烦地说：“管它是什么白天还是黑夜？我问你可有法子出来？”这个人反问道：“如果不是在……在夜晚，眼睛又……又不瞎，为什么掉……掉……掉进里面？”杨素听了，大笑不止。杨素又问道：“假如有一天，我忽然任命你做一大将军，有这么一座小



"I'm not blind," retorted the man. "If it isn't after night-fall, how the hell could I fall into it?"

At that Yang burst out laughing and followed up with another question:

"Supposing you were a general sent to a small city besieged by an enemy tens of thousands strong. The garrison there numbered less than one thousand, and the provisions would suffice only for a few days. What would you do?"

The man hung down his head, pondering over the problem for a long time. Then he asked:

"Any re-reinforcements for-forthcoming?"

"No," replied Yang, "that's why I asked you."

After muttering to himself for a good while, the man raised his head and said:

"If the situation is as you said, I'm afraid we're just about done for."

At that Yang burst into laughter again and then put to the man the last question:

"I know you're a very capable man and there's scarcely anything you can't do. It so happened that someone in my family got bitten today by a snake. Will you see to the snake bite?"

"Well," said the man in response, "go to the south wall and get hold of some s-snow which fell on the fifth day of the fifth moon. Ap-apply it to the bite, and he'll get well in no time."

城，城里的士兵不超过一千人，粮食也仅仅够吃几天，而城外有数万敌军包围着，假如派你去做城中的主帅，不知道你有什么退兵的计策？”这个人低下头，想了很长时间，抬头问道：“有……有……救……救兵没有？”杨素答道：“就是因为没有救兵，所以才问你的。”这个人又沉吟了一会儿，抬头对杨素说道：“如果真……真的像……像您说的那样，免不了要吃……吃败仗。”杨素又大笑不止。接着，杨素又问他说：“看来你是一个多智多能的人，我提的问题没有能难为住你的。现在我再问你一事：今天我家里有人被蛇咬了脚，你说应该怎么医治呢？”这个人应声回答说：“用五月五日南墙下的雪……雪……涂……涂上，就……就可以治得好了。”杨素问：“五月哪里能有雪？”这个人笑着反说：“既然五月没……没有雪……雪，那么腊……腊月里哪里会有蛇咬呢？”杨素听了，笑得前仰后合，于是就把这个人打发走了。



注释

- ① 敏慧：也作“敏惠”，聪明有智慧。
- ② 杨素：字处道，弘农华阴（今陕西华阴）人，隋朝权臣、诗人，杰出的军事家、统帅。
- ③ 剧谈：就是畅谈的意思。
- ④ 丈：长度单位，十尺为一丈，大约相当于现在三米多长。
- ⑤ 举头：抬头。
- ⑥ 审：详细，清楚，这里引申为确实。



“But,” protested Yang, “it never snows in the fifth moon.”

“No,” the man agreed. “In the twelfth moon, where can you find a snake that bites?”

Much amused by his remarks, Yang Su let the man go.

Hou Bai: Qi yan lu (*Collection of Jokes*)

cháng
长
nián
年
shù
术

pú chuán zhèng zhī háng zhōu yǒu shù shì qǐng yè
蒲传正知^①杭州，有术士请谒^②，

gài nián yú jiǔ shí ér yóu yǒu yīng ér zhī sè chuán zhèng
盖年逾^③九十，而犹有婴儿之色。传正

jiē zhī shèn huān yīn fǎng yǐ cháng nián zhī shù dá yuē
接之甚欢，因访以长年之术。答曰：

mǒu shù shèn jiǎn ér yì háng tā wú suǒ jì wéi dāng jué
“某术甚简而易行，他无所忌，唯当绝

sè yù ěr chuán zhèng fǔ sī cháng jiǔ yuē ruò rán
色欲耳。”传正俯思长久，曰：“若然，

zé shòu suī qiān suì hé yì
则寿虽千岁何益！”

sòng fàn zhèng mǐn zhuàn xié jué
宋 / 范正敏撰《谐臆》

白话
翻译



蒲传正担任杭州太守的时候，有一天一个自称懂得天文和阴阳灾异的方士请求拜见。这位方士大约九十多岁，但是面容看起来仍旧像婴儿那样鲜嫩，一点儿没有老的迹象。蒲传正非常热情地接待了他，并且两个人交谈得十分投机。于是，蒲传正就向他请求讨教能够长生不老、延年益寿的秘方。这位方士回答说：“我发明的长年术非常简便而且容易实施，基本上没有什么可禁忌的，平时的饮食样样都可以吃，只是有一件需要牢牢记住，就是要禁欲，不接近女色。”蒲传正听了，低下头沉思了好大一会儿，才说：“如果是这样的话，那么就算活到了一千岁，又有什么好处呢？”



注释

- ① 知：主持，这里当“任职”讲。
② 谒(yè)：拜见，请见。
③ 逾(yú)：超过。



Longevity



While Pu Chuanzheng was serving as county magistrate in Hangzhou, a sorcerer begged for an audience. Though over 90 years of age, the sorcerer had the complexion of a baby. Chuanzheng was very glad to see the old man and inquired of him the secret of long life.

“Well,” said the sorcerer, “my method is simple and easy to follow. There’s no taboo whatsoever. Just keep away from women, that’s all.”

At this the magistrate meditated for some time and said:

“In that case, what’s the use of living to be one thousand years old?”

Fan Zhengmin: Xie jue (*Humourous Stories*)

yàn
晏
zǐ
子
qù
趣
shì
事
zhī
之
yī
一

yàn yīng shǐ chǔ chǔ wáng wén qí zhì biàn yù zhé
晏婴^①使^②楚，楚王闻其智辩，欲折^③

zhī jí xiāng jiàn wáng mì shǐ fù yī qiú yú diàn qián ér
之，及相见，王密使缚一囚于殿前而

guò yuē cǐ hé rén yě zuǒ yòu yuē qí rén yě
过，曰：“此何人也？”左右曰：“齐人也。”

wáng yuē yǒu hé zuì duì yuē zuò wéi dào wáng
王曰：“有何罪？”对曰：“坐^④为盗。”王

nǎi gù wèi yàn zǐ yuē qí rén hào wéi dào hū yàn zǐ
乃顾谓晏子曰：“齐人好为盗乎？”晏子

yuē dà wáng pō wén jú shēng jiāng nán yú jiāng běi wèi
曰：“大王颇闻橘生江南，逾江北为

zhǐ shuǐ tǔ yì yě cǐ rén zài qí bù wéi dào jīn zài chǔ
枳，水土异也。此人在齐不为盗，今在楚

nǎi wéi zhī jiāng zhī tǔ sú shǐ zhī rán yě wáng jí zuǒ
乃为之，将知土俗使^⑤之然也？”王及左

yòu jiē dà cán mò yǒu duì zhě
右皆大惭，莫有对者。

sòng zhōu wén qí zhuàn kāi yán lù
宋 / 周文玘撰《开颜录》

白话
翻译



春秋时期，齐国的晏子奉命出使楚国。楚王早就听说晏子非常机智敏捷、能言善辩，于是想趁这次机会好好地侮辱他一番，让他当众出丑。楚王接见晏子，并密令手下绑着一个囚犯从大殿前面走过。楚王问道：“这个被绑的是什么人啊？”这个士兵回答说：“齐国人。”楚王说：“他犯了什么罪啊？”士兵回答说：“他因为偷了东西，所以犯了偷窃罪。”楚王听完之后就回头对晏子说：“怎么你们齐国人都喜欢偷东西吗？”晏子不紧不慢地回答说：“大王一定听说过这样一件事：橘树生长在淮河以南的地方就是橘树，而



A Quip from “Stories about Master Yan”



Once upon a time, Yan Ying^① was sent to the State of Chu^② on a diplomatic mission. The Emperor of Chu, when told that Yan Ying was a man of quick wits and rare eloquence, wanted to have a chance to take the edge off his spirit.

One day, while granting an audience to Yan Ying, the Emperor bade his attendants to tie up a convict and drag him across the hall.

“Who is that man?” demanded the Emperor.

“He is a native of Qi^③,” answered his attendants.

“What crime is he guilty of?” again the Emperor demanded.

“Theft,” was the reply.

Turning to Yan Ying, the Emperor inquired:

“The people of Qi go in for stealing?”

“Your Majesty must have heard that tangerines grow to the south of the lower reaches of the Yangtse River,” said Yan Ying, “and that if transplanted to the north, the tree would bear trifoliate oranges^④ instead of tangerines. It’s the soil and water that account for this change. That man there had never stolen anything in Qi. Yet he turned thief in Chu. Evidently it’s the social customs here that brought about this change.”

且结的果实又香又甜，如果把它移植到淮河以北，就变成了枳树，结的果实就会又酸又苦，两者的叶子非常相似，但果实的味道却完全不同，为什么会这样呢？这是因为水土的条件不相同啊。那么，现在这个人出生在齐国不偷东西，如今一到了楚国就偷起东西来，莫非是楚国的水土风俗使他变得喜欢偷东西吗？”楚王和手下的侍臣听了之后都面有惭色、懊恼不已，没有一个人能够回答上来这个问题。



注释

① 晏婴：字平仲，人称晏子，山东高密人，历任齐灵公、庄公、景公三朝，是春秋后期一位重要的政治家、思想家和外交家。司马迁曾将他比为管仲，用“不辱使命、雄辩四方”八个字来形容他的外交活动。

② 使：意思是出使。

③ 折(zhé)：使某人折服。

④ 坐：囚犯……罪或者错误，定罪。

⑤ 枳(zhǐ)：落叶灌木或小乔木，茎上有刺，叶为复叶，花白色，浆果球形，黄绿色，味酸苦，也叫枸橘。



The Emperor of Chu and all his attendants were struck dumb with shame.

Zhou Wenqi: Kai yan lu (*Anthology of Jokes*)



Notes

- ① Yan Ying (? – 500 B.C.), a senior official of the State of Qi in the Spring and Autumn Period (770 B.C. – 476 B.C.)
- ② Chu (11th cen. B.C. – 223 B.C.), an ancient country in feudal China.
- ③ Qi (11th cen. B.C. – 221 B.C.), an ancient country in feudal China.
- ④ The trifoliolate orange (*Poncirus trifoliata*), otherwise known as “stinking orange,” tastes sour but can be used as a crude drug.

kè
客

jiù rì yǒu nǚ xù dào zhàng rén jiā jiǔ zhù zhàng rén yù
旧日有女婿到丈人家久住，丈人欲

qí qù ér nǚ xù bù qù yī rì zhàng rén yún shèn hè ①
其去而女婿不去。一日，丈人云：“甚荷^①

dá
答

yuǎn lái jiā qín zǎi jìn wú kě xiāng dài qiě wù zuì yì
远来，家禽宰尽，无可相待，且勿罪。”意

yù nǚ xù cí qù nǚ xù yún zhàng rén nǐ bù yòng fán
欲女婿辞去，女婿云：“丈人你不用烦

nǎo wǒ lái shí jiàn yī qún lù zài shān nèi shèn féi kě bǔ
恼，我来时见一群鹿在山内甚肥，可捕

guī pēng pào yì duō dé rì chī zhàng rén yún nǐ lái
归烹炮，亦多得日吃。”丈人云：“你来

shí zài bǐ hé jīng yuè yú rì lù bì qù liǎo xù yún nà
时在彼，合经月余日，鹿必去了。”婿云：“那

lǐ chī chù hào wǎng wǎng wèi kěn qù
里吃处好，往未肯去。”

sòng chén yuán jìng zhuàn fēng yuè xiào lín
宋 / 陈元靓撰《风月笑林》

白话
翻译

以前，有一女婿到他的丈人家住了很久，丈人想要女婿离开，一天，丈人说：“劳烦你这么大老远来看望我们，现在家里的鸡鸭都杀完了，没有什么好招待你了，望你不要怪罪。”心想女婿就该告辞离开，女婿却说：“丈人，你不用烦恼，我来的时候在山里看到一大群鹿，非常肥壮，可以捕捉回来烹煮炮制，也可以多吃些日子。”丈人说：“你来的时候那些鹿在那里，但现在已经过了很多天，鹿群一定散去了。”女婿回答说：“那个地方能吃得很好，鹿肯定不愿离开。”



注释

① 甚荷(hè):甚,很非常;荷,承受恩惠,多表示客气。

What the Guest Says in Reply



A man was staying at his father-in-law's house very much beyond his time. One day, the impatient father-in-law finally said to him:

"It's nice of you to have come a long way to visit us. Now that all our fowls have been butchered, there are no more delicacies we can entertain you with. I hope you won't mind."

Too thick-skinned to heed the gentle hint, the son-in-law replied:

"Dad, don't you worry. The day I got here, I saw in the valley a herd of fat deer. Why not catch some and have them roasted. The venison will surely last us for many days."

"But," protested the father-in-law, "it's been over a month since you came. The deer must have left."

"I guess not," replied his son-in-law. "Where there is a good feed, one is reluctant to leave."

Chen Yuanjing: Feng yue xiao lin (*Wind and Moon Jest Book*)

sūn
孙
ér
儿

ài zǐ yǒu sūn nián shí xǔ yōng liè bù xué měi jiā
艾子有孙，年十许，慵^①劣不学，每加

jià chǔ ér bù quǎn qí zǐ jǐn yǒu shì ér héng kǒng ér
榷楚^②而不悛^③。其子仅有是儿，恒^④恐儿

zhī bù shèng zhàng ér sǐ yě zé bì tì qì yǐ qǐng ài
之不胜^⑤杖而死也，责必涕泣以请。艾

zǐ nù yuē wú wéi ruò jiào zǐ xià shàn yé zhàng zhī yù
子怒曰：“吾为若教子下善邪？”杖之愈

jùn qí zǐ wú rú zhī hé yī dàn xuě zuò sūn tuán xué
峻。其子无如之何。一旦，雪作，孙抻^⑥雪

ér xǐ ài zǐ jiàn zhī chī qí yī shǐ guì xué zhōng hán
而嬉，艾子见之，褫^⑦其衣，使跪雪中，寒

zhàn zhī sè kě jū qí zǐ bù fù gǎn yán yì tuō qí yī guī
战之色可掬。其子不复敢言，亦脱其衣跪

qí páng ài zǐ jīng wèn yuē rǔ ér yǒu zuì yīng shòu cǐ
其旁。艾子惊问曰：“汝儿有罪，应受此

fá rǔ hé yǔ yān qí zǐ qì yuē rǔ dòng wú ér wú
罚，汝何与焉？”其子泣曰：“汝冻吾儿，吾

yì dòng rǔ ér ài zǐ xiào ér shì zhī
亦冻汝儿。”艾子笑而释之。

míng lù zhuó zhuàn ài zǐ hòu yǔ
明 / 陆灼撰《艾子后语》



Grandson



Master Ai had a grandson about ten years old. As he was wicked and not eager to learn, his grandfather often gave him a good caning. In spite of the punishment, the boy refused to mend his ways. His father, therefore, was awfully afraid this only son of his would not long survive this frequent caning. So every time Master Ai took his son to task, he would weep and intercede with his father for his son. This usually infuriated Master Ai who would say:

“Do I know how to teach your son for you?”

With that he would cane the boy all the more. There was nothing the father could do about it.

One snowy day, Master Ai, having caught his grandson pressing snowballs, made him kneel down in the snow after stripping his coat off. The boy’s father, seeing that his poor son was shivering with cold and not daring to say a word, took off his own coat and knelt down beside his son. Very much surprised, Master Ai inquired:

“Your son is guilty and deserves punishment. But why on earth should you kneel there beside him?”

“Since you’re freezing my son to death,” replied the

白话
翻译



艾子有一个孙子，年龄有十多岁，性情懒惰顽劣，不爱读书识字。艾子为此常常用木杖打他，但他仍然不思悔改。艾子的儿子只有这么一个孩子，他常常害怕自己的儿子经受不住杖打而被艾子打死，于是，每当父亲杖打孩子的时候，他都站在一旁含泪请求艾子饶恕。艾子看到儿子的可怜相，更加恼怒，教训他说：“你教子无方，我替你管教孩子难道不是好意吗？”边说边打得更加厉害了，儿子拿这件事也没有什么办法。一个冬天的早晨，下着鹅毛大雪，孙子在院子里面围着雪球嬉戏打闹，艾子发现了，便脱光孙子的衣服，让他跪在雪地里，冻得他浑身发抖，直打寒颤，非常可怜。这时，儿子也不敢说话再去求情，只好也脱光衣服跪在孩子的旁边。艾子见了，非常惊讶地问道：“你的儿子有错，应当受到这样的惩罚，你有什么过错，跟他跪在一起呢？”儿子哭着对艾子说：“你冻坏我的儿子，我也要冻坏你的儿子。”艾子不由得笑了起来，免去了对孙子的体罚。

注释

- ① 慵(yōng)劣：困倦、懒惰，品行恶劣。
- ② 榎(jiǔ)楚：也作“榎楚”、“贾楚”等，榎乃榎木，楚乃荆木，榎楚则是古代常用作教学的体罚工具，后来也用作刑具的泛称。
- ③ 悛(quān)：本意是停止，这里是悔改、改变的意思。
- ④ 恒：常常。
- ⑤ 胜(shēng)：尽，这里引申为能够承受。
- ⑥ 抟(tuán)：是指把东西捏聚成团。
- ⑦ 褫(chǐ)：脱去，解下。



father, "I want to freeze yours to death. It's just tit for tat."

Master Ai was very much amused at these remarks and let the boy go.

Lu Zhuo: Aizi hou yu (*Master Ai (Appendix)*)

bing
病

qí yǒu bìng wàng zhě xíng zé wàng zhǐ wò zé wàng
齐有病忘者，行则忘止，卧则忘

qǐ qǐ qī huàn zhī wèi yuē wén ài zǐ gǔ jī duō zhī
起。其妻患之，谓曰：“闻艾子滑稽多知，

wàng
忘

néng yù gāo huāng zhī jí hé wǎng shī zhī qí rén yuē
能愈膏肓^①之疾，盍往师之？”其人曰：

shàn yú shì chéng mǎ xié gōng shǐ ér háng wèi yī shè
“善。”于是乘马挟弓矢而行。未一舍，

nèi bī xià mǎ ér biàn yān shǐ zhí yú tǔ mǎ xì yú shù
内逼，下马而便焉，矢植于土，马系于树。

biàn qǐ zuǒ gù ér dǔ qí shǐ yuē wēi hū liú shǐ
便讫^②，左顾^③而睹其矢，曰：“危乎！流矢

xī zì jī hū zhòng yǔ yòu gù ér dǔ qí mǎ xǐ
奚^④自，几乎中予！”右顾而睹其马，喜

yuē suī shòu xū jīng nǎi dé yī mǎ yǐn pèi jiāng xuán
曰：“虽受虚惊，乃得一马。”引辔^⑤将旋，

hū zì jiàn qí suǒ yí fèn dùn zú yuē tā què quǎn fèn wū
忽自践其所遗粪，顿足曰：“踏却犬粪，污

wú lǚ yī xī zāi biān mǎ fǎn xiàng guī lù ér háng xū
吾履矣，惜哉！”鞭马，反向归路而行。须

yú dī jiā pái huái mén wài yuē cǐ hé rén jū qǐ ài fū
舆抵家，徘徊门外曰：“此何人居，岂艾夫

zǐ suǒ yù yé qí qī shì jiàn zhī zhī qí yòu wàng yé mào
子所寓邪？”其妻适见之，知其又忘也，骂

zhī qí rén chàng rán yuē niáng zǐ sù fēi xiāng shí hé gù
之。其人怅然曰：“娘子素非相识，何故

chū yǔ shāng rén
出语伤人？”

míng lù zhuó zhuàn ài zǐ hòu yǔ
明 / 陆灼撰《艾子后语》



Amnesia



There lived in the State of Qi a man who had a very bad memory. While walking, he would forget to stop; while sleeping, he would forget to rise. His wife was very much worried about this and said to him one day:

“I’ve heard that Master Ai is a very learned man with a glib tongue. He can even bring the dying back to life. Why don’t you go and consult him?”

“Good idea! ” the man agreed.

So he set out on horseback, bow and arrow in hand. Before he had covered a distance of 30 *li*^① he felt a call of nature. He dismounted and, after sticking the arrow into the ground and tying the horse to a tree, crouched down to relieve himself. This done, he stood up and looking to the left caught sight of the arrow.

“Wow!” he cried. “what a narrow escape! I wonder where that stray arrow came from. It nearly hit me.”

Then, looking to the right, he saw the horse.

“Well, well!” he said with joy. “ Though I’ve been badly frightened, I’m now rewarded with this windfall of a horse.”

Seizing the bridle of the horse, he was about to turn round

白话
翻译



齐国有一个非常健忘的人，他走起路来就忘记停下来，卧倒在床上就会忘了起床。他的妻子对此深以为患，于是就对丈夫说：“听人家说，百里外有一位叫艾子的先生滑稽幽默、聪明有见识，听他讲话，能够治愈非常严重的疾病，你为何不去他那儿讨教一下呢？”这个人连声点头说：“好吧！”于是骑着马，挟着一副弓箭就上路了。还没有走出三十里地，这个人就有了便意，于是他把箭插在地下，把马拴在树上，蹲在地上大便。便完，他向左一看，看见了那把箭，便惊呼道：“这太危险了！这把箭是从哪个地方飞来的，差一点儿就射中了我！”他再向右一看，发现了那匹马，又不觉欣喜若狂，说：“虽然我虚惊一场，但却得到了一匹良马。”这时他牵着马想要走，忽然双脚踩到了自己刚刚留下的粪便，气得他顿足捶胸破口大骂道：“今天真是倒霉，踩了两脚的狗屎，把我的鞋给弄脏了，太可惜啦！”于是，他跳上马背，快马加鞭，掉转头头往来时的方向骑去。不一会儿，他就到了自家门口，在门外久久徘徊，自言自语：“是什么人在这儿居住，莫非这就是艾老夫子的寓所吧？”他的妻子刚好出来开门看见了他，知道他又忘事了，于是就连连责骂不断。这个人怅然若失，非常不快地问道：“娘子与我从来就不认识，为什么口出此言来伤人呢？”

注释

① 膏肓(huāng):中医学中人体部位的名称,膏是指心下部分,肓是指心脏和横隔膜之间,旧说膏与肓是药力达不到的地方,后来用“病入膏肓”指病情非常严重,没有办法医治。

② 讫(qì):指事情完结、做完。

③ 顾:回头看。

④ 奚(xī):疑问代词,何。奚自,从何而来。

⑤ 辔(pèi):驾驭牲口用的嚼子和缰绳。



when he inadvertently stepped on his own excrement. Stamping his foot, he cried:

“Damn! This pile of dog’s dung has soiled my shoe. What a pity!”

Whipping his horse, he galloped off in the wrong direction. Not long afterwards, he arrived home. Pacing up and down in front of his own house, he muttered to himself:

“Whose house is this? Can this be the residence of Master Ai?”

At this moment, his wife saw him. Guessing that his memory must have taken leave of him again, she let loose a torrent of abuse. Very much upset, the man complained:

“I’ve never seen you before in my life. Why hurl insults at me like that, lady?”

Lu Zhuo: Aizi hou yu (*Master Ai (Appendix)*)



Note

- ① A li is a distance of 500 metres.

xíng
邢

xíng jìn shì shēn ǎi cháng zài pú yáng yù dào dào jì
邢进士身矮，尝在鄱阳遇盗。盗既

yǒu qí zī yù jiǎn zhī yì chú huàn fāng jǔ dāo xíng yù^①
有其资，欲减之以除患，方举刀，邢谕^①

ǎi
矮

zhī yuē rén yè hū wǒ wèi xíng ǎi ruò qù qí tóu bù gèng
之曰：“人业呼我为邢矮，若去其头，不更

ǎi hū dào bù jiào dà xiào zhì dāo
矮乎？”盗不觉大笑掷刀。

míng yáo lǚ zhuàn lù shū
明 / 姚旅撰《露书》

白话
翻译



有一个姓邢的进士身材十分矮小，曾经在鄱阳湖遇到强盗。强盗已经抢劫了他的钱财之后，还打算杀了他以除后患。强盗正要举刀杀他，那进士就以风趣的口吻说：“人们已经叫我为邢矮子了，如果你再砍掉我的头，那不是更矮了么？”强盗不觉哈哈大笑，便放下了刀。

注释

① 谕(yù)：告诉、吩咐，这里有劝勉的意思。



Shorty Xing



There was a *jinshi* ^① named Xing who was short of stature. Once he fell into the hands of a robber on Poyang Lake. After stripping him of all his valuables, the robber thought of killing him so as to remove the cause of future trouble. As he raised his sword, Xing said:

“People are already calling me Shorty Xing. If you must chop off my head, would that make me shorter still?”

At that the robber burst into a side-splitting laughter and threw down his sword.

Yao Lū: Lu shu (*Book of Dew*)



Note

① A successful candidate in the highest imperial examinations in feudal China.



tóng
同

zhāng xū zǐ shàn yī tà lì yǐ zài wò nèi rén wèi yǒu
张 诩 子 缮 一 榻 丽 ， 以 在 卧 内 ， 人 未 有

jiàn yě gù tuō jí wò tà shàng zhì yīn yǒu xǐng wèn guān
见 也 ， 故 托 疾 卧 榻 上 ， 致 姻 友 省^① 问 观

bìng
病

zhī qī yīn yóu yáng zǐ zhé xīn zhì yī wà yì yù zhāng
之 。 其 姻 尤 扬 子 者 ， 新 制 一 袜 ， 亦 欲 彰

shì qī rén gù qiān shang jiāo zú jiā xī ér zuò yǐ wèn
示 ； 其 人 故 褰^② 裳 交 足 加 膝 而 坐 ， 已 问

yuē jūn hé jí zhāng xū zǐ dù yóu yáng zǐ zhuàng ruò
曰 ： “ 君 何 疾 ？” 张 诩 子 睹 尤 扬 子 状 若

shì xiāng shì ér xiào yuē wú bìng yì ruò bìng yě
是 ， 相 视 而 笑 曰 ： “ 吾 病 亦 若 病 也 。”

míng liú yuán qīng zuǎn yìng xié lù
明 / 刘 元 卿 纂 《 应 谐 录 》

白话
翻译



从前，有一位叫张诩子的先生，把家里的一张床修缮得十分漂亮，便很想让别人看看。但床是放在卧室里的，一般情况下，来访的人们都看不到它。于是张诩子就想出个办法来，佯装生病躺在床上，告诉亲朋好友来探望他。他的亲家尤扬子，添了一双新袜子，也想要在人们面前显耀一番，在探望张诩子的那天，他故意把自己的衣襟撩起，叠加双脚，一条腿放在另一条腿上，然后问张诩子说：“您得了什么病？”张诩子打量了尤扬子一会儿，不觉相视一笑说：“我们俩得的是一样的病。”

注释

① 省(xǐng):探望、问候,多指对长辈的看望。

② 褰(qiān):同“褰”,常用于书面语中,撩起,揭起(衣服、帐子等)。



Same Illness



A man named Zhang Xuzi, after having his bed repaired and embellished, wanted to show it off. As no one was likely to come into his bedroom to look at it, he hit upon an idea. Pretending to be ill, he kept to his bed so that his in-laws and friends might come over to see him.

His brother-in-law, You Yangzi, who had a pair of new stockings knitted, wanted to show it off, too. The day he came over to see Zhang, he purposely tucked up his robe as he sat down and lifted one leg, putting the ankle of it on the knee of the other. Then he inquired:

“Well, what’s wrong with you?”

Zhang Xuzi, looking at him for some time, could not help smiling.

“We have the same illness,” was the reply.

Liu Yuanqing: Ying xie lu (*Spontaneous Humour*)

xué
学

yī tōu ér xiá shèn zhōng shēng háng qiè wú fàn chuí
一偷儿黠甚，终生行窃无犯。垂

lǎo zǐ lǜ qí shù zhōng yú qí shēn rì kěn chuán yān fù
老，子虑其术终于其身，日垦传焉。父

tōu
偷

yuē wú hé chuán wéi zhī jí shì zǐ yī xī chéng jiān
曰：“吾何传，为之即是。”子一夕乘间

rù fù shì wò nèi yǒu dà guì ǒu wèi jué yù yīn qí
入富室卧内，有大柜，偶未鏽^①，预隐其

zhōng jì cǐ zhǔ rén mèi zé qiè cáng chū yě nǎi zhǔ rén
中，计伺主人寐，则窃藏出也。乃主人

fāng qǐn ér yì jué qí guì bù dé chū zhōng yè páng
方寝而忆，鏽其柜；不得出，中夜旁

huáng yè lán yì jí bù dé jì gù dàn zhǐ zuò shǔ niè
徨，夜阑益棘，不得计，故弹指作鼠啮

shēng zhǔ rén wù wén zhī lǜ shǔ niè yī jí jí qǐ fā
声。主人寤闻之，虑鼠啮衣籍，亟^②起发

juézhú shǔ tōu ér zǐ yuè chū yì guī duì qí fù yuē fù
鏽逐鼠，偷儿子跃出逸归。对其父曰：“父

nài hé mì bù ér chuán jǐ bīn sǐ suǒ yī jiè dì líng jì
奈何秘不儿传，几濒死所矣。籍^③第令计

bù chū shì nài hé fù yuē jí cǐ shì yī wú yòu hé
不出是奈何？”父曰：“即此是矣，吾又何

chuán gù shàn jiào zhě dào ér fú qiān kāi ér fú dá^④，
传。”故善教者，道而弗牵，开而弗达^④，

shǐ rén jì qí zhì kě ěr
使人继其志可尔。

míng liú yuán qīng zuǎn yīng xié lù
明 / 刘元卿纂《应谐录》



Learning Thievery



There was once a very crafty and cunning thief who had all his life practised theft without ever being caught red-handed. Now he was getting old and his son, fearing that his art of stealing might be lost forever with his death, begged him to disclose the secret of his success.

“There’s no secret to be handed down to you, son,” replied the old thief. “Just go ahead and do it yourself, that’s all.”

One evening, the young thief sneaked into the bedroom of a rich man. There he found a large wardrobe which was by chance not locked. Hiding himself in the wardrobe, he intended to wait until the master of the house had gone to sleep and then come out and make off with whatever he could lay hands on. Hardly had the master of the house gone to bed when he remembered that he had forgotten to lock the wardrobe. So he immediately got up to fasten the lock. Trapped in the wardrobe, the young thief did not know how to extricate himself. As the night wore on, he was getting more desperate every minute until he hit upon an idea. He then made a scraping sound with his fingers as if rats were gnawing something. The sound awakened the sleeping man who, for fear that the rats might

白话
翻译

从前有一个手段高明的小偷，他非常狡猾，偷了一辈子的东西一次也没有被抓到过。到了年老的时候，他的儿子非常担心父亲的本事随之而去，传不下来，便恳求父亲教给自己。父亲说：“这有什么可教的，去偷就是了。”一天晚上，儿子潜入一个富家的卧室里，屋里有一个大柜子，正好没有上锁，于是他便藏进去，打算等主人熟睡之后再出来偷东西。主人准备睡下时忽然想起柜子还没有锁，于是便起身锁了柜门。小偷被困在柜子里面出不来。夜深之后他更加焦急，已经想不出什么更好的办法了，便弹指作出老鼠咬东西的声音。主人醒来后听到了声音，怕咬坏了衣物，便赶紧起来打开锁准备赶走老鼠，这时小偷的儿子便一下子猛地冲出来逃回家里。到家后，他对父亲说：“您为什么不把真本事传授给我呢，害得我这次差点儿死在那里。如果当时我想不出那个办法来，那可该怎么办呢？”父亲说：“偷东西就是这样，我又有什么可传的。”所以，高明的传授者要善于引导弟子，而不是牵着他的鼻子走，善于启发和开导他的思考，而不是只把最终的结果灌输给他，只有这样做了，才能够使他真正领悟所学，继承传授者的志向。



gnaw holes in his clothes, sprang up from his bed to unlock the wardrobe and chase the rats away. As soon as the door of the wardrobe was flung open, the young thief sprang out from within and made good his escape.

“Oh, dad! ” cried the young thief after he came home, “why didn’t you tell me the secret of your success? I nearly paid the forfeit of my life. I wonder what would have happened to me if I hadn’t hit upon that bright idea of mine.”

“That’s it,” replied his father. “This is all you need to know. There’s nothing else I can hand down to you.”

A good teacher leads without compelling and inspires without elaborating. The important thing is to have someone carry out your will.

Liu Yuanqing: Ying xie lu (*Spontaneous Humour*)



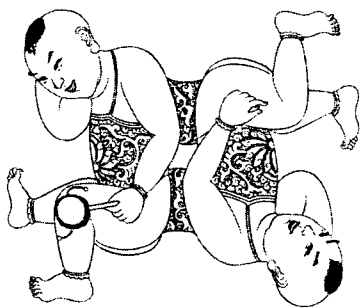
注释

① 鑰(jué):书面语中常作箱子上安锁的纽,这里也引申为动词,意思是给柜子上锁。

② 亟(jí):急迫地。

③ 籍(jiè):连词,表示假设,相当于“如果”。

④ 道而弗牵,开而弗达:出自《学记》。意思是说,高明的教师的教学,在要善于引导,不牵着学生的鼻子;严格要求,但不使感到压抑;要在问题开头启发学生思考,决不把最终结果端出。



dāi
呆

zǐ
子

wú zhōng mǒu fù wēng yǒu dāi zǐ nián sān shí yī fù
吴中某富翁有呆子，年三十，倚父

wéi shēng fù nián wǔ shí yī yù xīng jiā tuī fù shòu dāng bā
为生。父年五十矣，遇星家推父寿当八

shí zǐ dāng liù shí èr dāi zǐ qì yuē wǒ fù shòu zhǐ bā
十，子当六十二。呆子泣曰：“我父寿止八

shí wǒ dào liù shí yī hòu nà èr nián kào shéi yǎng huó
十，我到六十以后，那二年靠谁养活？”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn yǎ xuè
明 / 许自昌 撰《雅谑》

白话
翻译



吴中一带有一个富户人家，家里有一个痴呆的儿子，已经三十岁了，还要依靠自己年迈的父亲生活。他的父亲已经五十岁了。一天有个算命先生推算富翁能活到八十岁，而儿子只能活到六十二岁。这个呆儿子听了之后就大哭起来，他说：“我的父亲只能活到八十岁，我六十岁之后的那两年要靠谁养活呢？”



Idiot



A certain rich man in Suzhou had an idiotic son. At 30, he still lived off his father who was now 50 years of age. One day, they met an astrologer who cast a horoscope and predicted that the father would live to be 80 and the son 62. Upon that the son burst out crying.

“My father is going to die at 80,” he wailed. “Who’s going to feed me the last two years of my life after I turn 60?”

Xu Zichang: *Ya xue (Elegant Banter)*

dāi
呆
xiàn
县
chéng
丞

cháng zhōu xiàn chéng mǎ xìn shān dōng rén yī rì chéng
长洲县丞马信，山东人，一日乘
zhōu yè shàng guān shàng guān wèn yuē chuán bó hé
舟谒上官，上官问曰：“船泊^①何
chù duì yuē chuán zài hé lǐ shàng guān nù chì zhī
处？”对曰：“船在河里。”上官怒，叱之
yuē zhēn cǎo bāo xìn yòu yīng shēng yuē cǎo bāo yě zài
曰：“真草包。”信又应声曰：“草包也在
chuán lǐ
船里。”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn yǎ xuè
明 / 许自昌撰《雅谑》

白话
翻译



长洲县的县丞叫马信，是山东人。有一天，他乘船去拜见上司，他的上司问他说：“船停在什么地方？”马信回答说：“船停在河里。”上司听了之后非常恼怒，呵斥他说：“真是一个草包。”马信又应声回答说：“草包也在船里。”

注释

① 泊(bó):指船靠岸,停船。



The Idiotic Assistant of a County Magistrate



Ma Xin, a magistrate's assistant in the County of Changzhou, was a native of Shandong Province. One day, he went by boat to call on his superior.

"Where have you moored your boat?" inquired his superior.

"In the river, sir," came the reply.

This infuriated his superior who snapped:

"Straw sack^①!"

At that Ma Xin hastily added:

"The straw sacks are all in the boat, sir."

Xu Zichang: *Ya xue (Elegant Banter)*



Note

① A Chinese saying meaning a blockhead.

bù
不
pà
怕
guǐ
鬼

jiā jìng zhōng xī rén wáng fù zhāng xiáng jù yǒu dǎn
嘉靖中，锡人王富张祥，俱有胆，
sù bù wèi guǐ xià rì tóng yǐn xī shàng rì jiāng bǔ wáng
素不畏鬼。夏日同饮溪上，日将晡^①，王
yuē gé xī cóng zhōng zhōng zuó sòng yī xīn sǐ rén rǔ
曰：“隔溪丛冢中，昨送一新死人，汝
néng chéng liú ér guò chū qí shǐ yú guān wài hū zhāng yuē
能乘流而过出其尸于棺外乎？”张曰：
wú néng hēi yè chū zhī wáng yuē guǒ ěr dāng shū là
“吾能黑夜出之。”王曰：“果尔，当输腊
niàng yī wèng wú xiān qǔ lái děng nǐ é rì mò zhāng
酿^②一瓮，吾先取来等汝。”俄日没，张
suì guò xī jiàn guān yǐ lí gài fāng yí zhī hū guān zhōng
遂过溪，见棺已离盖，方疑之，忽棺中
chū liǎng shǒu bào zhāng jǐng zhāng jù ér sī zhù yuē nǐ
出两手抱张颈，张惧，而私祝^③曰：“汝
shǎo chū sī wǒ dǔ shèng míng rì dāng diàn ér mái rǔ
少出，俟我赌胜，明日当奠而埋汝。”
yán bì bào yì jí zhāng dà jiào shēng jiàn wēi xī bàng
言毕，抱益急，张大叫，声渐微。溪傍
rén jiā wén shēng qún chí huǒ lái zhào bào zhāng jǐng zhě nǎi
人家闻声，群持火来照，抱张颈者，乃
wáng yě gài guǐ yán qǔ jiǔ cóng biàn chù xiān dù chū shǐ
王也。盖诡言取酒，从便处先渡，出尸
ér fú guān zhōng sī shí fāng dà wēn èr zǐ jìng wú jí
而伏棺中俟^④。时方大瘟，二子竟无疾，
jiē yóu dǎn zhī zhuàng yě
皆由胆之壮也。

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn yǎ xué
明 / 许自昌 撰《雅谑》



Daredevils



During the reign of Shizong (1522 –1567) of the Ming Dynasty, there lived in Wuxi two good friends named Wang Fu and Zhang Xiang, respectively. Both of them were men of plenty of guts and believed in neither ghosts nor gods.

One summer day found them drinking in the glow of the setting sun on the bank of a rivulet. Said Wang:

“Yonder on the opposite bank a man was interred yesterday somewhere in the burial-mounds. Dare you cross over and drag the body out of the coffin?”

“I can do that under cover of night,” replied Zhang.

“If so,” said Wang, “I’ll stand you an urn of wine brewed in the twelfth moon. I’m going to get it now and wait for you.”

Presently the sun disappeared below the horizon and Zhang crossed over to the opposite bank of the rivulet. There, among the burial-mounds he found to his surprise a coffin with its lid already removed. Full of suspicions, he approached the coffin to take a close look when all of a sudden a pair of arms stretched out from within and embraced his neck. Horrified, Zhang prayed:

“Please come out a little bit, will you? After I win the bet,

白话
翻译

明代嘉靖年间，无锡有两个人叫王富和张祥，他们都是极有胆量的人物，从来不害怕什么鬼怪，在当地也是出了名的。夏日的一天，王富和张祥两个人在溪边对饮，一直畅饮到午后申时。这时，王富说：“河对岸的坟墓丛中，昨天刚刚埋了一个死人，你敢游过河去把死尸从棺材里弄出来吗？”张祥丝毫不示弱地说：“现在天还有些亮，等一会儿，我敢在黑夜把它弄出来。”王富就说：“如果真是这样的话，我愿输给你一瓮腊酿，我先回去把酒拿来在这里等你。”说完就走了。过了一会儿，太阳落山了，天渐渐黑了下来。张祥就一口气游过河去，来到坟墓丛中，却见棺材盖已经被挪开。正当他对此疑惑不解时，忽然从棺材中伸出两只大手死死地抱住了他的脖子。张祥一时也有些害怕，于是私下请求说：“你先出来一会儿，等到我打赌赢了，明天一定好好祭奠祭奠再埋了你。”话刚一说完，那双手把他的脖子抱得更紧了。张祥迫不得已，大喊大叫了起来，过了不大一会儿，喊声也渐渐微弱下去。溪边住着的人家听到叫喊声，成群结队地手持火把跑过来了，火光一照，才认出抱住张祥脖子的正是王富。原来王富假装说回家拿酒，却从别处先游过河去，把棺材中的尸体扔出来而自己卧在棺中，就等张祥来时吓他一下。当时，正是瘟疫盛行之时，王富和张祥两人竟安然无恙，都是因为胆气豪壮的缘故。

注释

- ① 哺(bū):申时,即下午三点钟到五点钟的时间。
- ② 腊酿:即腊酒,指的是腊月尾酿的酒,非常醇美。
- ③ 祝:这里指向鬼神祝祷祈求。
- ④ 俟(sì):等到。



I'll come back tomorrow and make offerings to you and give you a decent burial, I promise."

The two arms round his neck, however, tightened and Zhang started yelling for help. And then his yelling died down to groans. Some of the dwellers in the neighbourhood, on hearing the yell, rushed to the scene carrying torches. They found that the man who had his arms round Zhang's neck was none other than his friend Wang.

On the pretext of going for the wine, Wang had crossed over ahead of Zhang. There, having dragged the body out of the coffin, he lay inside in wait for Zhang. Despite the raging pestilence at that time, both of them did not catch it. It's because they were men with plenty of guts.

Xu Zichang: Ya xue (*Elegant Banter*)

zhǐ
止
mǔ
母
niàn
念
fó
佛

zhái mǔ guī xīn shì shì rì sòng fó bù chuò shēng yǒng
翟母皈心释氏，日诵佛不辍^①声。永

líng yáng hū zhī mǔ yīng nuò yòu hū bù yǐ mǔ yùn yuē
龄佯^②呼之，母应诺，又呼不已，母愠^③曰：

wú yǒu hé pín hū yě yǒng líng yuē wú hū mǔ sān
“无有，何频呼也？”永龄曰：“吾呼母三

sì mǔ biàn bù yuè bǐ fó zhě rì wèi mǔ hū qiān wàn
四，母便不悦，彼佛者日为母呼千万

shēng qí nù dāng hé rú mǔ wèi shǎo wù
声，其怒当何如？”母为少悟。

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn yǎ xué
明 / 许自昌 撰《雅谑》

白话
翻译

明代有一个叫翟永龄的人，他的母亲一心向佛，整日念佛念个不停。有一天，永龄假装大声呼唤道：“妈妈，妈妈。”他的母亲答应了一声，又继续念佛。翟永龄又不停地喊道：“妈妈，妈妈。”他的母亲不耐烦了，怒声呵斥他说：“烦死了，没有什么事情，你为什么一直不停地喊我？”翟永龄说：“妈妈，我只不过才叫了您三四声，您就不高兴了，那么您整天整天地念佛念了不知道有几千遍几万声，佛听了岂不是要恼怒死了？”翟永龄的母亲听了这番话，稍稍明白了其中的道理。

注释

- ① 辍(chuò): 停止。
② 佯(yáng): 假装。
③ 愠(yùn): 恼怒, 生气的样子。



Ma, It's No Use Chanting the Name of Buddha



Zhai Yongling's mother was a devout Buddhist. So much so that she would recite the scriptures without ceasing from morning till night. One day Yongling pretended to have something to say to her and called her while she was chanting the name of Buddha. His mother stopped to answer him; yet he kept on calling her.

"Stop it!" his mother finally lost her temper. "Why keep on calling me like that?"

"You see, mother," replied the son, "you get angry with me simply because I've called you a few times. Imagine how angry Buddha will be when you chant his name thousands of times a day."

At this his mother began to see the light.

Xu Zichang: *Ya xue (Elegant Banter)*

yòu
诱
chū
出
hù
户

zhū gǔ mǐn wén xué shàn xué yī rì zài tāng shēng zhāi
朱古民文学善谑^①，一日在汤生斋

zhōng tāng yuē rǔ sù duō zhī shù jiǎ rú jīn zuò shì
中，汤曰：“汝素^②多知术，假如今坐室

zhōng néng yòu wǒ chū hù wài lì hū zhū yuē hù wài
中，能诱我出户外立乎？”朱曰：“户外

fēng hán rǔ bì bù kěn chū tǎng rǔ xiān lì hù wài wǒ zé
风寒，汝必不肯出；倘汝先立户外，我则

yǐ shì zhōng shòu yòng yòu rǔ rǔ bì cóng yī tāng xìn zhī
以室中受用诱汝，汝必从矣。”汤信之，

biàn chū hù wài lì wèi zhū yuē rǔ ān néng yòu wǒ rù hù
便出户外立，谓朱曰：“汝安能诱我入户

zāi zhū pāi shǒu xiào yuē wǒ yǐ yòu rǔ chū hù yǐ
哉？”朱拍手笑曰：“我已诱汝出户矣。”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn yǎ xué
明 / 许自昌撰《雅谑》

白话
翻译



朱古民是一位学者，他喜欢和他的朋友开玩笑。有一天，在汤生的书房里，汤生说：“你平日里都聪明多智，有很多解决问题的办法，假如今天我坐在屋子里，你能有什么办法诱使我出门而站在外面吗？”朱古民笑着说：“门外面寒风凛冽，非常寒冷，你一定不肯出去的；假如你先站在门外，那么我就用屋里的优越条件来引诱你，你一定会听从的。”汤生相信了他的话，就走到室外站着，并对朱古民说：“看你用什么办法把我引导到室内去！”朱古民拍着手笑着说：“我已经诱使你到户外了！”



注释

① 谑(xuè):开玩笑。

② 素:平日里,平常。



Lure Me Outdoors



Zhu Gumin was a scholar who liked to play practical jokes on his friends. One day he called on another scholar named Tang and found him in his study. Said Tang:

“I know you have a whole bag of tricks. Now I’m sitting here in this room. Can you lure me outdoors?”

“Well,” replied Zhu, “it’s windy and cold outside. Naturally you’d prefer to stay indoors. If you were standing outside right now and I tempted you with all the comforts you can enjoy in here, you wouldn’t be able to resist the temptations.”

Unsuspecting, Tang stepped outside and standing there said:

“Now how on earth can you lure me into the room?”

Thereupon Zhu clapped and laughed.

“I’ve already lured you outdoors,” said he.

Xu Zichang: Ya xue (Elegant Banter)

hóng
红
mǐ
米
fàn
饭

jìn yī yǒu yǒu mǔ sàng ǒu shí hóng mǐ fàn yī fǔ rú
近一友有母丧，偶食红米饭，一腐儒

yǐ wéi fēi jū sàng zhě suǒ yí jí qí gù wèi hóng xǐ sè
以为非居丧者所宜。诘其故，谓红、喜色

yě yǒu yuē rán zé shí bái mǐ fàn zhě jiē yǒu sàng yě
也。友曰：“然则食白米饭者，皆有丧耶？”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn yǎ xué
明 / 许自昌 撰《雅谑》

白话
翻译



有一个朋友最近母亲去世了，偶然有一次吃了一顿红米饭，一个迂腐的儒生便指责了他一顿，认为他在为母亲居丧期间不应该这样做。这位朋友反问他是什么原因，这位儒生说：“红色是喜庆的颜色，居丧的时候不能吃红米饭。”这位朋友又反问道：“依照你说的那样，吃白米饭的人，家里都是有丧事了吗？”



Red Glutinous Rice



A friend of mine whose mother had recently passed away was seen eating red glutinous rice on one rare occasion. A pedantic scholar who came to hear of this expressed his disapproval by saying that it was highly improper for one in mourning to eat red rice. Asked why, he explained that red signified happiness. Said my friend:

“Does it mean that those who eat white rice are all in mourning?”

Xu Zichang: *Ya xue (Elegant Banter)*

sǐ
死
hòu
后
jiā
佳

yè héng bà xiàng guī yī rì bìng wèn zhū kè yuē wǒ
叶衡罢相归，一日病，问诸客曰：“我

qiě sǐ dàn wèi zhī sǐ hòu jiā fǒu yī shì rén yuē shèn
且死，但未知死后佳否？”一士人曰：“甚

jiā yè jīng wèn yuē hé yǐ zhī zhī shì rén yuē shǐ
佳。”叶惊问曰：“何以知之？”士人曰：“使

sǐ ér bù jiā sǐ zhě jiē táo guī yǐ yī sǐ bù fǎn yī shì
死而不佳，死者皆逃归矣。一死不返，以是

zhī qí jiā yě mǎn zuò jiē xiào
知其佳也。”满座皆笑。

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn yǎ xué
明 / 许自昌撰《雅谑》

白话
翻译



南宋有一位名臣叫叶衡，因为被别人诬陷而罢相谪居在家。有一天，叶衡生病了，亲朋好友都来看望他。叶衡就问众人说：“我恐怕已经活不长了，但是不知道死后舒服不舒服？”一位书生说：“死后很舒服。”叶衡惊奇地问他说：“你怎么知道死后很舒服？”这位书生说：“如果死后不舒服，那些死去的人们就全都逃回来了。然而自古至今，死去的人们还没有一个返回的呢。因此我知道了死后一定会很舒服。”满座的客人都被他的幽默逗笑了。



Everything Is Fine in the Netherworld



Having been dismissed from office, Ye Heng returned to his native place. One day he fell ill and said to the visitors who had come to see him:

“I’m going to die, but I don’t know how things are in the netherworld.”

“Things are just fine down there,” answered one of the gentlemen.

“How do you know?” queried Ye, amazed.

“If not,” explained that gentleman, “those who had died and gone there would flee the netherworld and come back. Since no one who had died ever came back, things down there must be very fine.”

At this utterance, the company broke out into loud guffaws.

Xu Zichang: Ya xue (*Elegant Banter*)

hèn
恨
lú
卢
láng
郎

lú gōng mù nián sàng qī xù xián zhù shì shèn shǎo ài^①,
卢公暮年丧妻，续弦祝氏甚少艾^①，

rán shì yǐ fēi ǒu měi rì cuān méi lú wèn rǔ dé fēi hèn
然视以非偶，每日攒眉。卢问：“汝得非恨

wǒ nián dà yē yuē fēi yě yì huò hèn wǒ guān bēi
我年大耶？”曰：“非也。”“抑或恨我官卑

yē yuē fēi yě lú yuē rán zé wèi hé zhù yuē
耶？”曰：“非也。”卢曰：“然则为何？”祝曰：

bù hèn lú láng nián jì dà bù hèn lú láng guān zhí bēi zhī
“不恨卢郎年纪大，不恨卢郎官职卑；只

hèn qiè shēn shēng tài wǎn bù jiàn lú láng nián shǎo shí
恨妾身生太晚，不见卢郎年少时。”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn yǎ xué
明 / 许自昌撰《雅谑》

白话
翻译



卢公晚年死了妻子，又续娶了一位女子祝氏，这位祝氏年轻貌美，然而祝氏觉得卢公和自己，不匹配，所以一天到晚愁眉苦脸、郁郁寡欢。卢公见到这种情况，就询问她说：“娘子是不是嫌我的年纪太大了？”祝氏回答说：“不是。”卢公又问说：“那么是不是恨我的官职卑微呢？”祝氏摇了摇头说：“也不是。”卢公非常纳闷，说道：“娘子既不嫌我年纪大，又不恨我官职小，那么你整天忧愁烦闷，又是为什么呢？”祝氏再也憋不住了，随口答道：“不恨卢郎年纪大，不恨卢郎官职卑；要恨只恨我生得太晚，不见卢郎你少年时的情形啊！”



注释

① 艾(ài):美好,漂亮。少艾就是年轻漂亮的人。



A Matter for Regret



The revered Mr Lu, bereft of his spouse in his declining years, took a young woman named Zhu as second wife. Unhappy about the union, Zhu was often seen knitting her brows. One day, Mr Lu asked her:

“Do you regret that you have married an old man?”

“No,”

“You’re unhappy because my official rank is too low?”

“No, it’s not that.”

“Then why are you so unhappy?”

“Neither your old age nor your low rank is the cause of my regret. My only regret is that I was born too late to have met you when you were young.”

Xu Zichang: *Ya xue (Elegant Banter)*

bù
不
sǐ
死
jiǔ
酒

hàn wǔ dì shí yǒu gòng bù sǐ zhī jiǔ zhě dōng fāng
汉武帝时，有贡^①不死之酒者。东方

shuò qiè yīn yīn dì nù yù shā zhī shuò bái chén
朔^②窃^③饮焉。帝怒，欲杀之。朔白：“臣

suǒ yǐn bù sǐ jiǔ yě shā chén chén bì bù sǐ chén ruò
所饮，不死酒也，杀臣，臣必不死，臣若

sǐ yì bù yàn dì xiào ér shè zhī
死，亦不验。”帝笑而赦之。

míng xǔ zì chōng zhuàn yǎ xuè
明 / 许自昌 撰《雅谑》

白话
翻译



汉武帝在位的时候，有人给他进贡了一瓶“不死酒”，据说喝了这个“不死酒”，就可以长生不死。汉武帝身边有一位大臣叫东方朔，趁汉武帝不留意，就偷偷喝了这“不死酒”。汉武帝发觉后，不觉勃然大怒，要下令杀死东方朔。东方朔不慌不忙地向汉武帝解释说：“我喝的是‘不死酒’，陛下如果要杀我，我肯定也死不了；假如我死了，那么这‘不死酒’也就不灵验了。”汉武帝听了这话，也拿他没有办法，只好笑着赦免了他。

注释

① 贡(gòng):指的是古代臣民或属国把物品进献给朝廷。

② 东方朔(公元前154—前93):字曼倩,武帝时的大臣、文学家,性格诙谐幽默,善辞赋,被人们称为大隐。

③ 窃:偷偷地。



Elixir of Life



During the reign of Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty, the articles of tribute received by the imperial court included a jar of wine which was supposed to give the drinker eternal life. It so happened that Dongfang Shuo drank a mouthful of it on the sly. The Emperor was so angry when he learnt about this that he wanted to put Dongfang Shuo to death.

“The wine I drank, Your Majesty,” pleaded Dongfang Shuo, “was supposed to give me eternal life. I wouldn’t die even if Your Majesty put me to death. If I should die, then the wine is not the genuine stuff it was supposed to be.”

The Emperor was so amused that he pardoned Dongfang Shuo.

Xu Zichang: *Ya xue (Elegant Banter)*

duò
垛

zǐ
子

yī wǔ guān chū zhēng jiāng bài hū yǒu shén bīng zhù
一武官出征，将败，忽有神兵助

zhèn fǎn dà shèng guān kòu tóu qǐng shén xìng míng shén
阵，反大胜。官叩头请神姓名，神

yuē wǒ shì duò zǐ shén guān yuē xiǎo jiàng hé dé gǎn
曰：“我是垛子神。”官曰：“小将何德，敢

láo duò zǐ zūn shén jiàn jiù dá yuē gǎn rǔ píng xī zài jiào
劳垛子尊神见救？”答曰：“感汝平昔在教

chǎng cóng bù céng yī jiàn shāng wǒ
场，从不曾一箭伤我。”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn xiào lín
明 / 许自昌撰《笑林》

白话
翻译



有一名武官带领士兵出征作战，眼看就要战败了，这时忽然从天而降有神兵前来助阵，最后反败为胜。这位武官非常感激神兵，诚挚地跪下来叩头并询问神的姓名。这位神兵说：“我是垛子神。”这位武官说：“小将哪辈子修来的福德，怎敢劳驾垛子神您前来相救？”垛子神不紧不慢地回答说：“感念你平日里在教场习武，从来都没有用一支箭伤到我，所以特意前来助你一臂之力。”



God of Target



A general who had gone out to battle was unable to stave off defeat when the God of the Target appeared to join his ranks and turned the tables on the enemy. Thereupon, the general kowtowed to the God and asked his name.

“I am the God of the Target.”

“What have I done, my God, to deserve your assistance?”

“I’ve always been grateful to you,” replied the God of the Target, “because in the old days when you were practising archery on the drilling ground, you never once hit me with your arrows.”

Xu Zichang: Xiao lin (*Jest Book*)

yù
遇

yī pín shì sù hào pū zhāng tōu ér yè xí zhī kōng
一贫士素好铺张，偷儿夜袭之，空

rú yě mà ér qù shì mō chuáng tóu shù qián zhuī zèng zhī
如也，骂而去。士摸床头数钱追赠之，

tōu
偷

zhǔ yuē jūn cǐ lái suī jí dài màn rán rén qián wàn wàng
嘱曰：“君此来虽极怠慢，然人前万望

bāo huǎng
包谎。”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn xiào lín
明 / 许自昌撰《笑林》

白话
翻译



从前有一个家境非常贫寒的人，但他平日里特别喜欢铺张显摆。有一天夜里，一个小偷悄悄地潜入他的家中，但是家里什么东西都没有，于是小偷骂骂咧咧地离开了。这时这个贫士拿起放在床头的一些钱追了出来，要给这个小偷，并且千叮咛万嘱咐地说道：“你这次前来虽然我多有怠慢，但是在人面前，还希望你多为我保密圆谎啊。”

Burglary



A poor scholar was extravagant in his way of living. One night, a burglar broke into his room, only to find it absolutely empty. Terribly disappointed, the burglar left, pouring out a stream of abuse. At that the scholar immediately fumbled under his pillows and, finding a few copper coins, rushed out after the burglar. Having caught up with him, the scholar gave him the coins, saying:

“I’m afraid I’ve been a poor host tonight. Pray put in a good word for me in front of people.”

Xu Zichang: *Xiao lin (Jest Book)*



wèn
问
lìng
令
zūn
尊

yī rén yuǎn chū zhǔ qí zǐ yuē rú yǒu rén wèn nǐ
一人远出，嘱其子曰：“如有人问你

lìng zūn kě duì yǐ xiǎo shì chū wài qǐng jìn bài chá yòu
令尊，可对以^①小事出外，请进拜茶。”又

yǐ qí dāi kǒng wàng yě shū zhǐ fù zhī zǐ zhì xiù zhōng
以其呆，恐忘也，书纸付之。子置袖中，

shí qǔ kàn zhì dì sān rì wú rén lái wèn yǐ cǐ zhǐ wú
时取看，至第三日，无人来问，以此纸无

yòng fù zhī dēng huǒ dì sì rì hū yǒu kè zhì wèn lìng
用，付之灯火。第四日忽有客至，问令

zūn mì xiù zhōng zhǐ bù dé yīn duì yuē méi le kè
尊，觅^②袖中纸不得，因对曰：“没了。”客

jīng yuē jǐ shí méi de duì yuē zuó yè shāo le
惊曰：“几时没了？”对曰：“昨夜烧了。”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn xiào lín
明 / 许自昌 撰《笑林》

白话
翻译



一个人要出远门，临行前他嘱咐儿子说：“如果有人前来拜访，问你令尊在哪里，你告诉他我因为一些小事儿出去了，然后请他进来喝茶。”又考虑到儿子愚蠢，怕他忘了，就写了一张纸条给他。儿子把纸条放在衣袖里，不时取出来看看。到了第三天，也没有人来访问，儿子以为这张纸条没用，就放在油灯上把它烧了。第四天，忽然有一个客人来到家里，询问令尊，傻儿子在袖子中找不到纸条，于是回答说：“没了。”客人非常吃惊，又问道：“什么时候没了？”傻儿子回答道：“昨天晚上烧了。”



注释

① 以：因为。

② 觅：寻找。



Should Someone Ask for Your Father



A man who was going away for some time enjoined his son:
“If anyone asks for me, you can tell him that your father has been called away to attend to a minor matter and be sure to ask him in for a cup of tea.”

Afraid that his idiotic son might forget his instructions, he wrote them down upon a slip of paper and gave it to his son, who tucked it into his sleeve and took it out to look at every now and then.

Three days passed without anyone coming to see his father. Thinking that he had no more use for that slip of paper, the boy committed it to the flames. On the fourth day, however, an unexpected visitor dropped in.

“Where is your father?” asked the visitor.

The boy immediately put his hand into his sleeve and fished around for the slip of paper. As he could not find it, he ejaculated:

“No more.”

Taken aback, the visitor asked:

“No more? When did it happen?”

“Burnt last night.”

zāo
糟

bǐng
饼

yī rén jiā pín ér bù shàn yǐn měi chū zhǐ dàn zāo
一人家贫而不善饮，每出，只啖^①糟

bǐng èr méi jí yǒu hān zhuàng shì yù yǒu rén wèn yuē
饼二枚，即有酣^②状。适^③遇友人问曰：

ěr chén yǐn yē yuē fēi yě shí zāo bǐng ěr guī
“尔晨饮耶？”曰：“非也，食糟饼耳。”归

yǐ yǔ qī qī yuē biàn shuō yǐn jiǔ yě zhuāng xiè mén
以语妻，妻曰：“便说饮酒，也装些门

miàn fū hàn zhī jí chū yù cǐ yǒu wèn rú qián yī
面。”夫颌之。及出，遇此友，问如前，以

chī jiǔ duì yǒu jié zhī yuē rè chī hū lěng chī hū dá
吃酒对。友诘^④之曰：“热吃乎？冷吃乎？”答

yuē shì hān de yǒu xiào yuē réng shì zāo bǐng jì
曰：“是煨的。”友笑曰：“仍是糟饼。”既

guī ér qī zhī zhī jiù yuē jiǔ rú hé shuō hān xū yún rè
归而妻知之，咎曰：“酒如何说煨？须云热

yǐn fū yuē yǐ xiǎo yǐ zài yù cǐ yǒu bù dài wèn
饮。”夫曰：“已晓矣。”再遇此友，不待问，

jī kuā yún wǒ jīn fān de jiǔ shì rè chī de yǒu wèn
即夸云：“我今番的酒是热吃的。”友问

yuē ěr chī jǐ hé shēn zhǐ yuē liǎng gè
曰：“尔吃几何？”伸指曰：“两个。”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn xiào lín
明 / 许自昌 撰《笑林》

白话
翻译



从前有一个穷人，酒量不大而且家境贫寒，买不起酒，每次出门前，只吃两个酒糟饼，就有点醉醺醺的了。有一天，他吃完糟饼后出门恰巧在路上碰到一个朋友，朋友就问他：“你一大早就喝酒了吗？怎么看你走路都不大稳呢？”他回答说：“没有喝酒，只是吃了几个糟饼。”回家后，



Cakes Made from Distillers' Grain



There was a poor man who did not drink. Before he went out each day, he would eat only two grain cakes, which invariably made him slightly tipsy. One day he met a friend who asked him:

“Did you have a cup of wine this morning?”

“Oh, no,” replied the man. “I only had some grain cakes for breakfast.”

After coming home, he told his wife about this and his wife said:

“Why didn’t you say you did have a cup of wine, just to keep up appearances.”

At that the man nodded to show his understanding. The next time he went out and happened to meet the same friend, who asked the same question. This time the man replied in the affirmative.

“Did you have it hot or cold?” his friend wanted to know.

“It was baked,” was the reply.

Thereupon his friend burst into laughter and said:

“You had nothing but grain cakes.”

When his wife came to hear of this later on, she chided



他就把刚才的事情如实告诉了妻子，妻子说：“下次再有人问的话，你就说是喝酒了，这样也好装些门面。”这个人连连点头。没过几天，出门后又遇见那位朋友，朋友像上次一样地问他，他便照着妻子教的以吃了酒回答。朋友又反问道：“是烫热了喝的呢？还是没有烫喝的？”这个人便回答说：“是烙着吃的。”这位朋友又哈哈大笑说：“你还是吃的糟饼吧！”他回到家以后，妻子知道了这件事情，埋怨他说：“酒怎么说是烙着吃的，下次再问你的话，你就说是烫了后吃的！”丈夫回答说：“好的，我知道该怎么说了。”后来，他又出门碰到那位朋友，不等着人家问，就夸耀地说：“今天的酒我是烫着喝的！”朋友问他说：“你喝了多少啊？”他伸出两个手指头说：“两个。”



注释

- ① 啖(dàn):吃或给别人吃。
- ② 酣:饮酒尽兴,泛指尽兴、畅快。
- ③ 适:刚好、恰巧。
- ④ 诘(jié):诘问,反问,盘问。



him:

“How stupid of you! No one ever bakes his wine. You should have said you drank it hot.”

“Now I see,” said the husband.

When he met that friend again, he boasted before his friend could say anything:

“This morning I drank my wine hot.”

“Really?” said the friend. “How much did you drink?”

“Two pieces,” said he, raising two fingers.

Xu Zichang: Xiao lin (*Jest Book*)

bù
不
qǐng
请
kè
客

yī rén xìng jí lín cóng bù qǐng kè yī rì lín rén
一人性极吝，从不请客。一日，邻人
jiè qí jiā shè yàn yǒu jiàn zhě wèn qí pú yuē rǔ jiā zhǔ
借其家设宴。有见者，问其仆曰：“汝家主
jīn rì qǐng kè hū pú yuē yào wǒ jiā zhǔ qǐng kè zhí
今日请客乎？”仆曰：“要我家主请客，直
dài nà yī shì lái zhǔ rén wén ér mà yuē shéi yào nǐ
待那一世来。”主人闻而骂曰：“谁要你
xǔ tā rì zǐ
许他日子。”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn xiào lín
明 / 许自昌 撰《笑林》

白话
翻译



从前，有个人生来就非常吝啬，从来就不请客。一天，他的邻居借用他家设宴请客。有人路过这里，见到这里热闹非凡，就问他家的仆人说：“难道是你们家主人今天在请客吗？”仆人回答说：“要我家主人请客，那要等到他下一辈子吧！”不巧这些话被主人听到了，主人骂他道：“谁要你许他日子！”



No Entertainments



There was a very stingy man who never gave entertainments at home. One day, his neighbour obtained the use of his hall and gave a banquet there.

A passer-by who saw the scene of bustle and excitement asked the valet of the stingy man:

“Is your master entertaining his guests today?”

“Decidedly not,” answered the valet. “It’ll be a generation hence that you will hear of our master giving a dinner party.”

His master happened to overhear the remark and soundly berated him:

“Who gave you leave to fix a date?”

Xu Zichang: Xiao lin (*Jest Book*)

bù
不
liú
留
kè
客

yuǎn kè lái jiǔ zuò zhǔ jiā jī yā mǎn tíng nǎi cí yǐ
远客来久坐，主家鸡鸭满庭，乃辞以

jiā zhōng fá wù bù gǎn liú fàn kè jí jiè dāo yù shā
家中乏物，不敢留饭。客即借刀，欲杀

jǐ suǒ chéng mǎ jì cān zhǔ yuē gōng rú hé huí qù ?
己所乘马寄餐。主曰：“公如何回去？”

kè yuē píng gōng yú jī yā zhōng jiè yī zhī wǒ qí qù biàn
客曰：“凭公于鸡鸭中借一只，我骑去便

liǎo 了。”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn xiào lín
明 / 许自昌 撰《笑林》

白话
翻译



有一位客人从远方前来拜访，坐了好长时间，快要吃饭了，主人守着满院子的鸡鸭，却对客人说：“家里没有什么东西可以招待你，所以不敢留你在这里吃饭。”客人听后，就马上向主人借了一把刀子，要杀掉自己骑来的一匹马，用来下酒做菜。主人说：“老兄，不行呀，你把自己的马杀掉了，那你怎么回去呢？”客人不慌不忙地说道：“你随便从这群鸡鸭中借一只给我，我骑回去就行了。”



Not Asking the Guest to Stay



A guest who had come a long way sat waiting for a long time. The host, however, did not ask him to stay for lunch, saying that his larder was empty. The guest, seeing that the yard was full of chickens and ducks, asked his host for the loan of a chopper. He said he would kill his own horse to provide a substantial meal.

“How will you get back, then?” asked his host.

“With your permission, sir,” replied the guest, “I’ll borrow one of your chickens or ducks and ride home on it.”

Xu Zichang: *Xiao lin (Jest Book)*

吃

māo xiàng xià ǒu dài shù zhū lǎo shǔ jiàn zhī xǐ yuē
猫项下偶带数珠，老鼠见之，喜曰：

māo chī sù yī shuài qí zǐ sūn yì māo yán xiè māo
“猫吃素矣。”率其子孙诣^①猫言谢。猫

素

dà jiào yī shēng lián tàn shù shǔ lǎo shǔ jí zǒu nǎi tuō
大叫一声，连啖数鼠。老鼠急走，乃脱，

shēn shé yuē tā chī sù hòu yuè xiōng le
伸舌曰：“他吃素后越凶了。”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn xiào lín
明 / 许自昌撰《笑林》

白话
翻译



猫偶尔一次在脖子上戴了一串念珠，老鼠见到了，以为猫吃斋念佛了，非常欢喜地说：“猫吃素了。”于是老鼠率领它的子孙来向猫表达诚挚的谢意。这时，猫大叫一声，一连捕杀了好几只小老鼠。大老鼠急忙奔走逃命，逃脱之后伸出舌头说：“没想到它吃素以后变得越来越凶了。”

注释

① 诣(yì):到某人所在的地方;到某个地方去看人。



The Cat Has Turned Vegetarian



An old mouse chanced to see a cat wearing a few beads round her neck.

“Ah,” said the mouse with joy, “that cat has turned vegetarian.”

Thereupon, he brought his offspring along to pay a call on the cat to express their gratitude. No sooner had they appeared than the cat gave a deep howl and devoured several mice in rapid succession. The old mouse turned tail in the nick of time and made good his escape. Sticking out his tongue, he cried:

“My, my! That cat is even more ferocious after turning vegetarian.”

Xu Zichang: *Xiao lin (Jest Book)*

jiè
借
chá
茶
yè
叶

yǒu liú kè yǐn chá zhě xiàng lín jiā jiè chá yè wèi
有留客饮茶者，向邻家借茶叶，未
zhì měi tāng fèi yǐ shuǐ yì zhī fú qiě mǎn yǐ ér chá
至，每汤沸，以水益之。釜且满矣，而茶
yè zhōng bù dé qī nǚ wèi fū yuē cǐ yǒu shì xiāng zhī
叶终不得。妻乃谓夫曰：“此友是相知
de dào liú tā xǐ gè yù qù bà
的，到留他洗个浴去罢。”

míng xǔ zì chāng zhuàn xiào lín
明 / 许自昌撰《笑林》

白话
翻译



有一个人留客人在家喝茶，可是家里没茶叶了，于是就去邻居家借。这时，锅里的水烧得滚开滚开了，他的老婆只能不停地往锅里添水。就这样，水一开锅，他老婆就往里面添水，最后锅都添满了，茶叶还是没有借着。于是，老婆就对丈夫说：“好在你的这位朋友也是熟人，干脆留他洗个澡再走吧！”



Borrowing Tea Leaves



A man who had asked his guest to stay for a cup of tea sent his servant to borrow some tea leaves from his neighbour. When the water started to boil he poured in some water, waiting for the return of the servant. Before long, the water started boiling again, so he had to pour in some more water. This was repeated several times until the cauldron was full and the servant still failed to come back. At this point, the man's wife suggested to him:

“Since this gentleman is an intimate friend of yours, you might as well ask him to take a bath instead.”

Xu Zichang: Xiao lin (*Jest Book*)

wū
屋

jiǔ yǔ wū lòu yí yè shuò xī chuáng zú wú gān
久雨屋漏，一夜数^①徙床，卒^②无干

chù qī ér jiāo gòu gōng jí hū jiàng zhě qì zhì lǎo fèi
处，妻儿交诟^③。公急呼匠者葺^④治，劳费

lòu
漏

liáng kǔ gōng bì tiān hū kāi jì jìng yuè qíng lǎng gōng
良苦。工毕，天忽开霁^⑤，竟月晴朗。公

rì xī yǎng wū tàn yuē mìng liè zhī rén cái qì wú biàn
日夕仰屋叹曰：“命劣之人，才葺屋，便

wú yǔ qǐ bù bái zhé le yě
无雨，岂不白折了也！”

míng zhāng yí lìng jí yú xiān bié jì
明 / 张夷令辑《迂仙别记》

白话
翻译



有一年，接连下了几天大雨，迂公家里屋顶多处漏雨。一夜之间要起来把床搬来挪去好多次，到了最后整间屋子连一处干爽的地方都找不到了，惹得妻子儿女互相斥骂。迂公急急忙忙地叫来了工匠来修缮，花了很多功夫，也费了不少钱。等到屋子刚刚修好，天空忽然云开雾散，晴朗无比，竟然整月都是晴朗无雨。迂公日夜仰头望着刚修好的屋子，无奈地叹息说：“哎，真没办法，我真是苦命人，刚刚修好屋子，天就不下雨了，这岂不是白白赔上了许多工钱吗？”



注释

- ① 数(shuò): 屡次, 多次。
- ② 卒: 完毕、结束, 这里是最终、最后的意思。
- ③ 交诟(gòu): 互相怒骂、辱骂。
- ④ 葺(qì): 古时指用茅草覆盖房顶, 今指修理房屋。
- ⑤ 霁(jì): 雨后或者雪后转晴。



Leaky Roof



The revered Mr Yu had to move his bed several times during the night as the rain began leaking in after a prolonged spell of wet weather. Seeing that everything in the room was thoroughly soaked, his wife and children directed their bitter complaint against him. The next morning he lost no time in sending for a tiler who took considerable trouble in repairing the leaky roof. Soon after the repairs were done, one fine and sunny day succeeded another for a whole month. Morning and evening, he would look up at the roof and sigh:

“It is just my hapless fate. No more rain right after I’ve got my roof fixed. What a waste of money!”

Zhang Yiling: *Yu xian bie ji (Stories of the Revered Mr Yu)*



贼

yú yún zéi shì xiǎo rén zhì guò jūn zǐ yú yì shuǐ
 语云：“贼是小人，智过君子。”余邑水

fǔ miào yǒu zhōng yī kǒu bā líng rén bó zhōu yú hé yù dào
 府庙，有钟一口，巴陵人泊舟于河，欲盗

cǐ zhōng zhù tián qì nǎi xié lì yí zhì dì shàng yòng tǔ shí
 此钟铸田器，乃协力移置地上，用土实

qí zhōng jī suì dān qù jū mín jiē yǎo rán wú wén yān
 其中，击碎担去。居民皆窅^①然无闻焉。

yòu yī zéi bái zhòu rù rén jiā dào qǐng yī kǒu chí chū
 又一贼，白昼入人家，盗磬^②一口，持出

mén zhǔ rén ǒu zì wài guī zéi wèn zhǔ rén yuē lǎo diē
 门，主人偶自外归，贼问主人曰：“老爹，

mǎi qǐng fǒu zhǔ rén dá yuē wǒ jiā yǒu qǐng bù mǎi
 买磬否？”主人答曰：“我家有磬，不买。”

zéi jìng chí qù zhì wǎn mì qǐng nǎi zhī mǎi qǐng zhě jí tōu
 贼径持去。至晚觅磬，乃知卖磬者，即偷

qǐng zhě yě yòu wén yī rén fù fū ér xíng zhì dì shàng lì
 磬者也。又闻一人负釜而行，置地上，立

ér nì shì zéi guò qí páng nǎi qǔ suǒ zhì fǔ dǐng yú tóu
 而溺。适贼过其旁，乃取所置釜^③，顶于头

shàng yì lì ér niào fù fū zhě nì bì mì fū bù dé zéi
 上，亦立而溺。负釜者溺毕，觅釜不得。贼

nǎi chì qí rén yuē ěr zì bù xiǎo xīn pì rú wǒ dǐng fǔ zài
 乃斥其人曰：“尔自不小心，譬如我顶釜在

tóu shàng zhèng fáng qiè zhě ěr zhì fū dì shàng yù bù wéi
 头上，正防窃者，尔置釜地上，欲不为

rén qiè zhě dé hū cǐ sān shì jiē zéi rén lín shí chū jì
 人窃者，得乎？”此三事，皆贼人临时出计，

suǒ wéi zhì guò jūn zǐ zhě yě
 所谓智过君子者也。

míng jiāng yíng kē zhuàn xuě tāo xié shǐ
 明 / 江盈科撰《雪涛谐史》



Thieves



It is said: “A thief is a person of low position, but he can outwit a man of noble character.”

In the Shufu Temple of my county, there was a big hanging bell. Once some countrymen from Baling came down the river and moored their boat nearby. They wanted to steal the bell with which to cast farming tools. Between them they removed the bell from the belfry and lowered it onto the ground. Having stuffed the bell with mud, they smashed it into pieces and carried the fragments away with shoulder poles. Not a sound was heard by the villagers in the neighbourhood.

Again I heard of a thief who broke into a house in broad daylight and stole a chime stone^①. When he stepped out the door into the street, he fell in with the master of the house coming home.

“Grandpa,” the thief greeted him and asked, “do you want to buy a chime stone?”

“No, thanks,” replied the old man, “I already have one at home.”

Thereupon, the thief walked off with what he had stolen. It was only when the old man looked for his chime stone toward

白话
翻译

俗话说：“贼是小人，智过君子。”在我家乡有一座水府庙，庙里放置着一口大钟。一天，巴陵人把船停泊在河上，想把这口大钟偷回去铸造农具，这些人就合力把钟移放在地上，在钟的里面放满了泥土，然后把大钟砸碎，分开来抬了去。当地的居民一点儿也没有听见动静，就不知道大钟已经丢失这件事。另有一个盗贼，大白天就潜入一户人家，盗走一口磬。他拿着磬刚出了门，正好遇见这家的主人从外面回来。这个盗贼就问主人：“老爹，你买磬吗？”主人回答说：“我家里有磬，不买。”盗贼就拿着磬径自走了。到了晚上，主人寻找自家的磬，发现不见了，才想起白天那个卖磬的原来就是偷磬的盗贼。还有一件事，就是听说有个人背着刚买来的一口新锅回家，途中他停下来，把锅放在地上，站着小便。正好这时有一个盗贼从他旁边经过，随手就把地上的锅拿起来顶在自己的头上，也站在附近小便。那买锅人小便完后，左找右找就是找不到自己的锅，急得团团转。那贼却站在一旁讥笑他说：“你自己怎么这么不小心，要是像我这样把锅顶在头上，正是防备那些偷窃的人，哪会有事？你却把锅放在地上，想要不被人偷走才怪呢？”说着就扬长而去了。这三件事情，都是盗贼临时想出的计谋，这正是他们智慧超出一般人的地方啊。

注释

① 窅(yǎo):形容深远的样子。

② 磬(qìng):古代打击乐器,形状像曲尺,用玉或者石头制成。

③ 釜(fǔ):古代的炊事用具,相当于现在的锅。



evening that he realized the man had stolen it.

Another story goes that a man was walking along the street with a cauldron on his back when he felt a call of nature. He put it on the ground to pass water. It so happened that a thief walking by saw it. Surreptitiously he took it and putting it on his head stood there and passed water also. When the owner of the cauldron finished and looked for it, he could not find it anywhere.

“How careless of you!” the thief blamed him. “You see the cauldron on my head? I put it there to guard against theft. Imagine putting yours on the ground. No wonder it was stolen.”

The above incidents show that thieves are crafty and can outwit men of noble character.

Jiang Yingke: *Xue tao xie shi*
(*Humorous Stories from Snow Pavilion*)



Note

- ① An inverted bell used as Buddhist percussion instrument.



mài

卖

yǒu mǎi jiǔ zhě yè bàn huò chí qián lái gū jiǔ ①, 叩
有买酒者，夜半或持钱来沽酒^①，叩

mén bù kāi yuē dàn cóng mén féng tóu jìn qián lái。" 沽
门不开，曰：“但从门缝投进钱来。”沽

jiǔ
酒

zhě yuē jiǔ cóng hé chū? jiǔ bǎo yuē yě cóng mén
者曰：“酒从何出？”酒保曰：“也从门

féng dì chū gū zhě xiào jiǔ bǎo yuē bù qǔ xiào wǒ
缝递出。”沽者笑，酒保曰：“不取笑，我

zhè jiǔ ér bó bó de
这酒儿薄薄的。”

míng jiāng yíng kē zhuàn xuě tāo xié shǐ
明 / 江盈科撰《雪涛谐史》

白话
翻译



有一个买酒的人，晚上很晚了才拿着钱去酒铺买酒吃，他敲了很长时间的门，卖酒的就是不开，这时只听到里面有人回答说：“把钱从门缝里投进来吧。”买酒的人说：“那么酒从哪里递出来呢？”酒保说：“酒也从门缝里递出来。”买酒的人不禁觉得很可笑，酒保说：“不要取笑，我这儿的酒儿也是薄薄的呢？”



① 沽(gū)酒：买酒。



Selling Wine



A man went to the wine seller's at midnight to buy wine. The wine seller, hearing several knocks at the door, said without opening it:

"Just throw in your coppers through the crack in the door."

"But," inquired the man, "how are you going to get the wine out?"

"Through the crack," was the reply.

At that the man laughed.

"I'm not joking," said the wine seller, "you see, my wine here is quite thin."

Jiang Yingke: *Xue tao xie shi*
(*Humorous Stories from Snow Pavilion*)

shuō
说
huǎng
谎
zhě
者

wǔ líng yī shì jīng shǎo nián shàn shuō huǎng ǒu yú shì
武陵一市井少年，善说谎。偶于市
zhōng yù yī lǎo zhě lǎo zhě shuō zhī yuē rén dào nǐ shàn
中遇一老者，老者说之曰：“人道你善
huǎng kě xiàng wǒ shuō yī gè shǎo nián yuē cái wén
谎，可向我说一个。”少年曰：“才闻
zhòng rén fàng gān le dōng hú dū qù ná tuán yú xiǎo rén
众人放干了东湖，都去拿团鱼，小人
yě yào qù ná gè bù dé xián shuō lǎo zhě xìn zhī jìng
也要去拿个，不得闲说。”老者信之，径
wǎng dōng hú hú shuǐ miǎo rán nǎi zhī cǐ yán jí huǎng
往东湖，湖水渺然，乃知此言即谎。

míng jiāng yíng kē zhuàn xuě tāo xié shǐ
明 / 江盈科撰《雪涛谐史》

白话
翻译



武陵这个地方有一个市井少年，非常善于说谎。有一天偶然在街上碰见一位老人，老人对他说：“人们都说你非常善于说谎，今天你也给我说一个吧。”那个少年说：“刚刚我听说众人把东湖的水放干了，大家都去那里拾甲鱼，我也要急着去拾几条，现在没有时间给你说这些闲话。”这位老人听信了少年的话，也直奔东湖而去，谁知到那里一看，东湖水依旧浩浩荡荡，老人这才省悟那个少年说的就是谎话。

Liar



A young loiterer from Wuling was known as a notorious liar. One day he fell in with an old man in the marketplace.

“I’ve heard that you are a great liar,” said the old man. “Just show me how good you are at lying.”

“Oh, I have no time for that right now,” replied the young man. “I’ve just heard that they have drained the East Lake and everybody has gone there to catch softshelled turtles. I’m going there myself to catch some.”

Believing him, the old man made a beeline for the East Lake. There, what greeted his eyes was the boundless expanse of the waters of the lake. Then he realized that he had been taken in.

Jiang Yingke: *Xuetao xie shi*
(*Humorous Stories from Snow Pavilion*)

jù
惧

yǒu jù nèi zhě jiàn nù yú qī jiāng zǎn qí zhǐ fū
有惧内者，见怒于妻，将拶其指^①。夫

yún jiā wú zǎn jù qī mìng cóng lín jiā jiè yòng fū
云：“家无拶具。”妻命从邻家借用。夫

nèi
内

wǎng jiè shí dī shēng yuàn zǐ qī huàn huí wèn yuē
往借时，低声怨咨^②，妻唤回，问曰：“

shì kǒu zhōng zuò hé yǔ fū dá yuē wǒ dào zhè xíng jù
适口中作何语？”夫答曰：“我道这刑具，

yě xū zì jiā zhì yī fù
也须自家置一副。”

míng jiāng yíng kē zhuàn xué tāo xié shǐ
明 / 江盈科撰《雪涛谐史》

白话
翻译



从前，有一个人非常怕老婆，有一次因为一件小事惹怒了他的妻子，妻子想要用拶丈夫的手指这种方式来惩罚他。丈夫说：“家里没有拶手指的拶具。”于是妻子就命令他向邻居家借一副来用。丈夫一边向邻居家走去，一边低着头小声嘟囔埋怨，妻子看见丈夫这副模样，又把他唤了回来，严厉地问道：“刚才你口中在不停地嘟囔着什么？”丈夫小心翼翼地回答说：“我说这副拶具，自己家中也应该购置一副。”

注释

① 拶(zǎn)其指：拶，压紧；拶指是旧时用拶子夹住手指的一种酷刑。

② 怨咨：埋怨不满、小声嘀咕。



Henpecked



There was a man who lived in great fear of his wife. Once he incurred the wrath of his wife, who by way of punishment, was going to squeeze his fingers between sticks.

“We have no sticks at home,” said the man.

His wife consequently sent him over to their neighbour to borrow a pair. On his way out, the man was heard grumbling. At that his wife instantly called him back and asked:

“What the hell were you grumbling about?”

“Nothing,” answered the man. “I was just saying we should have our own instruments of torture.”

Jiang Yingke: Xue tao xie shi
(Humorous Stories from Snow Pavilion)

huà
化

yī qiáng dào yǔ huà yuán sēng yù hǔ yú tú dào chí gōng
一强盗与化缘僧遇虎于途。盗持弓

yù hǔ hǔ yóu jìn qián bù kěn tuì sēng bù dé yǐ chí yuán
御虎，虎犹近前不肯退。僧不得已，持缘

yuán
缘

bó zhì hǔ qián hǔ hài ér tuì hǔ zhī zǐ wèn hǔ yuē bù
簿掷虎前，虎骇而退。虎之子问虎曰：“不

wèi dào nǎi wèi sēng hū hǔ yuē dào lái wǒ yǔ gé
畏盗，乃畏僧乎？”虎曰：“盗来，我与格

dòu sēng wèn wǒ huà yuán wǒ jiāng shèn me dǎ fā tā
斗。僧问我化缘，我将甚么打发他？”

míng jiāng yíng kē zhuàn xuě tāo xié shǐ
明 / 江盈科撰《雪涛谐史》

白话
翻译



一个强盗和一个化缘的和尚同行，在路上遇到了一只老虎。只见强盗拔开弓准备抵御老虎的攻击，但老虎还是近前而不肯退走。和尚见到这种情形，不得已，只好拿出自己的化缘簿扔到老虎的面前，没想到老虎却十分惊骇，然后退去。老虎的儿子不解，问老虎说：“你为什么不害怕强盗，而害怕一个和尚呢？”老虎说：“强盗来了，我可以用武力与他格斗。那和尚向我化缘，我要拿什么东西打发他呢？”



Begging Alms



A robber and an alms-begging monk were pursuing their way together when a tiger suddenly appeared from nowhere and pounced upon them. The robber immediately drew a bow. The tiger, however, was not afraid and kept closing in on them. As a last resort, the monk threw his alms book at the tiger, which immediately fell back with fright and beat a hasty retreat.

“Pa,” asked the tiger cub of its father, “how come you were not afraid of the robber and yet the monk gave you such a good scare?”

“Well,” replied the tiger, “when the robber came up, I was prepared to wrestle with him. But when the monk wanted to beg alms from me, how was I going to bundle him off?”

Jiang Yingke: *Xue tao xie shi*
(*Humorous Stories from Snow Pavilion*)

dà
大
zhàng
丈
fū
夫
shuō
说
bù
不

yī rén bèi qī qī ōu dǎ wú nài zuàn zài chuáng xià
一人被其妻殴打，无奈钻在床下，

qī qī yuē kuài chū lái qī rén yuē dà zhàng fū
其妻曰：“快出来。”其人曰：“大丈夫

shuō bù chū qù dìng bù chū qù
说不出去，定不出去。”

míng zhào nán xīng zhuàn xiào zàn
明 / 赵南星撰《笑赞》

白话
翻译



有个人被他的妻子殴打了一顿，无奈之下钻到了床底下躲避，他的妻子对他吼道：“快出来！”这个人说：“大丈夫说不出去，一定就不出去。”



When a True Man Says No



To escape being soundly beaten by his wife, a man sought refuge under the bed. His wife shouted:

“Come out! Quick!”

“No, I won’t,” replied the man. “When a true man says no, it’s no.”

Zhao Nanxing: *Xiao zan (Ode to Laughter)*

shàn
善
rén
人
hǎo
好
qī
欺
fù
负

xiāng cūn lù kǒu yǒu yī shén miào nǎi shì mù diāo zhī
乡村路口，有一神庙，乃是木雕之
xiàng yī rén xíng lù yīn yù shuǐ gōu jiù jiāng cǐ shén fàng
像。一人行路，因遇水沟，就将此神放
dǎo tā zhuó guò shuǐ hòu yǒu yī rén kàn jiàn xīn nèi bù
倒，踏着过水。后有一人看见，心内不
rěn jiāng shén fú zài zuò shàng cǐ shén shuō tā bù gòng
忍，将神扶在座上。此神说他不供
xiāng huǒ dēng shí jiù jiàng tā tóu tòng zhī zāi pàn guān xiǎo
香火，登时就降他头痛之灾，判官小
guǐ dū bǐng dào tā zhuó dà wáng guò shuǐ de dào méi shì
鬼都禀道：“踏着大王过水的倒没事，
fú qǐ lái de dào jiàng zāi hé yě zhè shén shuō nǐ
扶起来的倒降灾，何也？”这神说：“你
bù zhī dào zhǐ shì shàn rén hǎo qī fù
不知道，只是善人好欺负。”

míng zhào nán xīng zhuàn xiào zàn
明 / 赵南星撰《笑赞》

白话
翻译



在乡村的路口有一座神庙，里面供奉着一座木头雕刻的神像。一个人在路上走遇到了一个大水坑，就从神庙里把神像搬出来放倒在地，踩着神像从水坑上过去了。后来又有一人看见这种情形，感到非常不忍心，于是就将神像扶了起来，坐在座上。然而此神却说他因为不向神像供奉香火，立即降灾让他头疼。判官小鬼对此都非常不理解，禀告说：“为什么踏着大王身子过水坑的人倒没有什么事情，而扶您起来的人反是要降灾于他，这是什么道理啊？”这位神说：“你不知道，这正是好人才好欺负哪！”



Kindhearted People Are the Ones You Can Bully



At a crossroads in the countryside, there stood a temple wherein was enshrined a statue of god carved in wood. One day, a man was pursuing his way when he saw a ditch before him. So he removed the statue from the temple and put it down lengthwise to span the ditch. He stepped on it and crossed over. Then another man came along. Unable to bear the sight of the statue lying in the ditch, he propped it up and carrying it back to the temple restored it to its pedestal. Thereupon the god accused him of failing to burn incense and at once cursed him with a splitting headache. Bewildered, all the lictors and the Purgatory Judge asked the god:

“The man who trod on you has gone unpunished; yet the man who helped you up has been cursed with a headache. Why?”

“Well,” the god explained, “you ought to know that the kindhearted people are the ones you can bully.”

Zhao Nanxing: *Xiao zan (Ode to Laughter)*

shǔ
暑
yuè
月
dài
戴
zhān
毡
mào
帽

yǒu shǔ yuè dài zhān mào ér xíng lù zhě yù dà shù xià
有暑月戴毡帽而行路者，遇大树下

xiē liáng jí jiāng zhān mào dāng shàn yuē jīn rì ruò wú
歇凉，即将毡帽当扇，曰：“今日若无

cǐ mào jiù rè sǐ wǒ
此帽，就热死我。”

míng zhào nán xīng zhuàn xiào zàn
明 / 赵南星撰《笑赞》

白话
翻译



有一个人大夏天却戴着厚厚的毡帽，在路上行走，遇到了一棵大树，就躲在树荫下歇息乘凉。他随即把毡帽拿下来当作扇子在手中摇来摇去，边摇边说：“今天如果没有这顶毡帽，非得把我热死不可。”



Wearing a Felt Hat in Summer



A man wearing a felt hat was walking under the broiling sun of midsummer. When he came upon a tall tree by the roadside, he decided to take a rest under its leafy shade. Taking off his felt hat and fanning himself with it, he said:

“Thanks to this felt hat. I would have had a heatstroke without it.”

Zhao Nanxing: *Xiao zan (Ode to Laughter)*

jiā
袂
yī
衣
shèng
胜
dān
单
yī
衣

yī pín shì dōng yuè chuān jiā yī yǒu wèi zhī yuē
一贫士冬月穿夹衣^①，有谓之曰：“

rú cǐ yán hán rú hé chuān jiā yī pín shì yuē dān
如此严寒，如何穿夹衣？”贫士曰：“单

yī gèng lěng
衣更冷。”

míng zhào nán xīng zhuàn xiào zàn
明 / 赵南星撰《笑赞》

白话
翻译

有一个贫穷的士人在非常寒冷的冬季却穿了一件夹衣，有好心的人就问他说：“在这么严寒凛冽的冬天里，你为什么仅仅穿一件夹衣呢？”这位贫士说：“单衣比夹衣更冷呢。”

注释

① 夹衣：有面有里，中间不衬垫絮类的衣服。



A Lined Garment Is Better Than an Unlined One



A poor scholar had to wear a lined garment in the depth of winter. Someone asked him:

“How can you wear a lined garment in this bitter cold?”

“Clad in an unlined garment, I would feel even colder,”
was the reply.

Zhao Nanxing: *Xiao zan (Ode to Laughter)*

nǐ
你
men
们
suǒ
所
xiào
笑
,
dìng
定
rán
然
bù
不
chā
差

yī gǔ zhě yǔ zhòng rén zuò zhòng yǒu suǒ jiàn ér
一瞽者^①与 众人坐，众 有所见而

xiào gǔ zhě yì xiào zhòng wèn zhī yuē hé suǒ jiàn ér
笑，瞽者亦笑，众 问之曰：“何所见而

xiào gǔ zhě yuē nǐ men suǒ xiào dìng rán bù chā
笑？”瞽者曰：“你们所笑，定然不差。”

míng zhào nán xīng zhuàn xiào zàn
明 / 赵南星撰《笑赞》



What You Are Laughing at Must Be Funny



A blind man was sitting among a group of people. When they began to laugh at something they saw, the blind man laughed also. Then someone asked the blind man:

“What do you see that makes you laugh?”

“Well,” replied the blind man, “what you guys are laughing at must be very funny.”

Zhao Nanxing: *Xiao zan (Ode to Laughter)*

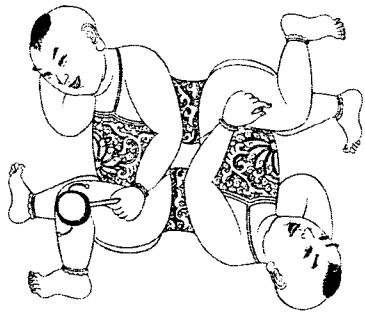
白话
翻译



一个瞎子与一群人坐在一起，众人因为所看到的一件事情而哈哈大笑，瞎子也跟着大家哈哈大笑。大家就问他：“你看见了什么而笑啊？”瞎子说：“你们所笑的事情肯定不会有错的。”

注释

① 瞽(gǔ)者：眼睛瞎了的人。



chuī
吹

niú
牛

jiā yuē jiā xià yǒu gǔ yī miàn měi jī zhī shēng
甲曰：“家下有鼓一面，每击之，声

wén bǎi lǐ yī yuē jiā xià yǒu niú yī zhī jiāng nán
闻百里。”乙曰：“家下有牛一只，江南

chī shuǐ tóu zhí kào jiāng běi jiǎ yáo tóu yuē nǎ yǒu
吃水，头直靠江北。”甲摇头曰：“那有

cǐ niú yī yuē bù shì zhè yī zhī niú zěn mǎn dé zhè
此牛？”乙曰：“不是这一只牛，怎漫得这

yī miàn gǔ
一面鼓。”

míng féng mèng lóng biān xiào fú
明 / 冯梦龙编《笑府》

白话
翻译



甲说：“我家里有一面鼓，每次只要一敲它，那么声音能传递到一百里之外的地方。”乙说：“我家里有一头牛，在长江的南岸喝水，但头可以一直伸到长江的北岸。”甲摇头不信，说：“哪里有这么大的牛？”乙也不慌不忙地说：“没有这么大的一头牛，怎能蒙得住你们家的那面鼓呢？”甲无言以对。

Talking Big



A man said:

“In our village there’s a drum so big that when it is beaten, its booming sound can be heard 100 li away.”

Another man cut in with:

“In our village there’s an ox which has its head in Jiangbei^① when it is drinking water in Jiangnan^②.”

The first man shook his head and said:

“There couldn’t be an ox as big as that.”

At that the second man retorted:

“If there’s no ox as big as that, how on earth can they get a skin big enough to cover that great drum of yours?”

Feng Menglong: *Xiao fu (Treasure House of Funny Stories)*



Notes

① North of the lower reaches of the Yangtse River.

② South of the lower reaches of the Yangtse River.

yǐ
以
zhèng
正
fū
夫
gāng
纲

zhòng pǎi lǎo pó zhě xiāng jù yù yì yī bù pà zhī
众怕老婆者相聚，欲议一不怕之

fǎ yǐ zhèng fū gāng huò kǒng zhī yuē liè wèi zūn sǎo
法，以正夫纲。或恐之曰：“列位尊嫂

wén zhī yǐ xiāng yuē jí kè yì qí dǎ zhì yǐ zhòng hài
闻知，已相约即刻一齐打至矣。”众骇

rán bēn sǎn wéi yì rén zuò dìng yí cǐ rén dú bù pà zhě
然奔散。惟一人坐定，疑此人独不怕者

yě chā zhī zé yǐ jīng sǐ yǐ
也；察之，则已惊死矣。

míng féng mèng lóng biān xiào fú
明 / 冯梦龙编《笑府》

白话
翻译



几个怕老婆的人聚在一起，想一起商量一下不怕老婆的办法，以重立丈夫在一个家庭中的主尊地位。有个人吓唬他们说：“各位尊嫂已经听说你们聚集在这里，她们约好了一会儿就过来一齐打你们。”大家听了之后都非常害怕，各自逃散开了。只有一个人坐在那里，没有一点儿动静，大家猜想可能是这个人不怕老婆，再仔细一瞧，这人却已经被吓死了。



To Assert the Authority of the Husband



A group of henpecked husbands met to discuss ways of asserting the authority of the husband and maintaining masculine dignity. To give them a good scare, a certain busybody came up to inform them:

“Your wives have got wind of all this. They’re coming up here in a gang to give you fellows a good licking.”

Scared out of their senses, they all fled helter-skelter with the exception of one who just sat tight. People thought that he was the only one who was not afraid of his wife. A closer look revealed that he had already died from fright.

Feng Menglong: *Xiao fu (Treasure House of Funny Stories)*

jù
惧
nèi
内
||
shǐ
吏

yǒu yī lì jù nèi yī rì bèi qī zhuā pò miàn pí
有一吏惧内，一日被妻挝^①破面皮，

míng rì shàng táng tài shǒu jiàn ér wèn zhī lì quán cí
明日上堂，太守见而问之。吏权词^②

yǐ duì yuē wǎn shàng chéng liáng bèi pú táo jià dǎo xià
以对曰：“晚上乘凉，被葡萄架倒下，

gù cǐ guā pò liǎo tài shǒu bù xìn yuē zhè yī dīng
故此刮破了。”太守不信，曰：“这一定

shì nǐ qī zī zhuā suì de kuài chā zào lì ná lái bú
是你妻子挝碎的，快差皂隶^③拿来。”不

yì nǚ nǚ zài hòu táng qián tīng dà nù qiǎng chū táng
意奶奶在后堂潜听，大怒，抢出堂

wài tài shǒu huāng wèi lì yuē nǐ qiě zàn tuì wǒ nèi yá
外。太守慌谓吏曰：“你且暂退，我内衙

pú táo jià yě yào dǎo liǎo
葡萄架也要倒了。”

míng féng mèng lóng biān xiào fū
明 / 冯梦龙编《笑府》



A Henpecked Official



There was a henpecked official who one day got an ugly scratch from his better half. The next day when he presented himself at the yamen^①, the Prefect saw the mark on his face and inquired what had happened to him. The official prevaricated:

“I was enjoying the cool last night under the grape trellis when it suddenly collapsed. I got a few scratches from the accident.”

The Prefect, however, gave him the lie and said:

“It must have been your wife who did this. Have the runners bring her in at once! ”

The Prefect did not know that his own wife was eavesdropping at the time at the rear of the hall. Exasperated, she barged in. Terrified, the Prefect whispered to the official:

“Come back later. My own trellis is about to collapse.”

Feng Menglong: *Xiao fu (Treasure House of Funny Stories)*



Note

① Government office in feudal China.

白话翻译

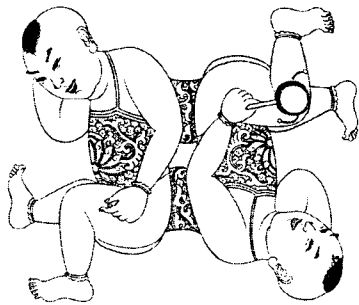


有一官吏非常惧怕自己的老婆，一天吵架，被老婆抓破了脸皮。第二天上堂，太守见他脸皮破了就问他是怎么搞的，这个官吏就撒谎回答说：“昨晚在葡萄架下乘凉，葡萄架倒了，把脸皮刮破了。”太守不相信他说的话，就说：“一定是你老婆抓破的，我这就派衙役去把她捉来。”太守说这些话时，没想到他的老婆正躲在后堂偷听，听太守这般说，非常恼怒，冲出堂外。这下太守也慌了，连忙对这个官吏说：“你暂且退下，我内衙的葡萄架也要倒了。”



注释

- ① 挝(zhuā):古同“抓”，用指或爪挠。
- ② 权词：一般作“权辞”，随机应变之词。
- ③ 皂隶，差役：指的是那些小衙门中的使唤公差。



tā
他
bù
不
kěn
肯
hé
和

yǒu zì fù qí míng zhě yǔ rén jué lián fù sān jú
有自负棋名者，与人角，连负三局。

tā rì rén wèn zhī yuē qián yǔ mǒu rén jiào qí jǐ
他日，人问之曰：“前与某人较棋几

jú yuē sān jú yòu wèn shèng fù rú hé
局？”曰：“三局。”又问：“胜负如何？”

yuē dì yī jú wǒ bù céng yíng dì èr jú tā bù céng
曰：“第一局我不曾赢，第二局他不曾

shū dì sān jú wǒ yào hé tā bù kěn bà le
输，第三局我要和，他不肯，罢了。”

míng féng mèng lóng biān xiào fú
明 / 冯梦龙编《笑府》

白话
翻译



有一人特别喜欢下棋，自以为下得很好，很自负。有一次他与人较量，接连输了三局。后来有一天有人问他说：“前几天你与某人较量棋艺，下了几局啊？”他说：“三局。”那个人又问：“胜负如何？”回答说：“第一局我没有赢，第二局他没有输，第三局我要和，他不肯，就算了。”



He Refuses to Agree to a Draw



A man thought highly of himself as a chess-player. On one occasion he lost three games in succession. A friend met him the next day and asked him:

“How many games did you play?”

“Three.”

“How did you come off?” his friend again asked.

“Well, I didn’t win the first game, and my opponent didn’t lose the second. As to the third game, we didn’t finish it. I asked him to settle for a draw, but he refused.”

Feng Menglong: *Xiao fu (Treasure House of Funny Stories)*

hé
河

tún
鲇

yǒu fū fù wén hé tún shèn shèng móu mǎi cháng zhī
有夫妇闻河鲇^①甚盛，谋买尝之。

jì zhì jù yí qí wèi dú hù xiāng tuī wèi jiǔ zhī qī
既治具，疑其味毒，互相推诿。久之，妻

bù dé yǐ jiāng xiān jǔ zhù nǎi hán lèi wèi fū yuē chī
不得已，将先举箸，乃含泪谓夫曰：“吃

shì wǒ xiān chī liǎo zhī qiú nǐ kān gù zhè liǎng gè ér nǚ
是我先吃了，只求你看顾这两个儿女；

ruò dà qǐ lái jiào tā qiān wàn bú yào mǎi hé tún chī
若大起来，教他千万不要买河鲇吃。”

míng féng mèng lóng biān xiào fǔ
明 / 冯梦龙编《笑府》

白话
翻译

有一对夫妇听说河鲇最近十分盛销，便商量要买来尝尝。一切都已经准备完毕，河鲇这道菜也做好了，但是两个人因为听说河鲇带有剧毒，就相互推让，让对方先尝。过了很长时间，妻子终于忍不住了，不得已之下将要举起筷子先尝。这时，她含着眼泪对丈夫说：“这次吃是我先来吃了，只是我要请求你照顾好我们这两个儿女，他们长大了，教他们千万不要买河鲇吃。”

注释

① 河鲇(tún):俗称气泡鱼、吹肚鱼等,全身成椭圆形,生活在近海流域,其脏器和血液有剧毒。



Globefish



When told that there were plenty of globefish on the market, a man and his wife wanted very much to buy one and have a taste of this rare dish. After the fish was cooked and the table set, they began to suspect that the fish might be deadly poisonous. So each of them urged the other to take the first mouthful. Finally, the wife yielded meekly to her worse half's wish. Raising her chopsticks and, with tears in her eyes, she said to him:

"I'll have a taste of it first. But I want you to promise that you will take good care of our son and daughter. When they are grown up, tell them not to eat globefish as long as they live."

Feng Menglong: *Xiao fu (Treasure House of Funny Stories)*

miào
妙
chù
处
nán
难
xué
学

huò rén mìng qí zǐ yuē ěr yī yán yī dòng jiē
或人命其子曰：“尔一言一动，皆
dāng xiào shī suǒ wéi lǐng mìng shì shí yú shī shī shí yì
当效师所为。”领命侍食于师，师食亦
shī shī yǐn yì yǐn shī cè shēn yì cè shēn shī àn shì bù
食；师饮亦饮，师侧身亦侧身。师暗视不
jué shī xiào gē zhù ér pēn tǐ shēng bù néng qiáng wéi
觉失笑，搁箸^①而喷嚏，生不能强为，
nǎi yī ér xiè yuē wú shī cǐ děng miào chù qí shí nán
乃揖而谢曰：“吾师此等妙处，其实难
xué yě
学也。”

míng mǎ mèng lóng zuǎn guǎng xiào fǔ
明 / 马梦龙纂《广笑府》

白话
翻译



有个人对他的儿子说：“儿呀，你的一言一行，都应该效仿你老师的所作所为。”有一天，儿子奉命陪着老师一起吃饭。这个儿子呀，可真是把他老爸的话记在了心里。老师吃的时候，他也吃；老师喝的时候，他也喝；老师转过身去，他也跟着转身子。老师看在眼里，禁不住笑了起来，放下筷子，打了一个喷嚏。这下可把学生难坏了，喷嚏可不是想打就能打得出的，于是，没有办法，他就向老师深深地鞠了一躬，内疚地说：“老师您这样的妙处，实在是难学啊！”



注释

① 箸(zhù): 筷子。



A Trick Too Hard to Learn



A man, instructing his son, had this to say:

“In word and deed, you must model yourself on your teacher.”

When his son was asked some time later to eat at the same table with his teacher, he ate only when his teacher ate and drank only when his teacher drank. Whenever his teacher turned he would turn also. Noticing this, the teacher burst out laughing in spite of himself and, laying down his chopsticks, sneezed. Try as he would, the boy could not follow suit. Thereupon, he rose and bowed with his hands clasped, saying:

“Teacher, this trick of yours is really too hard to learn.”

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu (Treasure House of Anecdotes)*



qī
七
shí
十
sān
三
bā
八
shí
十
sì
四

yī dōng dào ài lín sè dāng yàn bīn shí sī zhǔ qí pú
一 东 道 吝 嗇 ， 当 宴 宾 时 ， 私 嘱 其 仆

yuē ěr mò làng fèi jiǔ jiāng dàn wén wǒ jī zhuō yī xià
曰：“尔莫浪费酒浆，但闻我击桌一下，

ěr zé jìng jiǔ yī cì kè ǒu wén zhī yǐn jiān gù wèn
尔则敬酒一次。”客偶闻知，饮间故问：

zūn táng gāo shòu jǐ xǔ dá yuē qī shí sān yī
“尊堂高寿几许？”答曰：“七十三矣。”

kè jī zhuō tàn yuē nán dé pú wén jī zhuō shēng
客击桌叹曰：“难得。”仆闻击桌声，

xiàng kè jìng jiǔ qǐng jiān kè yòu wèn zūn wēng gāo shòu
向客敬酒。顷间，客又问：“尊翁高寿

jǐ xǔ zhǔ rén yuē bā shí sì yī kè fù jī zhuō
几许？”主人曰：“八十四矣。”客复击桌

yún yù shì nán dé pú rén yòu qǐ jìng yǐ ér zhǔ jiào
云：“愈是难得。”仆人又起敬。已而主觉

shì jì nǎi chì yán yuē nǐ yě bù yào guǎn tā qī shí sān
是计，乃斥言曰：“你也不要管他七十三、

bā shí sì nǐ yě chī dé gōu ① liǎo
八十四，你也吃得勾①了。”

míng féng mèng lóng zuàn guǎng xiào fǔ
明 / 冯梦龙纂《广笑府》



Seventy-three and Eighty-four



A stingy host who was entertaining some guests whispered to his servant:

“Be sparing of my wine. Don’t serve out any wine unless and until you hear me rap on the table.”

This remark was overheard by one of the guests. While they were drinking, this guest purposely asked the host:

“How old is your mother?”

“Seventy-three,” was the reply.

“Marvellous!” exclaimed the guest, rapping on the table.

Hearing the rap, the servant came into the hall and poured out a round of wine. A while later, the guest asked again:

“And how old is your father?”

“Eighty-four,” was the reply.

“It’s even more marvellous!” exclaimed the guest once again, rapping on the table.

Hearing the rap, the servant appeared again to pour out another round. At this point the truth began to dawn upon the host who bawled at the guest:

“Never mind whether it’s seventy-three or eighty-four.

白话
翻译



有一个主人非常吝啬，一次他宴请宾客，暗中嘱咐他的仆人说：“你得注意，不要浪费我的美酒，只有听到我敲桌子一下，你才过来敬酒一次。”没想到这番话被一个客人偶然偷听到了，于是在饮酒的时候，这位客人故意问：“请问尊堂大人高寿了？”主人回答说：“七十三岁了。”客人敲着桌子感叹说：“真是难得！”仆人听到击桌声，便过来向客人敬酒。不大一会儿，这位客人又问说：“请问尊翁大人高寿了？”主人答：“八十四岁了。”客人又敲了桌子一下，说道：“更是难得！”仆人听到击桌声，又过来敬酒。后来，主人发觉这位客人是故意发问敲击桌子而让仆人来敬酒的，便不高兴地对这位客人斥责道：“你也不要管他七十三还是八十四，今天这酒你也吃得够多的了！”

注释

① 勾(gòu):同“够”，多见于早期白话。



You've had enough, anyway."

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu* (*Treasure House of Anecdotes*)

gǎn
敢
xiǎng
想
chī
吃
tā
他

yī rén wèi shāng guī tán shuō jiāng hú fēng jǐng yuē
一人为商归，谈说江湖风景曰：“

guò liǎo huáng niú xiá wén chóng dà rú yā guò liǎo tiě niú
过了黄牛峡，蚊虫大如鸭；过了铁牛

hé wén chóng dà rú é qí qī yuē hé bù dài xiē
河，蚊虫大如鹅。”其妻曰：“何不带些

huí lái zhǔ chī shāng rén yuē dé tā bù lái chī wǒ yě
回来煮吃？”商人曰：“得他不来吃我也

gòu liǎo wǒ zěn gǎn xiǎng qù chī tā
勾了，我怎敢想去吃他？”

míng féng mèng lóng zuǎn guǎng xiào fú
明 / 冯梦龙纂《广笑府》

白话
翻译



古时候有一个商人做买卖回来，说起来他跑江湖的所见所闻，顿时口若悬河，他说：“过了黄牛峡，蚊虫大如鸭；过了铁牛河，蚊虫大如鹅。”他的妻子听完之后非常羡慕地说：“那你为什么不带些回来，咱们煮煮吃啊。”商人惊讶地说：“哎呀，老天爷，它不来吃我也就足够了，我怎么敢想着去吃它呢！”

How Dare I Eat Them?



A man had just come home from a trading trip and was describing what he had seen during the trip for the benefit of his wife.

“After passing the Yellow Ox Gorge, I saw mosquitoes as big as ducks; and beyond the Iron Ox River, I saw mosquitoes as big as geese.”

“Why didn’t you bring some home for us to eat?” cried his wife.

“To eat?” said the trader in surprise. “It’s a good thing they didn’t eat me. How dare I eat them?”

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu (Treasure House of Anecdotes)*

nán
难
wèi
为
dōng
东
dào
道

yī sēng rén měi xià yè chì shēn zuò wò shān biān kǒu
一僧人，每夏夜赤身坐卧山边，口
kǒu niàn fó shě shēn wèi wén zhuān qiú zuò fó guān yīn
口念佛，舍身喂蚊，专求作佛。观音
dà shì yù yàn qí chéng wěi nǎi huà zuò yī hǔ páo xiāo
大士欲验其诚伪，乃化作一虎，咆哮
lái shān biān yù qí shě shēn shí zhī sēng rén chōu shēn
来山边，欲其舍身食之。僧人抽身
máng qǐ dà jiào yuē jīn wǎn zhuàng jiàn zhè gè dà kè
忙起，大叫曰：“今晚撞见这个大客，
zhè gè dōng dào rú hé zuò dé qǐ
这个东道如何做得起？”

míng mǎ mèng lóng zuǎn guǎng xiào fǔ
明 / 马梦龙纂《广笑府》

白话
翻译



有一个和尚，每当夏季夜晚，总是会赤身裸体坐卧在山边，口中不停地念佛，就这样让蚊子来咬自己，舍身喂蚊，专心求得修身成佛。观音大士想要考验一下他的内心是否真诚，就变成一只老虎，大声咆哮着来到山边，想要试试探探这位僧人能不能舍身喂虎。和尚看见来了一只老虎，便慌忙起身逃走，大喊大叫着说：“今晚撞见这么大的，叫我这个东道主怎么能做得起呢？”

I Can't Afford to Play the Host



A Buddhist monk, given to good works, used to strip himself to the waist and sat or lay naked at the foot of a mountain on summer nights. Chanting the name of Buddha, he fed the mosquitoes with his blood so that one day he might become a Buddha.

Guanyin^①, to put his sincerity to the test, changed into a tiger and came roaring to the foot of the mountain where he pounced on the monk, who sprang up crying:

“Oh, no. To a giant like you as my guest tonight, I’m afraid I can’t afford to play the host.”

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu (Treasure House of Anecdotes)*



Note

① A Bodhisattva.

qiū
秋

chán
蝉

zhǔ rén dài pú cóng shèn báo yī shí cháng bù zhōu
主人待仆从甚薄，衣食常不周。

pú wén qiū chán míng wèn zhǔ rén yuē cǐ míng zhě hé
仆闻秋蝉鸣，问主人曰：“此鸣者何

wù zhǔ rén yuē qiū chán pú yuē chán shí hé
物？”主人曰：“秋蝉。”仆曰：“蝉食何

wù zhǔ rén yuē xī fēng yǐn lù ěr pú wèn chán
物？”主人曰：“吸风饮露耳。”仆问：“蝉

zhuó yī fǒu zhǔ rén yuē bú yòng pú yuē cǐ
着衣否？”主人曰：“不用。”仆曰：“此

chán zhèng hǎo gēn wǒ zhǔ rén
蝉正好跟我主人。”

míng féng mèng lóng zuǎn guāng xiào fǔ
明 / 冯梦龙纂《广笑府》

白话
翻译



有一富翁，对待自己的仆人非常刻薄，常常不让他们吃饱穿暖。有一天，仆人听到了知了叫，就问主人说：“这树上叫的是啥东西呀？”主人说：“秋蝉啊！”仆人又问：“那秋蝉吃什么啊？”主人答道：“它们仅仅吸风喝露。”仆人又问：“秋蝉要穿衣服吗？”主人答道：“用不着！”仆人说：“让秋蝉来伺候老爷您，那该多好！”

Autumn Cicada



A man treated his servants meanly. They were always poorly clad and badly fed. One day, hearing the chirrup of the cicadas, one of the servants asked his master:

“What is making that shrill sound?”

“Autumn cicadas.”

“What do they eat?”

“They only inhale the wind and drink the dew.”

“Do they wear clothes?”

“No.”

“Ah!” commented the servant, “How nice it would be if you could make them your servants.”

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu* (*Treasure House of Anecdotes*)

shuāng

双

fǔ

斧

pī

劈

chái

柴

yī rén jiǔ sè guò dù ér bìng yī yuē cǐ shuāng fǔ
一人酒色过度而病，医曰：“此双斧

pī chái yě jīn hòu xū jiè qī cóng páng nì zhī yī
劈柴也，今后须戒。”妻从旁睨^①之，医

huì qí yì zhuǎn kǒu yuē jí bù néng jiè sè yì xū jiè
会其意，转口曰：“即不能戒色，亦须戒

jiǔ bìng zhě yuē sè hài shèng jiǔ hái yī shǒu jiè
酒。”病者曰：“色害胜酒，还宜首戒。”

qī yuē xiān shēng de huà bù tīng rú hé dé bìng hǎo
妻曰：“先生的话不听，如何得病好？”

míng féng mèng lóng zǎn guǎng xiào fǔ
明 / 冯梦龙纂《广笑府》

白话
翻译



有个人因为酒色过度患了病，医生关照他说：“你这是用酒、色两把斧子来劈身体这堆柴，长此以往，身子怎么能受得了呢？今后必须戒了才行啊！”这个人的妻子在一旁听了，斜着瞪了医生一眼，医生看出了她的用意，立即改口说：“即使不能戒掉色，那么酒是一定要戒掉的，这酒最伤人了。”病人说：“色伤身子比这酒还厉害，还是应该首先戒掉色害。”他的妻子急忙插话说：“郎中先生的话你不听，如何能使这病好起来呢？”



注释

① 睨(nì):斜着眼睛看。



Chopping Wood with Two Axes



A man fell ill for drinking to excess and indulging in sensual pleasures. His doctor told him:

“It’s like chopping wood with two axes. You must take care and keep away from alcoholic drinks and women from now on.”

On hearing this, the patient’s wife looked askance at the doctor. Understanding her meaning look, the doctor hastily modified his remark by saying:

“If you can’t subdue your bodily desires altogether, at least stop drinking.”

“But bodily desires are more harmful than alcoholic drinks and therefore should be subdued first,” said the patient.

At this point his wife chipped in with:

“If you won’t take the doctor’s advice, how could you expect to get well?”

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu (Treasure House of Anecdotes)*

suān

酸

yǒu shàng jiǔ diàn ér xián qí jiǔ suān zhě diàn rén nù
有上酒店而嫌其酒酸者，店人怒，

diào zhī yú liáng kè guò wèn qí gù sù yuē xiǎo diàn jiǔ
吊之于梁。客过问其故，诉曰：“小店酒

jiǔ
酒

jí jiā cǐ rén shuō suān kě shì gāi diào kè yuē jiè
极佳，此人说酸，可是该吊？”客曰：“借

yī bēi wǒ cháng zhī jì cháng bì cuán méi wèi diàn zhǔ
一杯我尝之。”既尝毕，攒眉谓店主

yuē kě fàng cǐ rén diào liǎo wǒ bà
曰：“可放此人，吊了我罢。”

míng féng mèng lóng zǔn guǎng xiào fǔ
明 / 冯梦龙纂《广笑府》

白话
翻译

有个人到酒店去买酒，嫌酒太酸，酒店主人听了十分恼怒，就把这个买酒的人吊到了屋梁上。有一个客人从旁边经过就问店主为什么要把人吊到梁上去，店主就向客人诉说：“我这个小店的酒非常醇，极好，这个人却说酒酸，你说该吊不该吊？”客人说：“那你借我一杯酒，我先尝尝再说。”客人尝完酒后，皱起眉头，对店主说：“你可以放了这个人，吊上我吧。”

Sour Wine



Drinking wine at a public house, a man complained that the wine tasted sour. This infuriated the proprietor of the public house who subsequently hung him up from a cross beam. At this moment another client came up and asked what that man had done to deserve this.

“The wine I sell here is of excellent quality,” explained the proprietor. “Yet this guy here said it tasted sour. Am I right to have him hung up?”

“Well,” said the client, “let me have a taste and see if it’s sour or not.”

The client was duly given a cup of wine which he tasted. Knitting his brows, he turned to the proprietor and said:

“Let that man down and hang me up instead.”

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu (Treasure House of Anecdotes)*

yǒu
有
qián
钱
zhě
者
shēng
生

yuán wēng zhòng qié bù huó měi yǐ wéi huàn yīn wèn
园翁种茄不活，每以为患，因问

jì yú lǎo pǔ lǎo pǔ yuē měi qié miáo yì zhū páng mái
计于老圃，老圃曰：“每茄苗一株，旁埋

tóng qián yī wén zé huó yǐ yuán wēng wèn hé gù dá
铜钱一文，则活矣。”园翁问何故，答

yuē rǔ bù wén yǒu qián zhě shēng wú qián zhě sǐ
曰：“汝不闻有钱者生，无钱者死？”

míng féng mèng lóng zuǎn guǎng xiào fǔ
明 / 冯梦龙纂《广笑府》

白话
翻译



有个菜农每年栽的茄子都不成活，每次遇到这种事情他心中都很焦虑，于是一天他向一位老菜农求教，问这到底是怎么回事。老菜农对他说：“你在每一棵茄子苗的旁边埋上一文铜钱，那么茄子就会活了。”菜农问为什么，老菜农不紧不慢地回答说：“你难道没有听说过有钱者生，无钱者死吗？”



No Money, No Life



A certain farmer who had planted brinjals^① in his farm was constantly worried by the fact that he could not make them grow. Therefore, he sought advice from an old gardener. The latter had this to say:

“Bury a copper coin beside every brinjal seedling you plant. They will grow all right.”

Perplexed, the farmer wished to be enlightened.

“Haven’t you heard,” asked the old gardener, “with money, there is life; without it, death?”

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu (Treasure House of Anecdotes)*



Note

① Brinjals are aubergines or eggplants.

yǒu
有
qián
钱
cūn
村
niú
牛

chūn qiū jiān lín chū lǔ xī jiāo yě rén bù zhī wéi
春秋间，麟^①出鲁西郊，野人^②不知为
ruì nǎi jī shā zhī kǒng zǐ wǎng guān yǎn mèi ér qì
瑞，乃击杀之。孔子往观，掩袂而泣^③。
mén rén kǒng qí guò shāng nǎi yǐ tóng qián zhuāng yī niú
门人恐其过伤，乃以铜钱妆一牛，
gào fū zǐ yuē lín shàng zài kě wú shāng yě fū zǐ
告夫子曰：“麟尚在，可无伤也。”夫子
shì lèi guān zhī tàn yuē cǐ wù qǐ shì xiáng ruì zhī shì
拭泪观之，叹曰：“此物岂是祥瑞，只是
yī gè yǒu qián cūn niú ěr
一个有钱村牛耳！”

míng féng mèng lóng zuǎn guǎng xiào fú
明 / 冯梦龙纂《广笑府》

白话
翻译



早在春秋时期，麒麟曾经出现在鲁国西边的城郊，但村人见识浅陋，不知道麒麟的出现是吉祥的象征，出于无知，便把麒麟打死了。孔子听说这件事后，就前去观看，看到麒麟死了，伤心地用袖子掩住脸哭泣起来。孔子的门人恐怕老师过于悲伤，便用一些铜钱把一头牛装饰起来，然后告诉孔夫子说：“你看，麒麟还活着，您就不必悲伤了。”孔夫子擦了擦眼泪，仔细看了一下，叹了口气说：“这个东西哪里是祥瑞，只不过是有一个有钱的村牛罢了。”

注释

① 麟：即麒麟，是中国古代传说中的一种仁兽、瑞兽，与凤、龟、龙共称“四灵”，它是神的坐骑。

② 野人：见识浅陋之人，这里指城郊村民。

③ 掩袂(mèi)而泣：用袖子掩住脸而伤心地哭泣。袂，袖子。



A Wealthy Village Ox



During the Spring and Autumn Period^① a unicorn appeared in the western suburbs of Lu^②. Ignorant that the appearance of a unicorn was a good omen, the country folks there killed it on the spot. When told of the incident, Confucius hastened to the scene to have a look. At the sight of the dead unicorn, he could not help crying behind his sleeve. Afraid that their master might be overwhelmed with grief, his disciples got hold of an ox, be-decked it with copper coins and brought it to the presence of their great master.

“Master,” said they, “don’t let it grieve you. The unicorn is still alive.”

Wiping away his tears, Confucius cast his eyes upon the animal and sighed:

“This thing here couldn’t possibly be a good omen. It’s nothing but a wealthy village ox, I dare say.”

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu (Treasure House of Anecdotes)*



Note

① 770B.C.–476 B.C.

② A dukedom under the Zhou Dynasty(11th century B.C. – 256 B.C.)
located in the southwest of the present-day Shandong Province.

sǐ
死
hòu
后
bù
不
shē
除

yī xiāng rén jí lìn zhì fù bìng jù qiǎn yán bù jué
一乡人，极吝致富，病剧牵延不绝

qì āi gào qī zǐ yuē wǒ yī shēng kǔ xīn tān lìn duàn
气，哀告妻子曰：“我一生苦心贪吝，断

jué liù qīn jīn dé fù zú sǐ hòu kě bō pí mài yǔ pí
绝六亲，今得富足，死后可剥皮卖与皮

jiàng gē ròu mài yǔ tú guā gú mài yǔ qī diàn bì yù
匠，割肉卖与屠，刮骨卖与漆店。”必欲

qī zǐ tīng cóng rán hòu jué qì jì sǐ bàn rì fù sū
妻子听从，然后绝气。既死半日，复苏，

zhǔ qī zǐ yuē dāng jīn shì qíng qiǎn bó qiè bù kě shē yǔ
嘱妻子曰：“当今世情浅薄，切不可除与

tā 他。”

míng féng mèng lóng zuǎn guǎng xiào fǔ
明 / 冯梦龙纂《广笑府》

白话
翻译



有一个乡下人，平日里十分吝啬，靠吝啬富了家。后来他生病了，拖了很长时间不去看病，因而疾病越来越厉害，等到快咽气的时候，他苦苦地哀求妻子说：“我这一生苦于贪得和吝啬，断绝了六亲，才得到今天的富足。我死了以后，可以把我的皮剥下来卖给皮匠，把我的肉割下来卖给屠户，把我的骨头刮一刮卖给漆店。”他要妻子一定按照他所说的去做，在得到妻子的承诺后，他才断了气。可是死了半天后他又活了过来，再三嘱咐妻子说：“如今世上人情浅薄，你万万不可除给他们啊。”



Don't Sell Me on Credit after I Die



A countryman amassed a large fortune out of extreme stinginess. When terminally ill, he piteously confided to his wife:

“I’ve been a miser all my life, refusing to have anything to do with all my relatives and friends. Now we’re quite well off. After I die, you can peel off my skin and sell it to the tanner, cut my flesh and sell it to the butcher, and scrape my bones and sell them to the lacquer shop.”

It was not until his wife promised to do his bidding that he finally yielded up the ghost. Half a day later, however, he came back to life and said to his wife:

“The ways of the world are no longer what they used to be. Don’t sell on credit, mind you! ”

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu (Treasure House of Anecdotes)*

yī
一
qián
钱
mò
莫
jiù
救

yī rén xìng jí bǐ sè dào yù xī shuǐ xīn zhāng lín
一人，性极鄙吝，道遇溪水新涨，吝
chū dù qián nǎi pàn mìng shè shuǐ zhì zhōng liú shuǐ jí
出渡钱，乃拚命涉水，至中流，水急
chōng dǎo piāo liú bàn lǐ xǔ qí zǐ zài àn páng mì zhōu
冲倒，漂流半里许。其子在岸旁，觅舟
jiù zhī zhōu zǐ suǒ qián yī qián fāng wǎng zǐ zhī chū wǔ
救之。舟子索钱，一钱方往，子只出五
fēn duàn jià liáng jiǔ bù dìng qí fù chuí sǐ zhī jì huí
分，断价良久不定。其父垂死之际，回
tóu gù qí zǐ dà hū yuē wǒ ér wǒ ér wǔ fēn biàn jiù
头顾其子大呼曰：“我儿我儿，五分便救，
yī qián mò jiù
一钱莫救！”

míng féng mèng lóng zuǎn guǎng xiào fǔ
明 / 冯梦龙纂《广笑府》

白话
翻译



有个人生来就十分吝啬。有一次他在回家的路途中，遇到河水漫涨起来，虽然可以坐船渡河，但是他不想出船钱，于是就拚了命地涉水过河。刚走到河中央，他便被急流冲倒，漂流了半里多地。他的儿子在岸边，看到这种情形想要找船搭救父亲。船家开价说给一钱方可前去救人，但儿子讲价说只给五分。就这样，讨价还价拖延了很长一段时间，最后也还没有定下来。他的父亲这时快要不行了，垂危之际，还回过头来向他的儿子大声呼喊：“我儿我儿，要是五分便救我，一钱的话就别救了！”



One Copper Coin Is Too Much



There was a man who was extremely stingy by nature. On pursuing his way one day, he came to the rivulet, which had recently swollen with the rain. Unwilling to pay for a ferryboat, he desperately tried to wade across to the opposite bank. In midstream, a swift current swept him off his feet, and he was driven along by the waves for half a li. His son, standing on the bank when this happened, hurriedly looked for a boat to save his father. The boatman charged one copper coin but the boy wanted to knock him down to five fen^①. They haggled over the price for some time without coming to an agreement. Drowning, the father looked over his shoulder and cried out:

“My son! My son! Five fen is quite enough. One copper coin is too much for saving my life.”

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu (Treasure House of Anecdotes)*



Note

① There are ten fen in one copper coin.

xǐ
洗

pín shì zhī yǒu yī bù shān yù jiāng xǐ shí wú kě tì
贫士只有一布衫，遇浆洗时无可替

huàn zhī dé zhòu shuì kè wèn qí zǐ yuē ěr fù hé
换，只得昼睡。客问其子曰：“尔父何

zài qí zǐ dá yuē shuì zài chuáng kè yuē yǒu
在？”其子答曰：“睡在床。”客曰：“有

hé bìng qí zǐ chēn yuē wǒ yé xǐ bù shān dǎ shuì
何病？”其子嗔曰：“我爷洗布衫打睡

shí yě shì yǒu bìng me
时，也是有病么？”

míng féng mèng lóng zuǎn guāng xiào fǔ
明 / 冯梦龙纂《广笑府》

yī
衣

白话
翻译



从前有个穷人只有一件布衫，每次要清洗这件衣服时，他就没有别的衣服可以更换，只能在大白天里睡觉。一天一个客人来到他家，问他的儿子说：“你父亲在哪儿？”他的儿子回答说：“父亲在床上睡觉。”客人又问说：“他得了什么病吗？”他的儿子不高兴了，用抱怨的语气说：“我父亲因为要洗布衫，所以不得已在大白天睡觉，这也算是有病么？”

Washing Clothes



A scholar of small means had only one unlined upper garment that he could call his own. Whenever he had it washed and starched, he would have to lie in bed in the daytime as he had no change of clothes. One day a visitor happened to drop in.

“Where is your father?” he asked the man’s son.

“In bed,” was the reply.

“What’s wrong with him?”

“What’s wrong?” retorted the boy. “What can be wrong with my father when he has to lie in bed after washing his garment?”

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu (Treasure House of Anecdotes)*

jiāo
揉
bù
安
pín
贫

yī pín qīn fù fù qīn zhī xí dōng rì wú qiú ér fú
一贫亲赴富亲之席，冬日无裘而服

gé ① kǒng rén jiàn xiào gù yì huī yī shàn duì zhòng bīn yuē
葛①，恐人见笑，故意挥一扇对众宾曰：

mǒu xìng wèi rè suī dōng yuè yì hǎo qǔ liáng jiǔ sǎn
“某性畏热，虽冬月亦好取凉。”酒散，

zhǔ rén jiào qí wéi gù zuò féng yíng zhī yì dān qīn liáng zhěn
主人觉其伪，故作逢迎之意，单衾凉枕，

yán sù chí tíng zhī shàng yè bàn bù shèng hán nǎi fù chuáng
延宿池亭之上。夜半不胜寒，乃负床

bì tǐ ér zǒu shī jiǎo duò chí zhōng zhǔ rén huán shì zhī
毙②体而走，失脚堕池中。主人环视之，

jīng wèn qí gù pín qīn yuē zhī yuán pì xìng wèi rè zhī
惊问其故，贫亲曰：“只缘僻性畏热之

shèn suī dōng yuè sù liáng tíng hái yù xǐ yī shuǐ yù ěr
甚，虽冬月宿凉亭，还欲洗一水浴耳。”

míng féng mèng lóng zǎn guǎng xiào fǔ
明 / 冯梦龙纂《广笑府》



Not Resigned to Poverty



One winter day, a rich man gave a dinner-party and among the guests he invited was a poor relative of his. The poor man, who had no fur coat, wore a gown made of ko-hemp cloth. Afraid that the other guests might laugh at him, he brought a fan and kept fanning his face with it.

“I can’t bear the heat,” said he. “I like to enjoy the cool even in wintertime.”

The host knew that he was only shamming and, pretending to make up to him, asked him to stay the night. He was subsequently led to a kiosk by the side of a pond and provided with a thin blanket and a pillow of woven split bamboo. In the middle of the night, he could no longer stand the cold. So he got up and, wrapping the blanket around him, tried to keep warm by walking to and fro when he slipped and fell into the water. Hearing the splash, the host came out to have a look. He asked what the man was doing in the water.

“You see,” replied his poor relative, “I’m by nature so intensely afraid of the heat that sleeping in the kiosk on a winter night I still couldn’t resist the temptation of taking a

白话
翻译



一个穷亲戚参加另一富亲戚的宴席。这个穷亲戚没有皮衣，只好还穿着粗布单衣，他害怕别人见笑，便故意摇着一把扇子赴宴，并对众宾客说：“我生来就十分怕热，虽是在冬天也得取凉。”酒席散去之后，主人觉得他太虚伪，故意装出投其所好的样子，请这个穷亲戚在池子中的凉亭里过夜，床上是单被子、凉枕头。到了半夜，这个穷亲戚耐不住寒冷，便用床单裹住身体，来来回回走动取暖，一不小心失足掉进池中。主人在旁边看见了，装作吃惊的样子，问他怎么会在水里，这位穷亲戚回答说：“只是因为太怕热的缘故，虽然冬天里睡在凉亭上，可还是想洗一个冷水澡。”



注释

① 葛：葛布，表面有花纹的纺织品，用丝做经，棉线或麻线等做纬。

② 庇(bì)：同“庇”，庇护、遮蔽。



cold bath.”

Feng Menglong: *Guang xiao fu* (*Treasure House of Anecdotes*)

chén
陈
gōng
公
jiè
戒
jiǔ
酒

nán jīng chén gōng hào shàn jiǔ dū xué shān dōng shí
南京陈公镐善酒，督学山东时，

fù lǜ qí fèi shì yù shū jiè zhī nǎi chū fèng jīn mìng
父虑其废事，寓书戒之。乃出俸金，命

gōng zhì yī dà wǎn kě róng èr jīn xǔ juān bā zì yú nài
工制一大碗，可容二斤许，镌八字于内

yún fù mìng jiè jiǔ zhī yǐn sān bēi shì lín chuán xiào
云：“父命戒酒，只饮三杯。”士林传笑。

míng féng mèng lóng zuǎn xù tán gài
明 / 冯梦龙纂《叙谭概》

白话
翻译



南京有一个叫陈镐(hào)的人，嗜好喝酒，在山东做督学的时候，他的父亲担心他因为好喝酒而耽误公事，于是就写信来教育他，告诫他饮酒不得超过三杯。于是，陈镐就拿出自己的工资，让工匠为他制作了一只特殊的大碗，这只大碗大约可以容纳二斤酒。陈镐还在碗里刻下八个大字来告诫自己：“父命戒酒，只饮三杯。”此事被士人传为笑谈。



The Revered Mr Chen Trying to Give Up Drinking



The revered Mr Chen Hao from Nanjing was something of a bibber. While serving as educational inspector in Shandong Province, he received a letter from his father who warned him against excessive drinking because the old man was afraid that his son might sometimes have a cup too many and neglect his duties. Thereupon Mr Chen paid a certain sum of money out of his salary and had a large bowl specially made for him. The bowl, large enough to hold as much as two catties of wine, had these characters engraved inside:

“My father warns me against excessive drinking. Therefore, I will drink no more than three cups.”

This has become a standing joke amongst the scholars.

Feng Menglong: *Xu tan gai* (*Chitchat*)

wén
蚊

yǒu mài qū wén fú zhě yī rén mǎi guī tiē zhī ér wén
有卖驱蚊符^①者，一人买归贴之，而蚊

háo bù jiǎn wǎng jiù mài zhě mài zhě yún dìng shì tiē bù
毫不减，往咎卖者，卖者云：“定是贴不

fú
符

dé fǎ wèn tiē yú hé chù yuē xū tiē zhàng zǐ lǐ
得法。”问贴于何处，曰：“须贴帐子里。”

míng zuì yuè zǐ xuǎn jí jīng xuǎn yǎ xiào
明 / 醉月子选辑《精选雅笑》

白话
翻译



有个卖蚊符的，大吹特吹他自家祖传的蚊符是如何的神效。一个人买了一张回家贴上。结果蚊子却丝毫没有减少，他觉得自己受了骗，第二日来到集市上责问那个卖蚊符的人。而卖蚊符的人却振振有词，说：“你一定没有把蚊符贴对地方。”这人便问应该贴到什么地方？回答说：“必须贴到蚊帐里头去才管用！”



注释

① 符：是巫师所画的线条或图形，常画在纸或布块上，据说可以用来辟邪。

Mosquito Expellent



A pedlar was selling sheets of Taoist magic figures, which he said could expel mosquitoes. A man bought one and pasted it up on the wall of his bedroom. Much to his disappointment, the mosquitoes, which pestered him, showed no signs of decreasing in number. He sought out the pedlar and laid the blame on him. Said the pedlar:

“You must have pasted it up in the wrong place.”

Asked where it should be pasted, he answered:

“Inside the mosquito-net.”

Zui Yuezi: *Jing xuan ya xiao (Selection of Elegant Jokes)*

dào
盗

niú
牛

yǒu dào niú ér bèi jiā zhě shú shí guò ér wèn
有盗牛而被枷^①者，熟识过而问

yuē rǔ hé shì dá yún huī qì zhuàng chū lái
曰：“汝何事？”答云：“悔气撞出来

de qián zài jiē shàng xián zǒu jiàn dì shàng cǎo shéng yī
的，前在街上闲走，见地上草绳一

tiáo yǐ wéi yǒu yòng shí dé zhī ěr wèn zhě yuē
条，以为有用，拾得之耳。”问者曰：“

rán zé zuì hé zhì cǐ jí fù duì yún shéng tóu hái
然则罪何至此？”即复对云：“绳头还

yǒu yī xiǎo xiǎo niú ér
有一小小牛儿。”

míng zuì yuè zǐ xuǎn jí jīng xuǎn yǎ xiào
明 / 醉月子选辑《精选雅笑》

白话
翻译



有个人因为偷了牛被官府逮捕扣上了枷锁。一位熟人从旁边经过见他这样，就问他：“你出了什么事？”这个偷牛的人垂头丧气说：“真是算我倒霉，前天在街上闲逛，看到地上有一条草绳，以为有用，我就把它拾起来了。”熟人又问：“那么为什么拾一条小绳就判罪呢？”他又回答说：“因为在绳头还有一小小的牛儿。”



注释

① 枷：旧时套在罪犯脖子上的刑具，用木板制成。

Stealing an Ox



A man was put in the cangue^① for stealing an ox. A friend of his happened to come along and asked him:

“What’s the matter with you?”

“Oh,” said he, “it’s just my bad luck. The other day I was walking along the street when I saw on the ground a grass rope. I picked it up, thinking it might come in handy later on.”

“But it’s nothing serious, is it?” again asked his friend. “Why should they punish you like this?”

“Well,” replied the man, “because tied to end of the rope was a small ox.”

Zui Yuezi: Jing xuan ya xiao (*Selection of Elegant Jokes*)



Note

- ① A wooden framework fastened about the neck of an offender as a portable pillory.



shǎng
赏

chú yè yù sòng nián lǐ zhì zhě qǔ jiù lì yǐ shǎng
除夜遇送年礼至者，取旧历以赏

lái shǐ jiā pú yuē kǒng wú yòng liǎo zhǔ yún wǒ
来使，家仆曰：“恐无用了。”主云：“我

lì
历

liú zài jiā yě wú yòng 。”
留在家也无用。”

míng zuì yuè zǐ xuǎn jí jīng xuǎn yǎ xiào
明 / 醉月子选辑《精选雅笑》

白话
翻译



大年三十晚上，有人派使者到某家去送年礼，某家主人便从家里取出旧年来赏这位使者。家中的仆人对主人说：“恐怕这个没有什么用了。”主人便答：“这个我留在这里也无用。”



Awarding a Calendar



It was New Year's Eve when a servant came to present his master's New Year's gift to the master of the house. The master of the house took down from the wall the old calendar and bade his valet to give it to the servant as an award.

"I'm afraid he would have no use for it," rejoined the valet.

"Well," said his master, "I have no use for it either."

Zui Yuezi: Jing xuan ya xiao (*Selection of Elegant Jokes*)

kuā
夸

fù
富

yī rén duì kè kuā fù yuē wǒ jiā kě wú suǒ bù
一人对客夸富曰：“我家可无所不

yǒu yīn qū liǎng zhǐ yuē suǒ shǎo zhě zhǐ tiān shàng
有，”因屈两指曰：“所少者，只天上

rì yuè ěr yǔ wèi jué jiā tóng chū bái chú xià wú
日、月耳。”语未绝^①，家童出白：“厨下无

chái qí rén fù qū yī zhǐ yuē shǎo rì yuè chái
柴。”其人复屈一指曰：“少日、月、柴。”

míng zuì yuè zǐ xuǎn jí jīng xuǎn yǎ xiào
明 / 醉月子选辑《精选雅笑》

白话
翻译



有个人对客人夸耀自己家里是多么多么的富裕，他说：“我家里可是什么都有。”接着他扳着两根指头说：“家里所缺少的，仅仅就是那天上的日、月。”他的话还没有说完，家童出来告诉他说：“厨房里没有柴火用了。”那个人就趁势又扳一个指头说：“缺少日、月、柴。”

注释

① 绝：停止，说完。



Braggadocio



A man was bragging of his fabulous wealth in front of his guest.

“There’s nothing we don’t have in the house,” said he.

And bending two of his fingers, he went on:

“Except the sun and the moon in heaven.”

Hardly had he uttered these words when his servant-boy came out and said:

“Master, there’s no more firewood in the kitchen.”

At that the man hastily bent another finger and said:

“Except the sun, the moon and firewood.”

Zui Yuezi: *Jing xuan ya xiao (Selection of Elegant Jokes)*

duō
躲

zhài
债

qiàn zhài bù yīng suǒ suǒ fǎn kuáng zhī yuē wǒ yǒu
欠债不应所索，反诳^①之曰：“我有

tóu qīn shì shì guǎ fù ráo yǒu sī xù zhǐ kě xī wú běn
头亲事，是寡妇，饶有私蓄，只可惜无本

qián xià lǐ rǔ ruò zhù wǒ qǔ lái bù dàn kě hái qián qiàn
钱下礼，汝若助我取来，不但可还前欠，

hái yǒu dé jiè nǐ qí rén xìn yǐ wéi shí chū yín bāng
还有得借你。”其人信以为实，出银帮

zhī cǐ rén dé yín xiān jiāng fáng wū zhuāng zhé qí zhěng
之。此人得银，先将房屋装折齐整，

qí rén yù xìn tā rì guò qí mén ér kǒu zhī wén nèi yǒu
其人愈信。他日过其门而叩之，闻内有

fù rén shēng yīng yuē zhuō fū chū wài qù le rú shì
妇人声应曰：“拙夫^②出外去了。”如是

shù guò bù jué xīn dòng yīn xué chuāng kūi zhī jiàn wú
数过，不觉心动，因穴窗窥^③之，见无

fù rén nǎi cǐ rén niǎn bí suǒ wèi dà nù pò chuāng ér
妇人，乃此人捻鼻所为，大怒，破窗而

rù luàn quán ōu zhī qí rén yóu niǎn bí hǎn yún zhuō fū
入，乱拳殴之，其人犹捻鼻喊云：“拙夫

qiàn zhài què yú nú jiā hé gān
欠债，却与奴家何干。”

míng zuì yuè zǐ xuǎn jí jīng xuǎn yǎ xiào
明 / 醉月子选辑《精选雅笑》



How to Avoid a Creditor



A man who did not want to pay his debt lied to his creditor:

“I have a chance to marry a dowager. It’s a pity I can’t afford the expense of betrothal gifts. I wish you could help me out. After I get married, I’ll not only pay off the debts I owe you but also lend you some money if you need it.”

Believing him, the creditor lent him some more money. Thereupon, the man had his house renovated, which further impressed the creditor with his honourable intentions.

A few days later, the creditor called upon the man. He knocked at the door and a feminine voice answered from within:

“My husband’s not in.”

As this happened several times, the creditor smelt a rat in the matter. He poked a hole in the paper window and peeped in. There was no woman inside. What he saw was none other than the man who was trying to talk like a woman by twisting his nose. This so infuriated the creditor that he crashed through the window and fell upon the man, beating him black and blue. Still twisting his nose, the man cried out:

“It’s my husband who owes a debt. What’s that got to do

白话
翻译



有个人欠了人家一大笔债，人家来索要，他不给，反而还诳骗人家说：“眼下我有门亲事，女方是一个寡妇，她存有很多积蓄，现在只可惜我连下聘礼的本钱都没有，不能成此美事。你如果能够资助我一些聘礼的钱，等我把她娶来了，不但可以还清旧债，而且还能借给你一些钱呢。”债主听了这话信以为真，就又出了一笔钱来帮助他。这个人拿到钱后，先把房屋装修得整整齐齐，债主就更加相信他了。过了些日子，债主经过这个人门前就叩门，只听到屋里有一妇人应声回答说：“拙夫有事外出了，先生您下次再来吧。”就这样的情形经历了好多次，让债主起了疑心。一次，债主又来到他家叩门，屋里照样传出女人的声音，债主便蹑手蹑脚地走到窗户下，捅破窗纸往里面窥视，哪里有什么妇人，原来是这个人捏着鼻子装作女人腔。债主气得大发雷霆，打破窗子闯进屋里，挥起拳头打他，那个人又捏着鼻子装作女人腔大声呼喊：“拙夫欠下你的钱，干俺什么事啊！”



注释

- ① 诳(kuáng): 欺骗, 说谎。
- ② 拙夫: 女子对自己丈夫的谦称。
- ③ 窥: 偷偷看。



with me?"

Zui Yuezi: Jing xuan ya xiao (*Selection of Elegant Jokes*)

cháo
嘲
hào
好
jiǔ
酒
rén
人

xī yī rén hào jiǔ mèng jiàn yǒu yī rén sòng jiǔ yǔ tā
昔一人好酒，梦见有一人送酒与他

chī xián lěng jiāo rén ná qù nuǎn rè bù jué xǐng le jí cuì
吃，嫌冷，教人拿去暖热，不觉醒了，即啐

yún zǎo zhī jiù xǐng le hé bù chī xiē lěng de yě bà
云：“早知就醒了，何不吃些冷的也罢。”

míng wú míng shì zhuàn bó xiào zhū jī
明 / 无名氏撰《博笑珠玑》

白话
翻译



从前有个人嗜好喝酒，一天在睡梦中梦见有一人送来一些酒给他吃，他因为嫌酒太冷，便让人拿去把酒暖热，不料这时候他却醒了过来，心中后悔万分，不禁骂道：“早知道就快要醒了，为什么不吃些冷的酒，也好解解我的酒馋啊！”

Wine Bibber Ridiculed



A wine bibber once dreamt of a man presenting him with a pot of wine. As he did not like to drink it cold, he gave orders for it to be mulled. Right at this moment, however, he awoke from his dream.

“Pooh!” he spat out. “If I had known I would wake up so soon, I shouldn’t have minded drinking it cold.”

Anonymous: Bo xiao zhu ji (*Gems of Jokes*)

jī
讥
rén
人
diāo
刁
zhà
诈

fèng huáng shēng dàn ① bǎi niǎo jiē hè wéi biān fú bù
凤 凰 生 诞^①，百 鸟 皆 贺，惟 蝙 蝠 不

zhì fèng huáng zé zhī yuē rǔ jū wú xià hé zì ào
至。凤 凰 责 之 曰：“汝 居 吾 下，何 自 傲

hū fú yuē wú yǒu zú shǔ shòu hè rǔ hé yě
乎？”蝠 曰：“吾 有 足，属 兽，贺 汝 何 也？”

yī rì qí lín shēng dàn fú yì bú zhì lín zé yuē rǔ
一 日，麒 麟 生 诞，蝠 亦 不 至。麟 责 曰：“汝

hé rú bú hè fú yuē wú yǒu yì shǔ qín hé yǐ hè
何 如 不 贺？”蝠 曰：“吾 有 翼，属 禽，何 以 贺

yú hòu lín fèng xiāng huì yǔ jí biān fú zhī shì nǎi
欤^②？”后 麟 凤 相 会，语 及 蝙 蝠 之 事，乃

tàn yuē shì jiān yǒu cǐ diāo zhà zhī tú zhēn nǎi méi nài tā
叹 曰：“世 间 有 此 刁 诈 之 徒，真 乃 没 奈 他

hé
何！”

míng wú míng shì zuàn bó xiào shū jī
明 / 无 名 氏 撰《博 笑 珠 玑》



Crafty Fellows Ridiculed



It was the birthday of the phoenix and every bird in the forest with the exception of the bat came to wish him many happy returns of the day. The phoenix scolded the bat when they met later:

“You are below me. What makes you so haughty?”

“I have my feet,” answered the bat. “Therefore I am an animal. Why should I congratulate you?”

Then came the birthday of the unicorn. Again the bat was conspicuous by his absence.

“Why didn’t you come to congratulate me?” asked the unicorn angrily when they met later.

“Well,” replied the bat, “I have my wings. Therefore, I am a bird. Why should I congratulate you?”

Sometime later, the unicorn and the phoenix met. When their conversation drifted to the way the bat behaved himself, they both sighed:

“The world is cursed with crafty fellows like him. What can we do to them?”

Anonymous: *Bo xiao zhu ji (Gems of Jokes)*

白话
翻译



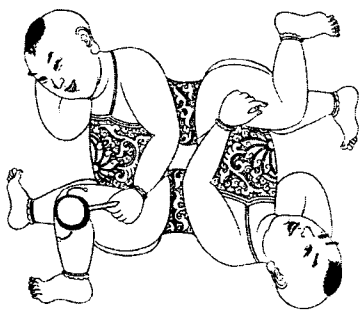
有一次凤凰过生日，百鸟都前来祝贺，唯独蝙蝠没有露面。凤凰把它召来训斥它说：“你在我的管辖之下，为什么不来向我朝贺，竟然敢如此傲慢！”蝙蝠蹬着双脚说：“我长着兽脚，属于走兽，为什么要来向你朝贺呢？”过了几天，麒麟过生日，蝙蝠依然没有露面。麒麟把蝙蝠召来，训斥它说：“你在我的管辖之下，也竟敢如此放肆，不来朝贺我？！”蝙蝠拍拍翅膀说：“我长着两只翅膀，属于飞禽，为什么要来为你祝贺呢。”直到有一天麒麟和凤凰相会了，说到蝙蝠的事情，凤凰和麒麟都摇头叹息说：“现在世上竟然有这样一些不禽不兽的刁钻家伙，真拿它们没有办法啊！”



注释

① 华诞：这里指诞辰。

② 欤(yú)：句末语气词，表示疑问。



quàn
劝
rén
人
xíng
行
shàn
善

xī yī sēng quàn yòu rén shī zhǔ zhāi sēng shī shě
昔一僧劝诱人：施主斋僧，施舍
fèng fó sǐ hòu kě miǎn dì yù dāo jù zhī zāi bù jiǔ
奉佛，死后可免地狱刀锯之灾。不久，
sēng yǔ shī zhǔ qí wáng sēng yīn zuì shēn nǎi shòu dāo jù
僧与施主齐亡，僧因罪深，乃受刀锯
zhī zāi shī zhǔ jiàn sēng shòu zuì yīn wèn hé gù sēng
之灾。施主见僧受罪，因问何故，僧
yuē nǐ bù zhī gù yán wáng jiàn shì jiān sì fèi sēng xī
曰：“你不知故，阎王见世间寺废僧稀，
jiāng yī gè sēng jù kāi zuò liǎng gè yòng
将一个僧锯开做两个用。”

míng wú míng shì zhuàn bó xiào zhū jī
明 / 无名氏撰《博笑珠玑》

白话
翻译



从前有一个和尚劝导一个人行善，他说：“施主您今天施舍东西给我，就等于供奉给佛祖，您死了以后可以免除地狱所受到的刀锯之灾。”不久，这个和尚和施主一齐死了，到了地狱后，和尚因为罪孽深重，便受到了刀锯之灾。施主看到和尚受罪，非常好奇，就问他是什么原因。和尚说：“这您还不知道啊，阎王看到尘世间大多寺庙荒废，和尚稀少，于是就把一个和尚锯开当作两个和尚来用啊！”



One Must Do Good Works



A monk who was soliciting donations from a man said:

“When a benefactor gives alms to a monk or contributes money for upholding Buddhism, he will be spared the sawing torture in the netherworld after he dies.”

Not long afterwards, both the monk and the benefactor died. Because of unpardonable sins the monk had committed, he was subjected to the sawing torture. The benefactor saw this and asked why he had to suffer this punishment.

“There’s something you don’t know,” explained the monk. “The King of Hell has found that temples up there in the world have fallen into a lamentable state and monks are too few. He’s having me sawed asunder so that one monk may do for two.”

Anonymous: Bo xiao zhu ji (Gems of Jokes)



shì
势

yǒu wú shēng zhě lǎo ér shì lì ǒu fù guǎng xí
有吴生者，老而势利，偶赴^①广席，

jiàn yī bù yī hòu zhì lüè chóu qí yī yì sè shū ào
见一布衣后至，略^②酬其揖，意色殊^③傲。

lì
利

yǐ ér jiàn zhǔ rén shèn gōng sī xún lái zhě hé rén nǎi
已而见主人甚恭，私询来者何人，乃

zhāng bó qǐ yě dà jú cù gèng yù yīn qīn zhì lǐ bó
张伯起也，大局促，更欲殷勤致礼，伯

qǐ xiào yuē shì yǐ lǐng guò bàn yī dàn qǐ bǔ huán wú
起笑曰：“适已领过半揖，但乞补还，勿

fù wéi láo jǔ zuò dà xiào
复为劳。”举座大笑。

qīng zhāng guì shèng zuǎn jí qiǎn chóu jí
清 / 张贵胜纂辑《遣愁集》

白话
翻译



有一个姓吴的人，虽然年纪已经很大，但是好趋炎附势。偶尔有一次去参加一个聚会，看到有一个穿着打扮像是平民的人在后面也去参加宴会，吴生只是勉强地了点了一下头，神情非常傲慢地向他打了个招呼。过了一会儿，他看到主人对这位布衣着非常恭敬和热情，就偷偷地向别人打听这人是谁，得知原来就是大名鼎鼎的戏曲名家张伯起。听到这个后，吴生觉得非常不安，他再次想要上前去向张伯起献殷勤，敬礼问候。这时，张伯起笑着说：“刚才我已经领受过你的半个躬了，只希望向你讨还另外半个躬就可以了，你就不要再辛苦了。”在座的众人听了之后都讥笑他。



① 赴：参加。

② 略：稍微。

③ 殊：特别。

Snobbery



Wu was an old and snobbish scholar. On a rare occasion he was invited to a grand banquet. There, he met a belated guest dressed in a cloth gown and, assuming a very arrogant air, slightly bowed to him with hands folded in front. Shortly afterwards, he saw that the belated guest was received by the host with a respectfulness that surprised him. He inquired privately who that man was and was told that the man was none other than the famous Zhang Boqi. Feeling quite uncomfortable, he was anxious to make up to Boqi, who said with a smile:

“You already gave me half a bow. Just give me the other half and don’t trouble yourself any more.”

Upon that all those present broke out into loud guffaws.

Zhang Guisheng: *Qian chou ji (Stories for Dissipating Melancholy)*



wú
无
gōng
功
shòu
受
cì
赐

jìn yuán dì dé tài zǐ cì qún chén tāng bǐng yàn yīn
晋元帝得太子，赐群臣汤饼宴。殷

xiàn jìn yuē qīng bì xià sì tǒng zhī dé rén kuì chén bèi
羨进曰：“庆陛下嗣^①统之得人，愧臣辈

wú gōng ér shòu cì dì xiào yuē shì hé yán cǐ shì
无功而受赐。”帝笑曰：“是何言？此事

qǐ kě shǐ qīng děng yǒu gōng yē
岂可使卿^②等有功耶！”

qīng zhāng guì shèng zuǎn jí qiǎn chóu jí
清 / 张贵胜纂辑《遣愁集》

白话
翻译



晋元帝喜得一太子，在朝廷上就赏赐文武群臣汤饼宴来表示庆贺。有一个叫殷羨的大臣向前拜谢，对晋元帝说：“祝贺陛下的江山伟业后继有人，作为臣子的没有什么功劳却领到这样的赏赐，惭愧惭愧啊！”晋元帝笑着说：“你说的这是什么话！这样的事情难道也能让你们来立功吗？”



注释

① 嗣(sì): 接续、继承, 也指子孙。

② 卿(qīng): 古代皇帝对臣子的爱称。



Getting a Reward without Deserving It



A prince had just been born to Emperor Yuan of the Jin Dynasty (265–420). In celebration of the happy event, the Emperor granted a banquet to all his ministers.

“Sire,” said Minister Yin Xian, “it is indeed a great occasion for celebration that a prince has been born to succeed to the throne. We are ashamed to say, however, that we have done nothing whatsoever to deserve this imperial favour.”

“What are you saying?” said the Emperor with a smile. “In such matters, of course, you couldn’t have done anything to deserve this.”

Zhang Guisheng: Qian chou ji (*Stories for Dissipating Melancholy*)



mèng

梦

xì

戏

zhuó

酌

yī rén mèng fù xì zhuó fāng dìng xí wèi qī jīng
一人梦赴戏酌，方定席，为妻惊

xǐng nǎi mà qī qī qī yuē bù yào mà chèn zǎo shuì
醒，乃骂其妻，妻曰：“不要骂，趁早睡

qù xì wén hái wèi dào bàn běn lǐ
去，戏文还未到半本哩。”

qīng chén gāo mó zuǎn jí xiào dǎo
清 / 陈皋谟纂辑《笑倒》

白话
翻译



有一个人夜里做梦，梦见自己看戏，并且与戏中的人物坐在一块饮酒，刚要开始畅饮，没想到就被他的妻子惊醒了，于是心中很不痛快，大骂妻子，妻子说：“别骂别骂，你趁早赶紧睡去吧，现在还来得及饮酒，那边的戏文还没有唱到一半呢。”



Party with Theatricals in Dreamland



A man dreamt of going to a dinner party at which theatricals would be given. Hardly had the seats been assigned to the guests when he was awakened by his better half, against whom he uttered invectives for interrupting his fond dream.

“Don’t curse me, my dear,” said his better half. “Go back to sleep before it is too late. The play isn’t half over yet.”

Chen Gaomo: *Xiao dao (Convulsive Laughter)*

qǐng
请

yī rén qǐng kè wú yáo yī jǔ zhù jí wán yī kè
一人请客无肴，一举箸即完矣。客

yuē yǒu dēng jiè yī zhǎn lái zhǔ yuē yào dēng hé
曰：“有灯借一盏来。”主曰：“要灯何

kè
客

yòng kè yuē wǒ zhuō shàng de dōng xī yī xiē yě
用？”客曰：“我桌上的东西，一些也

bù kàn jiàn le
不看见了。”

qīng chén gāo mó zuǎn jí xiào dǎo
清 / 陈皋谟纂辑《笑倒》

白话
翻译



有个人请客，但是桌子上菜肴非常少，夹不了几筷子就没有菜了。于是客人对主人说：“请借给我一盏灯来用。”主人十分不解，问：“你要灯干什么用？”客人说：“我桌子上的东西，怎么一点儿也看不见了？我要拿灯来照照看。”



Inviting a Guest to Dinner



A man who was entertaining his friend at his own table had nothing much to offer his guest. A raise of chopsticks would finish up the dish.

“I wish you would oblige me with a lamp,” said the guest.

“Whatever for?” asked the astonished host.

“Because I can’t see anything on the table,” was the reply.

Chen Gaomo: *Xiao dao (Convulsive Laughter)*



bèi
背
kè
客
chī
吃
fàn
饭

yǒu kè zài wài ér zhǔ rén qián rù chī fàn zhě kè dà
有客在外，而主人潜入吃饭者，客大

shēng yuē hǎo yī zuò tīng táng kě xī xǔ duō liáng zhù dū
声曰：“好一座厅堂，可惜许多梁柱都

zhù huài le zhǔ rén máng chū yuē zài nǎ lǐ kè yuē
蛀坏了。”主人忙出曰：“在那里？”客曰：

tā zài lǐ miàn chī wài miàn rú hé zhī dào
“他在里面吃，外面如何知道？”

qīng chén gāo mó zuǎn jí xiào dǎo
清 / 陈皋谟纂辑《笑倒》

白话
翻译



有客人还在外屋，而主人却躲在里面偷偷地吃饭，这时客人大声喊道：“挺好的一座厅堂，可惜啊，就是有许多根梁柱都被蛀虫蛀坏了。”主人听到这番话，连忙跑了出来，慌张地问道：“在哪里啊？”客人笑着说：“他躲在里面吃，外面的人怎么能够知道他是怎么吃的呀。”



Eating behind the Visitor's Back



Leaving the visitor in the parlour, the host sneaked into the kitchen to take his meal.

“What a beautiful parlour you have,” the visitor suddenly said in a loud voice. “Too bad so many of the pillars are termite-eaten.”

“Termites?” the host came out in a flurry and asked. “Where are they?”

“How should I know?” answered the visitor. “They always keep out of sight when they eat.”

Chen Gaomo: *Xiao dao (Convulsive Laughter)*



jiǎo
脚
xiàng
像
guān
观
yīn
音

yì rén zì kuā qī měi zhǐ yī tóng zǐ wèn yuē wǒ
一人自夸妻美，指一童子问曰：“我

jiā zhè wèi niáng zǐ kě xiàng yì zūn huó guān yīn tóng
家这位娘子，可像一尊活观音？”童

zǐ yún jí xiàng yòu wèn nǎ yí jiàn xiàng dá
子云：“极像。”又问：“那一件像？”答

yún jiǎo xiàng
云：“脚像。”

qīng chén gāo mó zuǎn jí xiào dǎo
清 / 陈皋谟纂辑《笑倒》

白话
翻译



有个人自己夸耀妻子美貌绝伦，没有人能够比得上，不仅如此，还问一个小孩子说：“我家这位娘子，可像一尊活生生的观音娘娘？”孩子答道：“很像很像。”他又问：“哪一点像？”孩子说：“脚像。”（注：观音娘娘是赤脚的。）



Her Feet Resemble Those of Avalokitesvara's



A man given to bragging about the beauty of his wife one day asked a small boy:

“Do you think my wife looks like a living Avalokitesvara?”

“Yes,” replied the small boy, “very much indeed.”

“Now,” the man again asked, “which part of her do you think resembles the Avalokitesvara?”

“Her feet,” came the unexpected reply.

Chen Gaomo: *Xiao dao (Convulsive Laughter)*

còu
不
起

yī shì rén fù shì zuò wén jiān yú gòu sī qí pú
一士人赴试，作文艰于构思。其仆

wǎng xún yú shì mén jiàn nà juǎn ér chū zhě fēn fēn yī rì
往询于试门，见纳卷而出者纷纷矣。日

qiè mù jiǎ pú wèn yī pú yuē bù zhī zuò wén zhāng yī
且暮，甲仆问乙仆曰：“不知作文章一

piān yuē yǒu duō shǎo zì yī pú yuē xiǎng lái bù guò
篇，约有多少字？”乙仆曰：“想来不过

wǔ liù bǎi zì pú yuē wǔ liù bǎi zì nán dào xiōng
五六百字。”仆曰：“五六百字，难道胸

zhōng méi yǒu dào cǐ shí shàng wèi chū lái yī pú wèi
中没有？到此时尚未出来。”乙仆慰

zhī yuē nǐ wù xīn jiāo qú wǔ bǎi zì suī zài dù lǐ zhī
之曰：“你勿心焦，渠五百字虽在肚里，只

shì yī shí còu bù qǐ ěr
是一时凑不起耳。”

qīng chén gāo mó zuǎn jí xiào dào
清 / 陈皋谟纂辑《笑倒》

白话
翻译



有一个读书人前去应考，考作文的时候，他苦苦思索，但还是难以构思成篇。他的仆人到考场的门口去迎接他，询问考试的情况，只见考生们交上试卷纷纷出来了，唯独看不见自己的主人。太阳已经落山，天快黑了，主人还没有出来。甲仆问乙仆说：“不知道作一篇文章，大概需有多少字？”乙仆说：“想想看也不过是五六百字吧。”甲仆又说：“五六百字，难道胸中没有吗？怎么这么晚了还不出来。”乙仆安慰甲仆说：“你别心焦，慢慢等候就是了，他那五百字在肚子里面，只是一时凑不起来罢了。”



Unable to Gather Them Together



A scholar taking an examination found it hard to build up his composition. His valet went to the entrance to the examination hall to make inquiries. There, he saw plenty of examinees coming out after handing in their papers.

As the dusk deepened, his valet approached the valet of another examinee and asked:

“Do you happen to know about how many characters are required for writing an essay?”

“Well, I should say about five or six hundred characters.”

“Is that so?” exclaimed his valet. “Don’t tell me my master hasn’t got five or six hundred characters in his belly. How come he is still in there?”

“Don’t you worry,” the other valet comforted him. “Of course he has five hundred characters in his belly. The trouble is, he just can’t gather them together at a moment’s notice.”

Chen Gaomo: *Xiao dao (Convulsive Laughter)*

yǔ
雨

èr rén jiǔ sì yǐn jiǔ jiù bì jiǔ zuò bú qù zhǔ
二人酒肆^①饮酒，酒毕，久坐不去。主

rén yàn juàn jiǎ kàn tiān sè yuē yǔ yào lái le èr rén
人厌倦，假看天色曰：“雨要来了。”二人

yuē yǔ jì lái le rú hé qù dé shǎo dāi yǔ guò zài
曰：“雨既来了，如何去得？少待雨过再

qù zhǔ rén yòu yuē rú jīn yǔ yòu guò le qí rén
去。”主人又曰：“如今雨又过了。”其人

yuē yǔ jì guò le pà tā zěn de
曰：“雨既过了，怕他怎的。”

qīng zhào tián yǎng zhuàn zēng dīng xiè rén yí xīn jí
清 / 赵恬养撰《增订解人颐新集》

白话
翻译



有两个人在酒店里喝酒，因为恋席贪杯，酒已经喝完了，却很长时间坐在那里，也不肯离开。酒店主人对此感到十分不耐烦，于是就假装看着天色说：“恐怕天要下雨了。”那两个人回答说：“天就要下雨了，怎么能回去？等再稍等会儿让雨下过了再回去。”主人听了便着急了，急忙改口说：“现在雨又停了。”那个人又说：“雨既然已经停了，那还怕什么？”



注释

① 酒肆：指古代的酒馆、酒店或者是客栈。



Rain



Two men were drinking wine at a wineshop. After finishing the last bottle between them, they sat there chatting with no intention of leaving. Feeling tired, the owner of the wineshop made a feint of looking at the sky and said:

“Looks like rain.”

On hearing this, the two men said:

“Since the rain is coming, we’d better wait till it clears up.”

After a while, the owner again said:

“Now, it’s stopped raining.”

“Well,” said they, “since it’s stopped raining, there’s no hurry to leave.”

Zhao Tianyang: *Zeng ding jie ren yi xin ji*
(*Amusing Stories, Revised & Enlarged Edition*)

shèng
剩
gè
个
qióng
穷
huā
花
zǐ
子
yǔ
与
wǒ
我

zhāng lǐ èr rén tóng xíng jiàn yī tái jiào fù wēng xǔ
张李二人同行，见一抬轿富翁，许

duō nú pú zhāng suí lā lǐ xiàng rén jiā mén hòu duǒ bì
多奴仆，张遂拉李向人家门后躲避

yuē cǐ jiào zhōng zuò de shì wǒ zhì qīn wǒ ruò bù
曰：“此轿中坐的，是我至亲，我若不

bì tā jiù yào xià jiào xíng lǐ bǐ cǐ láo dòng fèi shì。”
避，他就要下轿行礼，彼此劳动费事。”

lǐ yuē zhè shì gāi de bì guò fù tóng qián xíng shǎo
李曰：“这是该的。”避过复同前行，少

qǐng jiàn yī qí mǎ xiǎn zhě yī guān qí zhěng cóng yì
顷，见一骑马显者，衣冠齐整，从役

duō rén zhāng yòu lā lǐ xiàng rén jiā mén hòu huí bì yuē
多人，张又拉李向人家门后回避曰：

zhè mǎ shàng qí de shì wǒ zì yòu jí hòu de hǎo yǒu
“这马上骑的，是我自幼极厚的好友，

wǒ ruò bù bì tā kàn wǒ jiù yào xià mǎ háng lǐ bǐ cǐ
我若不避，他看我，就要下马行礼，彼此

láo dòng fèi shì lǐ yuē zhè yě shì yīng gāi de bì
劳动费事。”李曰：“这也是应该的。”避

guò fù tóng qián xíng ǒu rán jiàn qǐ gài huā zi pò yī pò
过复同前行，偶然见乞丐花子，破衣破

mào de jiào huā zǒu lái lǐ nǎi lā zhāng xiàng rén jiā mén
帽的叫化走来，李乃拉张向人家门

hòu duǒ bì yuē cǐ qióng huā zi shì wǒ zhì qīn yòu shì wǒ
后躲避曰：“此穷花子是我至亲，又是我

hǎo yǒu wǒ yào huí bì tā bù rán tā kàn jiàn wǒ bù
好友，我要回避他；不然，他看见我不

miàn kuì zhāng hài rán wèn yuē nǐ zěn me yǒu zhè yàng
面愧？”张骇然^①问曰：“你怎么有这样

qīn yǒu lǐ yuē dàn shì fù guì hǎo xiē de dū shì nǐ
亲友？”李曰：“但是富贵好些的，都是你



Content with a Poor Beggar



A man surnamed Zhang and a man surnamed Li were one day walking down the street together. Approaching in the opposite direction was a rich man sitting in a sedan chair and accompanied by a large retinue of servants. When the sedan chair drew near, Zhang immediately dragged Li into a doorway by the roadside where they hid behind the door. He said by way of explanation:

“The man sitting in the sedan chair is a close relative of mine. If he saw me, he would get down from his sedan and bow to me. That would cause him and me a lot of trouble.”

“You certainly did the right thing,” was Li’s comment.

With the sedan chair gone, the two of them resumed their journey. Not long afterwards, they caught sight of an immaculately dressed important personage on horseback riding towards them with a suite of followers. Again Zhang avoided meeting him by dragging Li into a doorway.

“The man on horseback is a very good friend of mine,” he explained. “We’ve known each other since early boyhood. If he saw me, he would certainly dismount and salute me. That would put both of us to a lot of trouble.”



jiǎn le qù zhǐ hǎo shèng gè qióng huā zi yǔ wǒ hùn hùn 。
拣了去，只好剩个穷花子与我混混。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》

白话
翻译



有姓张和姓李的两个人一起在路上走，看见前面来了一个富翁，坐着轿子，带着许多奴仆。这位姓张的就拉着姓李的向别人家门后躲避，说：“这个轿子中坐的人是我的至亲，我如果不躲避的话，他就要下轿子来向我见礼，这样彼此都麻烦，我还是躲开比较省事。”姓李的说：“这是应该的。”等到躲避富翁走过之后，两个人一起上路了。不大一会儿，只见前面又来了一个骑着高大的骏马，看起来衣冠齐整，非常富有的贵人，随从也有许多人，这位张先生又拉着李先生向人家的门后回避，说：“这个骑马的人，是我从小到大交情非常深厚的好朋友，我如果不回避，他看见我，就会下马和我行礼，大家都麻烦。”李先生非常理解地说：“这也是应该的。”两人避过之后又一起同行，偶然遇到了一个穿着破衣破帽的乞丐，正在向路人行乞，这次这位李先生就拉着张先生向人家门后躲避，说：“这个穷叫花子是我的至亲，又是我的好友，我要躲着他走，若不避开，他看见我面子上能过得去吗？”张先生非常吃惊问道：“你怎么会有这样的亲友？”李先生回答说：“大凡是富贵显耀的，稍好些的，都是你先挑拣了去，只好剩下个穷叫花子和我混混吧。”



注释

① 骇(hài)然：受到了惊吓，非常震惊的样子。



“Sure,” said Li. “What you did was quite right.”

By and by a poor beggar dressed in rags was seen coming towards them. At his approach Li immediately dragged Zhang into a doorway where they hid behind the door.

“This poor beggar is not only my close relative but also my best friend,” said Li. “I must keep away from him, otherwise he would blush on seeing me.”

Taken aback, Zhang asked:

“But how could you have such a relative and friend?”

“Well,” replied Li, “since men of wealth and position are all your relatives and friends, I should be content with a poor beggar.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao (It's Good to Laugh)*

yuàn
愿
biàn
变
fù
父
qīn
亲

yī fù wēng hū qiàn zhài rén dào jiā fēn fù shuō nǐ
一富翁呼欠债人到家，吩咐说：“你
men rú guǒ chì pín wú huán kě duì wǒ fá shì yuàn lái shēng
们如果赤贫无还，可对我罚誓，愿来生
rú hé cháng huán wǒ jiù fén quàn bú yào qiàn shǎo rén
如何偿还，我就焚券不要。”欠少人
yuē wǒ yuàn lái shēng biàn mǎ yú zhǔ rén qí zuò yǐ hái sù
曰：“我愿来生变马，与主人骑坐，以还宿
zhài wēng diǎn tóu jiāng jiè tiē shāo le yòu zhōng děng qiàn hù
债。”翁点头，将借帖烧了。又中等欠户
yuē wǒ yuàn lái shēng biàn niú dài zhǔ rén chū lì gēng tián
曰：“我愿来生变牛，代主人出力，耕田
bà dì yǐ huán sù zhài wēng diǎn tóu yì jiāng jiè tiē shāo
耙地，以还宿债。”翁点头，亦将借帖烧
le zuì hòu yī zhài duō rén yuē wǒ yuàn lái shēng biàn nǐ de
了。最后一债多人曰：“我愿来生变你的
fù qīn huán zhài wēng dà nù yuē nǐ qiàn wǒ xǔ duō yīn
父亲还债。”翁大怒曰：“你欠我许多银
zǐ chú bù cháng huán fǎn yào tǎo wǒ pián yì shì hé dào
子，除不偿还，反要讨我便宜，是何道
lǐ zhèng yào dǎ mà qí rén yuē tīng wǒ shí gào wǒ
理？”正要打骂，其人曰：“听我实告：我
suǒ qiàn de zhài jí duō bù shì biàn niú biàn mǎ jiù kě yǐ
所欠的债极多，不是变牛变马，就可以
huán dé wán de wǒ suǒ yǐ qíng yuàn lái shēng biàn nǐ de fù
还得完的。我所以情愿来生变你的父
qīn láo kǔ yī shì bù gù shēn mìng jī chéng ruò dà de tián
亲，劳苦一世，不顾身命，积成若大的田
fáng jiā yè zì jǐ bù kěn xiǎng yòng jìn shù liú yǔ nǐ kuài
房家业，自己不肯享用，尽数留与你快
huó shòu yòng qǐ bù kě yǐ huán nǐ de sù zhài me
活受用，岂不可以还你的宿债么？”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》



Reincarnated as Your Father



A rich man who had sent for all his debtors said to them:

“If you are so poor that you are unable to pay off the debts you owe me, you could vow to repay me in some way in your next life and I’ll burn your IOU’s”

A man who owed the rich man a small sum of money said:

“To repay you, I wish to be reincarnated as a horse in my next life so that you can ride me.”

At that the rich man nodded and burnt his IOU. Then another man who owed the rich man a moderate sum of money said:

“To repay you, I wish to be reincarnated as an ox and serve you by ploughing your fields.”

Again the rich man nodded and burnt his IOU. Finally, a man who owed the rich man a huge sum of money said:

“I wish to be reincarnated as your father so that I might pay off all my debts to you.”

At that the rich man instantly flew into a rage.

“What?” he thundered. “You know damn well you owe me a lot of money. Instead of paying your debt you’re trying to

白话
翻译



有一个富翁把欠了他钱的人统统叫到家里来，说：“如果你们家中穷得揭不开锅了，实在还不起债，就当面对我发个誓，说说愿意来生怎么还我的债，我就烧了借据，怎么样？”一个欠债最少的人说：“我愿意来生变成一匹马，来供您骑坐，毫无怨言为您效力，以此偿还我这一辈子欠你的债。”富翁听了，非常满意，就把这个欠债人的借据给烧掉了。过了一会儿，又有个欠债比较多的人说：“我愿意来生变成一头牛，为主人出力，帮助您耕田耙地，来还清我欠你的钱。”富翁高兴地点点头，也把这个人的借据烧了。最后一个人是欠债最多的，他说：“我愿意来生变成你的父亲，以此还清我的债务。”富翁听了非常恼怒，呵斥道：“好大的胆子，你欠我了那么多钱，不但不还我，如今还口出狂言，想要占我的便宜，这是什么道理？！”说着就要打这个人。这个人不慌不忙地说道：“你慢慢听我说。我欠你的钱太多了，这不是来生为你当牛做马就可以还清的。所以我情愿来生变成你的父亲，勤劳辛苦一辈子，不顾身家性命，积攒成一份很大的房产家业，自己不舍得去享受，把它全部都留给你来快活地享受，这样不是可以还清我欠你的债啊！”



seek undue advantage by poking fun at me. How dare you! ”

The rich man was going to box his ear when that man said:

“Please listen to what I have to say. Since I am up to my ears in debts, I don’t think I could ever pay them off simply by working as your ox or horse. That’s why I wish to be reincarnated as your father so that I might one day own considerable property by working hard all my life. By refusing to use one single copper coin for my own enjoyment, I might leave everything to you so that you could live a life of wanton extravagance. Isn’t that one way of paying off my long-standing debts to you?”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao (It's Good to Laugh)*

yǎ
哑
子
shuō
说
huà
话

yǒu yī jiào huā zi jiǎ zhuāng yǎ zi zài jiē shì
有一叫化子，假装哑子，在街市
shàng huà qián cháng yǐ shǒu zhǐ mù wǎn yòu zhǐ zì zuǐ
上化钱。常以手指木碗，又指自嘴
yuē yǎ yǎ yī rì ná qián èr wén mǎi jiǔ chī jìn yuē
曰：“哑哑。”一日拿钱二文买酒吃尽曰：
zài tiān xiē jiǔ yǔ wǒ jiǔ jiā wèn yuē nǐ měi cháng
“再添些酒与我。”酒家问曰：“你每常
lái bú huì shuō huà jīn rì yīn hé shuō qǐ huà lái le me
来，不会说话，今日因何说起话来么？”
jiào huā zi yuē xiàng rì wú qián jiào wǒ rú hé shuō dé
叫化子曰：“向日无钱，叫我如何说得
huà jīn rì yǒu le liǎng gè qián zì rán huì shuō le
话？今日有了两个钱，自然会说了。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》

白话
翻译



有一个叫化子，假装成哑巴，每天在街市上向人化钱。他经常一边用手指着木碗，一边又用手指着自己的嘴巴，发出“哑……哑……”的声音。有一天，这个叫化子拿着二文钱去买酒吃，吃完之后，就对卖酒的人说：“你再给我添些酒吧。”卖酒的人非常吃惊问道：“你平时每次来买酒，都不会说话，今天是因为什么你说起话来呢？”叫化子回答说：“平日里没有钱，叫我怎么能说得话呢，今天有了这两个钱，自然就会说话了。”



A Dumb Beggar Who Speaks



There was a panhandler who often pretended to be dumb when he went begging in the streets. He would point at his wooden bowl and then at his mouth and make an inarticulate sound: “Yā! ”^①

One day he bought two copper coins’ worth of wine at a wineshop and gulped it down. Then he said to the waiter:

“Bring me some more! ”

“You were often here but you never spoke,” said the astonished waiter. “How is it that you can speak now?”

“How could I speak when I had no money? Now that I have some, naturally I can speak.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao (It's Good to Laugh)*



Note

① “Ya” means “dumb” in Chinese.

chòu
臭
dé
得
gèng
更
hěn
狠

yǒu qián fù wēng yú kè zuò zhōng ǒu fàng yī pì shì yǒu
有钱富翁于客座中偶放一屁。适有
èr kè zài bàng yī kè yuē pì suī xiǎng bù wén yǒu yī háo
二客在傍，一客曰：“屁虽响，不闻有一毫
chòu qì yī kè yuē bù dú bù chòu hái yǒu yī zhǒng yì
臭气。”一客曰：“不独不臭，还有一种异
yàng xiāng wèi fù wēng chóu méi yuē wǒ wén dé pì bù
样香味。”富翁愁眉曰：“我闻得屁不
chòu zé wǔ zàng nèi sǔn sǐ qī jiāng jìn wú qí sǐ hū
臭，则五脏内损，死期将近，吾其死乎？”
yī kè yòng shǒu kōng zhāo yòng bí lián xiū yuē cái chòu jiāng
一客用手空招，用鼻连嗅曰：“才臭将
lái le yī kè yǐ bí zhòu qǐ lián lián dà xī yòu yǐ shǒu
来了。”一客以鼻皱起，连连大吸，又以手
yǎn bí cù é yuē wǒ zhè lǐ chòu dé gèng hěn
掩鼻蹙额^①曰：“我这里臭得更很。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》



It Stinks to High Heaven



A man of wealth was entertaining his guests when he accidentally farted. There happened to be two of his guests by his side. One of them said:

“Though resounding, it doesn’t stink at all.”

The other guest chimed in:

“Not only it doesn’t stink, it has in fact an exotic fragrance.”

At that the man of wealth knit his brows and said:

“I understand that when one’s fart no longer stinks, it means that his five internal organs^① are injured and his days are numbered. Am I dying?”

The first guest, on hearing this, immediately waved some air towards himself and said:

“Ah, here comes the stinking smell.”

The other guest, wrinkling his nose, began to draw one deep breath after another. Then, holding his nose, he said, frowning:

“Where I am, it stinks to high heaven.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao* (It’s Good to Laugh)

白话
翻译



有一个非常有钱的富翁在招待客人的时候突然放了一个屁。当时刚好有两个客人在旁边坐着，其中一个客人说：“这屁虽然很响，但是闻起来却丝毫没有臭气。”另一个客人连忙接着说：“是啊，是啊，这屁不仅不臭，还有一种独特的香味呢。”这时，富翁却愁眉苦脸地说：“我听人家说，如果放的屁不臭是不好的征兆，意味着身体内的五脏都受到了损害，我的死期就要来了，难道我要死了吗？”一个客人听后顿时用手在空气中狠狠地抓了一把，用鼻子嗅了嗅，说道：“这屁现在才臭到我跟前来了。”另一位客人也皱起鼻子，连连猛吸了好几下，又拿着手捂着鼻子皱起眉头说：“我这里臭得更狠呢。”



注释

① 蹙额：皱着眉头，形容愁苦的样子。



Note

- ① A term used by practitioners of Chinese medicine to refer to one's heart, liver, spleen, lungs and kidneys.

chū
出

qì
气

yī bù xiǎo zǐ cháng ōu qí fù fù bào sūn bù lí shǒu
一不肖子常殴其父，父抱孙不离手，
shèn ài xī zhī lín rén wèn yuē lìng láng bù xiào nǐ què
甚爱惜之。邻人问曰：“令郎不孝，你却
shèn ài lìng sūn hé yě dá yuē bù wèi bié de wǒ yào
甚爱令孙，何也？”答曰：“不为别的，我要
bào tā zhǎng dà le hǎo tì wǒ chū qì
抱他长大了，好替我出气。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》

白话
翻译

有一个非常不孝顺的儿子，经常殴打他的父亲，而他的父亲怀里却常常抱着他的孙子不撒手，对孙子也是百般地疼爱。邻居们看到这种情形就问他：“你的儿子这么不孝顺你，你却对孙子如此疼爱，这到底是为了什么？”这个老汉回答说：“我这么做不为别的，我要把他抱长大了，将来好让他替我出口气啊。”



To Teach Him a Lesson for Me



An unworthy son was always knocking about his father, who, however, was very fond of his grandson and held him in his arms all the time.

Surprised, his neighbour asked:

“That son of yours is an unfilial son. Why is it that you love his son so much?”

“Well,” explained the old man, “I want to bring him up to manhood so that one day he will teach his father a lesson for me.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao (It's Good to Laugh)*

wǒ
我
bù
不
jiàn
见
le
了

yī dāi yì jiě zuì sēng fù fǔ lín xíng kǒng wàng jì shì
一呆役解罪僧赴府，临行恐忘记事
wù xì jiā chá diǎn yòu zì jǐ biān chéng èr jù yuē bāo
物，细加查点，又自己编成二句曰：“包
guǒ yǔ sǎn jiǎ wén shū hé shàng wǒ tú zhōng bù bù shóu
裹雨伞枷，文书和尚我。”途中步步熟
jì cǐ èr jù sēng zhī qí dāi yòng jiǔ guàn zuì tì qí fà
记此二句。僧知其呆，用酒灌醉，剃其发
yǐ jiǎ tào zhī qián táo ér qù yì jiǔ xǐng yuē qiě dài wǒ chá
以枷套之，潜逃而去。役酒醒曰：“且待我查
yì chá kàn bāo guǒ yǔ sǎn yǒu mō jǐng shàng yuē jiǎ
一查看，包裹雨伞有。”摸颈上曰：“枷，
yǒu wén shū yuē yǒu hū jīng yuē āi ya hé shàng
有。”文书，曰：“有。”忽惊曰：“嗳呀，和尚
bù jiàn le qǐng zhī mō zì guāng tóu yuē xǐ de hé shàng
不见了。”顷之，摸自光头曰：“喜得和尚
hái zài wǒ què bù jiàn le
还在，我却不见了。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》

I Am Missing



An absent-minded yamen runner was going to escort a convicted monk to the prefecture. Before setting out, he checked and double-checked everything he was supposed to bring along. To make sure that he would not forget anything on the way, he composed with the names of these things a ditty: "Parcel, umbrella and cangue; official document, monk and I." This he kept repeating as he pursued his way.

Knowing that the yamen runner was a bit idiotic, the monk managed to get him drunk en route. Having shaved the runner's head and fastened the cangue about his neck, the monk absconded. When the runner finally sobered up, the first thing he did was to check his things one by one.

"The parcel and the umbrella are here," said he to himself.

Feeling the cangue about his neck, he said:

"Here's the cangue all right."

When he saw the official document, he said:

"Yes, the document is here."

Then looking round and seeing no monk, he cried out:

"Dear me! The monk is missing."

Scratching his head in perplexity, he found all his hair gone.

白话
翻译



从前,有一个衙役押送一个犯了罪的和尚回府。这个衙役有点痴呆,记性也不太好,出发前他担心自己会忘记事情和物品,把所有重要的东西全部清点了好几遍,又把这些东西编成了两句顺口溜以便记住,那就是“包袱、雨伞和枷锁,文书、和尚和我。”这个衙役和和尚在路上走了好几天了,衙役每天都不停地念叨这两句。和尚知道衙役非常痴呆,吃饭的时候,将他灌醉后,找了一把剃刀来把衙役的头发剃得干干净净,又解下自己身上的枷锁套在衙役的脖子上,然后就连夜逃跑了。等到这个衙役酒醒之后,睁开眼睛就开始例行公事地进行清点,边摸边说:“我现在来查一查,包袱和雨伞都在。”又摸了摸脖子,说:“枷锁也在。”又摸了摸文书,说:“文书也在。”忽然他吃惊地说:“哎呀,和尚不见了!”过了一会儿,他又迷惑不解了,他摸着自己的光头说:“真高兴,和尚还在这里,那我却不见了!”



“A good thing the monk is still here,” he exclaimed, “but I am definitely missing.”

Shi Chengjin: Xiao de hao (It's Good to Laugh)



yī
一
zhāng
张
dà
大
kǒu
口

liǎng rén hào wéi dà yán yī rén shuō bì xiāng yǒu yī
两人好为大言，一人说：“敝乡有一
dà rén tóu dǐng tiān jiǎo tà dì yī rén yuē bì xiāng yǒu
大人，头顶天，脚踏地。”一人曰：“敝乡有
yī rén gèng dà shàng zuǐ chún chù tiān xià zuǐ chún zhāo
一人更大，上嘴唇触天，下嘴唇着
dì qí rén wèn yuē tā shēn zī zài nǎ lǐ dá yuē
地。”其人问曰：“他身子在那里？”答曰：“
wǒ zhǐ jiàn tā yī zhāng dà kǒu
我只见他一张大口。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》

白话
翻译



有两个人都非常喜欢说大话，一个人说：“我的家乡有一个人，他的个头特别高，高到能头顶青天，脚踏大地。”另一个人也毫不示弱，夸口说：“我的家乡也有一个人，他的个子更高，他的上嘴唇和天一样齐，他的下嘴唇却挨着地。”那个人非常不解地问道：“那么他的身子在哪里放着呢？”回答说：“我只看见他那张大口。”



A Big Mouth



There were two men much given to braggart language.
One of them boasted:

“In our village we have a giant whose head touches the sky when he stands up.”

The other had this to say:

“In our village we have a bigger man whose upper lip reaches to the sky while his lower lip rests on the ground.”

“Then where is his body supposed to be?” inquired the first man.

“Well,” replied the other, “his big mouth is the only thing that one can see.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao (It's Good to Laugh)*

shū
书
shì
是
yìn
印
chéng
成
de
的

yī zǐ xǐ yóu dàng bù kěn dú shū qí fù nù bì yī
一子喜游荡，不肯读书，其父怒闭一

shì chuán sòng yǐn shí jiào lìng yǎn jīng zǐ xì kàn shū xīn
室，传送饮食，教令眼睛仔细看书，心

sī zǐ xì xiǎng shū rú cǐ yòng gōng zì rán míng bái guò
思仔细想书，如此用功，自然明白。过

le sān rì fù dào fáng nèi kàn qí gōng kè zǐ duì yuē
了三日，父到房内，看其功课，子对曰：

méng fù qīn jiào xùn de jí miào dú shū guǒ rán dà yǒu lì
“蒙父亲教训得极妙，读书果然大有利

yì wǒ cái kàn dé sān rì shū xīn zhōng jiù míng bái le
益，我才看得三日书，心中就明白了。”

fù xǐ wèn yuē míng bái le hé shì zǐ yì xǐ yuē wǒ
父喜问曰：“明白了何事？”子亦喜曰：“我

yī xiàng zhǐ rèn zhè dú de shū shì yòng bǐ xiě chéng de
一向只认这读的书，是用笔写成的，

zǐ xì kàn le sān rì cái xiǎo dé yī zhāng yī zhāng de
仔细看了三日，才晓得一张一张的

shū dū shì yìn bǎn yìn chéng de
书，都是印板印成的。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》



Books Are Printed



There was a young man who spent all his time loafing about, refusing to read any books. This incurred the anger of his father, who finally had him confined to a room with three meals a day sent in to him. His father enjoined that he should keep his eyes on his books and apply his mind to them. If he did as he was bidden, he would surely understand a lot of things.

Three days later, the father came into the room to see how he was getting on with his studies.

“Father,” said the young man, “the instruction you gave me last time simply worked wonders. Reading books has indeed done me a lot of good. I’ve read only for three days. Now I understand plenty.”

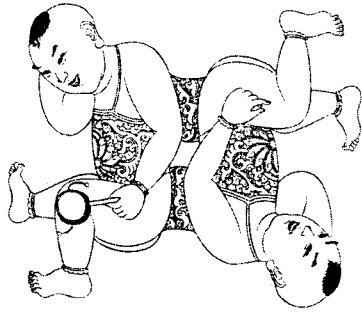
“Really?” asked the happy father. “What is it that you have understood?”

“Well,” answered his son with pride, “I’ve always thought that books were written with a writing brush. These three days I’ve run my eyes over them carefully. Now I understand that every page of them was printed with printing blocks.”

白话
翻译



有一人家的孩子总喜欢到处东游西荡，就是不肯读书。他的父亲非常生气，于是就把他关在一间房子里面，每天给他送去三餐，叫他的儿子用眼睛仔细看着书，用脑子认真想着书。父亲想，这样教他一门心思地读书，功夫下到了，到时候自然就明白了。过了三天，父亲来房里检查儿子的功课，儿子很高兴地对父亲说：“父亲的教导果然好极了，我才发现读书真的是有很大好处，我刚刚看了三天的书，心里边就明白多了。”父亲听了，心里自然高兴，忙问道：“你都明白了些什么啊？”儿子也高兴地说：“一直以来我只知道这读的书，是用笔写成的，我仔细看了这三天后，才知道这一张一张的书，都是用印板印出来的啊。”



yuàn
愿
huàn
换
shǒu
手
zhǐ
指

yǒu yī shén xiān dào rén jiān diǎn shí chéng jīn shì yàn
有一神仙到人间，点石成金，试验
rén xīn xún gè tān cái shǎo de jiù dù tā chéng xiān biàn dì
人心，寻个贪财少的，就度他成仙，遍地
méi yǒu suī zhǐ dà shí biàn jīn zhǐ xián wēi xiǎo mò hòu yù
没有，虽指大石变金，只嫌微小。末后遇
yī rén xiān zhǐ shí wèi yuē wǒ jiāng cǐ shí diǎn jīn yú nǐ
一人，仙指石谓曰：“我将此石，点金与你
yòng bà qí rén yáo tóu bú yào xiān yì yǐ wéi xián xiǎo
用罢。”其人摇头不要。仙意以为嫌小，
yòu zhǐ yī dà shí yuē wǒ jiāng cǐ jí dà de shí diǎn jīn yǔ
又指一大石曰：“我将此极大的石，点金与
nǐ yòng bà qí rén yé yáo tóu bú yào xiān wēng xīn xiǎng
你用罢。”其人也摇头不要。仙翁心想
cǐ rén tān cái zhī xīn quán wú kě wéi nán dé jiù dāng dù
此人，贪财之心全无，可为难得，就当度
tā chéng xiān yīn wèn yuē nǐ dà xiǎo jīn dōu bù yào què
他成仙，因问曰：“你大小金都不要，却
yào shèn me qí rén shēn chū shǒu zhǐ yuē wǒ bié yàng zǒng
要甚么？”其人伸出手指曰：“我别样总
bù yào zhǐ yào lǎo shén xiān fāng cái diǎn shí chéng jīn de zhè
不要，只要老神仙方才点石成金的这
gè zhǐ tóu huàn zài wǒ de shǒu zhǐ shàng rèn suí wǒ dào chù
个指头，换在我的手指上，任随我到处
diǎn jīn yòng gè bù jì qí shù
点金，用个不计其数。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào dé hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》



I Want Your Finger



A celestial being capable of turning stone into gold by touching it with his finger descended to the world to test and judge how greedy men could be. His idea was to find a man with the least greed for gold and make him an immortal. He looked everywhere but none could be found that would meet his requirements. However big the stone he turned into gold, the man he offered it to would think it too small. At last, he met a man who seemed different. Pointing to a stone, the celestial being said to him:

“I can turn this stone into gold for you. Do you want it?”

The man shook his head. The celestial being, believing that the man thought it too small, pointed to a much bigger one and said:

“How about this one? I can turn it into gold for you.”

Again the man shook his head. Thereupon the celestial being thought to himself: A man like this is hard to come by, He is not the least greedy for money. I must make him an immortal.

“Tell me,” the celestial being said to the man, “since you don’t want any gold, whether it’s a big lump or a small lump, what are you after?”

白话
翻译



有一个神仙具有点石成金的神通。一天，他来到人间想寻找一个有慧根的人，将他点化得道成仙。但神仙又怕找错了人，于是就想出一个办法来考验世上的凡人。神仙四处游荡，故意施展自己的点金术，他想选择一个不贪于钱财的人。谁知道，不管他到哪里，碰到什么人，人家都嫌他点的石头变成的金子太小了。后来，神仙又遇到了一个人，便用手指着一块石头说：“我把这块石头点成金子给你用吧。”没想到，那个人摇摇头。神仙就想，他一定是觉得这块石头太小了，于是又指着一块大石头说：“我把这块更大的石头变成金子给你用吧。”哪知这个人竟然又摇头不要。神仙见此心中不禁一阵高兴，认为这个人一点贪财的心都没有，这种人在当今世上，实在是少见，于是就想要超度他成为神仙，便又问道：“你大小金子都不要，那想要什么呢。”这个人不紧不慢，伸出手指来说道：“我别的什么都不要，就只要您老人家刚才点石成金的这根手指头，您就施个仙法，把那根手指头换到我的手上吧，我就可以到处随意点金，便有不计其数的金子任我支配使用了。”



Raising his index finger, the man replied:

“I want nothing else but that finger of yours which can turn a stone into gold. If you would deign to exchange fingers with me, I could go anywhere. I like and, by touching stones and turning them into gold, I would have more gold than I could spend.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao (It's Good to Laugh)*



xiàn
限
dìng
定
suì
岁
shù
数

yī lǎo wēng nián dēng bǎi suì yǒu qīng shòu zhě zhù
一老翁年登百岁，有庆寿者祝

yuē yuàn wú wēng shòu guò yī bǎi èr shí suì wēng dà
曰：“愿吾翁寿过一百二十岁。”翁大

nù yuē wǒ yòu bù huì chī le nǐ jiā de fàn wèi hé xiàn dìng
怒曰：“我又不会吃了你家的饭，为何限定

wǒ de suì shù bù xǔ wǒ duō guò jǐ bǎi nián
我的岁数，不许我多过几百年？”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》

白话
翻译



有个老头儿已经活到一百岁的高龄，有人在为他祝寿时说：“愿您老人家能达到一百二十岁高寿。”老头儿听了大发雷霆地骂道：“我又不会吃了你家的饭，你为什么敢来限定我的岁数，不让我多活几百年？”



To Limit One's Age



A centenarian was celebrating his 100th birthday when one of his guests congratulated him:

“I wish you will live to the ripe old age of 120.”

This, however, roused the ire of the old man, who blurted:

“You don't have to feed me, you know. Why the hell must you set a limit to my age and not let me live one or two hundred years longer?”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao (It's Good to Laugh)*

hē
喝
fēng
风
è
屙
yān
烟

yī fù wēng bù yòng nú pú fán jiā zhōng dà xiǎo shì
一富翁不用奴仆，凡家中大小事

wù dōu shì zì jǐ qīn wéi láo kǔ bù kān yīn yǒu jǐ gè péng
务，都是自己亲为，劳苦不堪；因有几个朋

yǒu quàn tā gù yī nú pú shǐ huàn kě yǐ ān yì wēng
友，劝他雇一奴仆使唤，可以安逸。翁

yuē wǒ qǐ bù zhī yòng gè nú pú shèn hǎo dàn zhǐ pà tā
曰：“我岂不知用个奴仆甚好，但只怕他

yào wǒ de gōng qián yòu pà tā chī wǒ de fàn wǒ suǒ yǐ níng
要我的工钱，又怕他吃我的饭，我所以宁

kě zì jǐ láo kǔ bù kěn gù rén páng yǒu yī rén zhī qí
可自己劳苦，不肯雇人。”旁有一人知其

yì jiǎ shuō yuē wǒ jiā yǒu yī pú bìng bù yào gōng qián
意，假说曰：“我家有一仆，并不要工钱，

yòu bù chī fàn qiè shì xiǎo xīn qín lì wǒ sòng yú lǎo wēng bái
又不吃饭，且是小心勤力，我送与老翁白

bái fú shì hái kěn shōu yòng fǒu wēng yuē ruò bù chī
白服事，还肯收用否？”翁曰：“若不吃

fàn qǐ bù è sǐ rén yuē wǒ zhè pú yīn yòu shí céng
饭，岂不饿死？”人曰：“我这仆，因幼时曾

yù zhe shén xiān chuán tā yī gè hē fēng è yān de fǎ zǐ
遇着神仙，传他一个喝风屙烟的法子，

suǒ yǐ zhōng rì bù è wēng tīng bà xiǎng liǎo yī huì yáo
所以终日不饿。”翁听罢，想了一会，摇

tóu yuē wǒ yě bù yào rén wèn yīn hé yòu bù yào
头曰：“我也不要。”人问：“因何又不要。”

wēng yuē nǐ shuō zhè pú néng hē fēng è yān dàn wǒ xún
翁曰：“你说这仆能喝风屙烟，但我寻

yī gè rén jiù yào yī gè rén de dà fèn guàn tián jì shì è
一个人，就要一个人的大粪灌田，既是屙

yān zì rán shǎo yī gè rén de fèn guàn tián wǒ suǒ yǐ yě
烟，自然少一个人的粪灌田，我所以也



Inhaling Wind and Discharging Smoke



There was once a very rich man who had neither servants nor lackeys in his employ. All the household chores he did himself. Before long he was tired out. Some of his friends advised him to take on a lackey so that he could lead an easier life. Upon that the rich man said:

“Of course I know what a lackey could do for me. What worries me is that I would have to pay him and feed him. That’s why I’d rather do all the work myself and dispense with the service of any servant.”

One of his friends who knew what he was thinking about lied to him:

“I’ve a servant at home who asks for no pay and eats nothing. What’s more, he is discreet and hardworking. If you wish, I would send him over to wait on you. Of course, you don’t have to pay for his service. Will you take him on?”

“If he doesn’t eat anything,” the rich man wanted to know, “will he not starve?”

“Well,” replied that friend, “this servant of mine had the good fortune when he was young to meet a celestial being who imparted to him the secret of inhaling wind and



suàn jì bù lái
算 计 不 来。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石 成 金 撰 《笑 得 好 》

白话
翻译



有一个富翁不雇用奴仆，凡是家中大小的事务，都是自己亲自来干，所以一天到晚劳苦不堪。他有几个朋友劝他雇佣一个奴仆使唤，这样自己可以轻松安逸一些。谁知道，富翁说：“我难道不知道雇用几个奴仆非常好，但是我就怕他要我的工钱，又怕他吃我的饭，所以我宁可自己劳累辛苦，也不愿意雇人。”旁边有一人知道他的心意，便假装哄他说：“我家有一个仆人，并不要你的工钱，又不你家的吃饭，而且他小心勤快，很卖力气，我把他送给您白白服侍您，您肯收用他吗？”富翁问道：“他要不吃饭，那不就饿死了吗？”那个人解释说：“我这个仆人，因为在小时候曾遇到过一个神仙，神仙就传给他一个欲风屑烟的法子，所以他终日不饿。”富翁听了之后，想了一会儿，便摇摇头说：“这个人我也不要。”那人非常吃惊地问他：“为什么不要啊？”富翁说：“你说这个仆人能欲风屑烟，但我雇用一个人，就需要一个人的大粪肥田，既然是个屑烟的，自然少了一个人的粪来灌溉田地，这对我来说也是不划算的。”



discharging smoke. This keeps him from feeling hungry all day long.”

Thereupon the rich man meditated for some time and slowly shook his head and said:

“No, thanks. I don’t want him.”

“And why not?” inquired his friend.

“You said this man can inhale wind and discharge smoke,” explained the rich man. “When I take someone on, I want his excrement, too, as manure to fertilize my land. Since this fellow discharges nothing but smoke, I guess it isn’t worth my while to take him on.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao (It's Good to Laugh)*

rén
人
shēn
参
tāng
汤

yǒu fù guì gōng zǐ zǎo chén chū mén jiàn yī qióng rén
有富贵公子，早晨出门，见一穷人

tiāo dàn zǐ wò dì bù qǐ wèn rén yuē cǐ rén yīn hé wò
挑担子，卧地不起，问人曰：“此人因何卧

dǎo páng rén dá yuē zhè rén méi dé fàn chī dù è le
倒？”旁人答曰：“这人没得饭吃，肚饿了，

dǎo zài dì shàng xiē qì de gōng zǐ yuē jì bù céng chī
倒在地 上歇气的。”公子曰：“既不曾吃

fàn yīn hé bù chī yī zhān rén shēn tāng chū mén yě bǎo dé
饭，因何不 吃一 盏人 参汤 出门？也 饱得

hǎo dà bàn rì
好大半日。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》

白话
翻译



有一个富家公子早晨出门看见一个穷人挑着一副重担，忽然就倒在地上不起来了。于是，他就问旁边的路人说：“这个人因为什么卧倒在地上？”旁边的人回答说：“这个穷人没有饭吃，肚子太饿了，就倒在地上歇一口气。”这位公子哥说：“奇怪！既然不曾吃饭，那他为什么不喝一碗人参汤出门？喝了也能饱得了大半天嘛！”

Ginseng Soup



A pampered son of a certain wealthy family went strolling in the street one morning. He saw a poor man carrying something on a shoulder pole fall down. As the poor fellow could not pick himself up, the young man asked one of the passers-by:

“What’s wrong with that man?”

“That man is hungry because he didn’t have his meal this morning,” answered the passer-by. “He’s lying down there to have a short rest.”

“Well,” said the young man again, “since he didn’t have his meal, why didn’t he drink a cup of ginseng soup instead. He wouldn’t have felt hungry for a good half day.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao (it’s Good to Laugh)*

sì
四
shí
时
bù
不
zhèng
正

yī fù wēng dōng yuè nuǎn gé chóng qiú wéi lú jù yǐn
一富翁冬月暖阁重裘，围炉聚饮，

jiǔ bàn hàn chū jiě yī qù mào dà shēng yuē jīn nián dōng
酒半汗出，解衣去帽，大声曰：“今年冬

yuè rú cǐ shèn nuǎn nǎi sì shí zhī bù zhèng yě mén wài
月如此甚暖，乃四时之不正^①也。”门外

pú rén hán zhàn dá yuē zhǔ rén zài nèi shuō sì shí bù
仆人寒战，答曰：“主人在内说四时不

zhèng wǒ děng mén wài yī dān fù è hán fēng rù gǔ tiān
正，我等门外衣单腹饿，寒风入骨，天

shí zhèng de hěn ne
时正得很呢！”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》

白话
翻译



严冬腊月，天气非常寒冷，一个大富翁呆在暖和的屋子里面，头戴皮帽，身穿皮毛大衣，烤着旺盛的炉火，聚餐饮酒。他酒喝到半酣，觉得浑身发热，汗都出来了。于是摘掉了皮帽，又脱下皮衣，大声道：“今年冬天怎么这么暖和，这是四时不正了啊。”可是，站在门外的仆人正在寒风冷气中冻得直打哆嗦，回答说：“主人在屋里说四时不正，我们站在门外忍饥挨饿，穿着单衣，凛冽寒风吹进骨头里，我看这天时正得很哪！”



注释

① 四时不正：气象学术语，指四季不正常的气候。如冬季应寒反暖，夏季应热反凉等，人体难以适应变化，加上其他原因，而成为致病的因素。

Abnormal Weather



It was in the depth of winter, and a man of wealth, wrapped in furs, sat drinking by the fire in his warm chamber. After downing some wine, he sweated profusely. Taking off his hat and fur coat, he said in a loud voice:

“My! How warm it is. The weather is quite abnormal this winter.”

His servants, shivering in the cold on the other side of the door, said:

“Our master has abnormal weather inside his room. For us thinly-clad and poorly-fed, the weather is quite normal here.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao (It's Good to Laugh)*

xiù
秀
cái
才
duàn
断
shì
事

yī xiāng yú yán zhì wǒ yuàn yǒu bǎi mǔ tián dào zú
一乡愚言志：“我愿有百亩田稻足
yī lín rén jì zhī yuē nǐ ruò yǒu bǎi mǔ tián wǒ yǎng yī
矣。”邻人忌之曰：“你若有百亩田，我养一
wàn zhī yā chī jìn nǐ de dào èr rén xiāng zhēng bù yǐ
万只鸭，吃尽你的稻。”二人相争不已，
sù yú guān bù shí yá mén jīng guò rú xué jiàn hóng qiáng
诉于官，不识衙门，经过儒学^①，见红墙
dà mén suì niǔ ér jìn yī xiù cái bù yú míng lún táng yǐ
大门，遂扭而进；一秀才步于明伦堂^②，以
wéi guān yě gè sù qí qíng xiù cái yuē nǐ qù mǎi qǐ tián
为官也，各诉其情。秀才曰：“你去买起田
lái tā qù yǎng qǐ yā lái dài wǒ zuò qǐ guān lái cái hǎo
来，他去养起鸭来，待我做起官来，才好
dài nǐ men shěn zhè jiàn shì
代你们审这件事。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》



A Scholar Sitting in Judgment



A countryman speaking of his aspirations said:

“I’ll be satisfied with one hundred mu^① of paddy field.”

On hearing this, his jealous neighbour said:

“If you had one hundred mu of paddy field, I would raise ten thousand ducks and let them devour all your paddy.”

This touched off a squabble between them and both sides refused to give in. So they decided to submit their dispute to a magistrate for arbitration. Not knowing where the yamen was, they just walked along the street until they came to an old-style private school. Impressed by its stately walls and the gate and mistaking it for a yamen, they entered grappling with each other. There they saw a scholar walking to and fro in the lecture hall. Mistaking him for an official, they poured out before him their grievances, one against the other. After hearing them out, the scholar said:

“You may go and buy your paddy field, and he may go and raise his ducks. When I become a magistrate one day, I’ll sit in judgment on your case.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao (It's Good to Laugh)*

白话
翻译

有一个乡下人一天忽然许下宏伟的愿望说：“我愿意拥有一百亩良田，并且都栽上稻谷，这样的话，我就心满意足了。”一个邻居听了非常嫉妒，就说：“你要是有一百亩田的话，我就养一万只鸭子，把你的稻谷都吃完。”于是，两个人因为这件事就吵了起来，互不相让，最后还要去见官打官司。两个人不认识衙门怎么走，经过儒学，看见是红墙大门，于是就互相扭打着进去了。正好一个秀才从明伦堂上经过，这两个人误以为他就是官爷，就向秀才各讲各的道理。秀才听完说道：“你去买起你的田来，他去养起他的鸭来，等到我做起我的官来，才好为你们审这件事。”



注释

① 儒学：这里是指儒学署，就是古代时期提供学生上课的地方。

② 明伦堂：明清时期的学官。



Note

① A mu is approximately equal to 0.067 hectares.

huáng

皇

dì

帝

yī

衣

mào

帽

yī qī gài cóng běi jīng huí lái zì kuā céng kàn jiàn huáng
一乞丐从北京回来，自夸曾看见皇

dì huò wèn huáng dì rú hé zhuāng shù gài yuē tóu
帝，或问：“皇帝如何装束？”丐曰：“头

dài bái yù diāo chéng de mào zǐ shēn chuān huáng jīn dǎ chéng
戴白玉雕成的帽子，身穿黄金打成

de páo fú rén wèn jīn zǐ dǎ de páo fú chuān le rú
的袍服。”人问：“金子打的袍服，穿了如

hé zuō yī gài cuì yuē nǐ zhēn shì gè bù zhī shì shì de
何作揖？”丐啐曰：“你真是个不知世事的，

jì zuò le huáng dì hái tóng nà gè zuō yī
既做了皇帝，还同那个作揖。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好》

白话
翻译



有一个叫化子从京城里回来，向别人夸耀说自己曾经看到了皇帝，有人就问他说：“你说说看，皇帝都穿啥衣服啊？”叫化子回答说：“皇帝头上戴的是白玉雕成的帽子，身上穿的是用黄金做成的长袍。”这人又问：“穿着用金子做成的皇袍，那怎么给别人作揖行礼呢？”叫化子听了不屑地啐了一口说：“你真是个不懂世事的人，既然已经作了皇帝，还向哪个人作揖啊！”



The Emperor's Crown and Gown



A beggar who had taken a trip to Beijing was boasting that he had seen the Emperor. Someone asked him:

“How was the Emperor attired?”

“He had on a crown carved from white jade and a gown wrought of solid gold,” was the reply.

“But how could the Emperor make a bow in a gown wrought of solid gold?” inquired another man.

“Fie upon you! ” said the beggar. “You’re simply ignorant of the affairs of human life. Whom do you think an emperor would ever want to bow to?”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao (It's Good to Laugh)*

bǐ
比
sòng
送
bìn
殡

chī ér hǎo shuō shī zhì huà yīn zǐ zhàng jiā qū qīn fù
痴儿好说失志话，因姊丈家娶亲，父

xié ér tóng wǎng fù xí ér fāng yù kāi yán fù yuē tā
携儿同往赴席，儿方欲开言，父曰：“他

jiā qū qīn xǐ shì qiē bù kě shuō shī zhì huà ér yuē bù
家娶亲喜事，切不可说失志话。”儿曰：“不

láo nǐ fēn fù wǒ xiǎo dé qū qīn bǐ bù dé sòng bìn
劳你吩咐，我晓得：娶亲比不得送殡。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo èr jí
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好二集》

白话
翻译



有个傻子喜欢说些不吉利的话，这次因为他姐夫家要娶亲，父亲便带着这个傻儿子一同去参加宴席。父亲看儿子刚想开口说话，急忙说道：“他家娶亲是办喜事，你千万不要说些不吉利的话。”儿子不高兴地说道：“这个不劳烦您吩咐，这我知道：娶亲比不得送殡。”



Like Attending a Funeral



There was an idiotic boy who would let fall inauspicious remarks every now and then. One day his father brought him along to a wedding party given at his brother-in-law's house. When the boy was about to say something, his father warned him:

“This is a wedding — a happy event. Don't say anything inauspicious, mind you! ”

“You don't have to tell me that,” replied the boy. “I know this is a wedding and getting married is not like attending a funeral.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao er ji (It's Good to Laugh, Vol. II)*

wàng
忘
jì
记
duān
端
wǔ
午

xiān sheng jiào shū shì yù duān wǔ jié yīn wú jié jìng
先生教书，适遇端午节，因无节敬，

xiān sheng wèn xué shēng yuē nǐ fù qīn zěn de bù sòng jié
先生问学生曰：“你父亲怎的不送节

lǐ xué shēng guī jiā wèn fù fù yuē nǐ huí xiān sheng
礼？”学生归家问父，父曰：“你回先生，

zhī shuō fù qīn wàng jì le xué shēng yī yán huí fù xiān
只说父亲忘记了。”学生依言回覆先

sheng xiān sheng yuē wǒ chū yī duì yǔ nǐ duì ruò duì dé bù
生，先生曰：“我出一对与你，若对得不

hǎo dīng yào dǎ nǐ yīn chū duì yún hàn chū sān jié zhāng
好，定要打你。”因出对云：“汉初三杰^①：张

liáng hán xìn yù chí gōng xué shēng bù néng duì pà dǎ
良韩信尉迟恭^②。”学生不能对，怕打，

kū gào qī fù fù yuē nǐ xiàng xiān sheng shuō zhè duì zǐ
哭告其父，父曰：“你向先生说：这对子

chū cuò le yù chí gōng shì táng rén bù shì hàn rén xué
出错了，尉迟恭是唐人，不是汉人。”学

shēng bǐng xiān sheng xiān sheng yuē nǐ fù qīn jǐ qiān nián
生禀先生，先生曰：“你父亲几千年

qián de shì dōu jì dé qīng bái zěn me zuó rì yí gè duān wǔ
前的事，都记得清白，怎么昨日一个端午

jié jiù wàng jì le ?
节就忘记了？”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo èr jí
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好二集》

I've Forgotten It Was the Dragon Boat Festival^①



At the Dragon Boat Festival, the pupil did not present a gift to his tutor, as befitted the occasion. Surprised, the tutor asked him:

“Why hasn’t your father sent gifts?”

The pupil went home and asked his father, who said:

“Tell your tutor that I’ve forgotten it was the Dragon Boat Festival.”

The next day, the pupil told his tutor what his father had said.

“Well,” said the tutor, “I’ve now a line of verse for you to cap. If you fail to produce a satisfactory antithetical couplet, I’ll give you a spanking.”

The line was: Zhang Liang, Han Xin, and Yuchi Gong are three of the prominent personages of the Han Dynasty. This turned out to be too difficult for the pupil, who tearfully laid the matter before his father.

“Go tell your tutor, son,” said the father, “that there’s something wrong with his line of verse. Yuchi Gong was a man

白话
翻译

有一个教书的先生，在过端午节的时候，却没有收到学生的过节礼物，他很不高兴，于是就问他的学生说：“过端午节了，你的父亲为什么没有来送过节礼？”学生回到家问父亲这是怎么回事，父亲说：“你就回复你的先生，只说我父亲忘记了。”这个学生照着父亲的话做了。先生说：“我出一副对联你来对，如果对得不好，你挨打是挨定了。”于是就说出了上联：“汉有三杰：张良韩信尉迟恭。”学生对不出下联，害怕挨打，于是就哭着回家把这件事告诉了父亲。他的父亲说：“你对先生说，这副对子出错了，尉迟恭是唐朝人，不是汉朝人。”这个学生如实禀告了教书先生，先生说：“你父亲几千年前的事情都记得清楚，怎么昨天一个端午节他就忘记了？”



注释

① 汉初三杰：指的是张良、韩信和萧何。张良：字子房，汉初三杰之一，在楚汉之争中为刘邦出谋划策，功劳很大，汉朝建立后封为留侯。韩信，西汉开国功臣，伟大的军事家，出身平民，对刘邦忠心耿耿，但性格优柔寡断，最终命运悲惨。萧何：西汉初期政治家，帮助刘邦战胜项羽，为汉代建立起到重要作用，封他为赞侯。

② 尉迟恭：字敬德，唐初著名大将，虽然出身贫寒，但为唐代前期的强大和巩固立下了汉马功劳。



who lived under the Tang Dynasty, not the Han Dynasty.”

The pupil respectfully told his tutor about this. At that the tutor said:

“Your father can remember what happened thousands of years ago. How come he could forget it was the Dragon Boat Festival yesterday?”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao er ji (It's Good to Laugh, Vol. II)*



Note

- ① The 5th day of the 5th lunar month.

mén
门
shàng
上
tiē
贴
dào
道
rén
人

yī rén mǎi mén shén wù mǎi dào rén huà tiē zài mén
一人买门神，误买道人画，贴在门

shàng qī wèn yuē mén shén yuán shì chí dāo zhí fú guǐ
上，妻问曰：“门神原是持刀执斧，鬼

cái jù pà zhè zhōng hòu xiàng mào tiē tā hé yòng fū
才惧怕，这忠厚相貌，贴他何用？”夫

yuē zài mò shuō qǐ rú jīn wài mào zhōng hòu de tā xíng
曰：“再莫说起，如今外貌忠厚的，他行

chū shì lái gèng dú gèng hěn
出事来，更毒更狠。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo èr jí
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好二集》

白话
翻译



有一个人过年的时候买门神，不小心买错了，买回来一张画着道人的门画，只好把它贴在门上。妻子见了觉得奇怪，就问他说：“我见过的门神原来都是持刀拿着斧头的，这样看起来那些小鬼才害怕他们，你买的这是什么门神，一副忠厚老实的相貌，贴他到门上有什么用呢？”丈夫说：“你还不要这么说，如今这世上外表看起来忠厚的，他干出事情来，更加恶毒和凶狠呢。”



The Picture of a Taoist Priest Pasted on the Front Door



A man who had intended to buy a picture of a door-god^① bought one of a Taoist priest by mistake and pasted it up on the front door.

“A door-god is supposed to hold a sword in one hand and a hatchet in the other,” said his wife. “That’s why ghosts are afraid of door-gods. This one looks so benign. What’s the use of having his picture pasted there?”

“Don’t talk like that,” warned her husband. “Nowadays, one who looks benign often acts with vicious intent.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao er ji (It’s Good to Laugh, Vol. II)*



Note

① The picture of a door-god was often pasted on the front door of a house as a talisman in old China.

mà
骂
de
的
rén
人
duō
多

bìng jiā qǐng yī kàn bìng yī xǔ yǐ wú shì fèi duō jīn
病家请医看病，医许以无事，费多金

jìng bù qǐ bìng jiā hèn shèn yí pú wǎng mà zhī qǐng jiān
竟不起。病家恨甚，遣仆往骂之，顷间

biàn huí wèn céng mà fǒu pú yuē bù céng wèn yīn hé
便回，问曾骂否，仆曰：“不曾。”问因何

bù mà pú yuē tā jiā mà de rén shèn duō jiào wǒ rú hé
不骂，仆曰：“他家骂的人甚多，教我如何

jī dé shàng 。”
挤得上。”

qīng shí chéng jīn zhuàn xiào de hǎo èr jí
清 / 石成金撰《笑得好二集》

白话
翻译



有个人生病了，就请医生来给他看病，医生诊断完之后说没有什么大事，后来这个人花了很多钱来治病也没有治好。这家人十分痛恨这个医生，于是就派仆人到医生家里去叫骂。不大一会儿，仆人就回来了，主人问他是否骂了那个医生，仆人说：“没有骂。”主人问他为什么不骂，仆人说：“在他家叫骂的人太多了，我怎么挤也没有挤得上啊。”



Too Many Scolders



A man down with an illness sent for a doctor. After examining the patient, the doctor assured him that there was nothing serious. Yet his condition soon took a turn for the worse, despite heavy medical expenses. Indignantly resentful, the man bade his servant to go and give the doctor a good scolding. However, the servant was back in a jiffy. When asked whether he had scolded the doctor as he was bidden, he said:

“No.”

“And why not?” demanded his master.

“Well,” replied the servant, “there were so many scolders at the doctor’s house that I simply couldn’t push my way in.”

Shi Chengjin: *Xiao de hao er ji (It's Good to Laugh, Vol. II)*

huán
还
kē
磕
tóu
头

huá tíng zhī xiàn xǔ gōng zhì yǐ lián míng chēng mǐn wú
华亭知县许公治以廉明称，民无

bàng gòu yǒu mǒu wǔ shēng niǔ xiāng rén lái mǎn xǔ xī
谤诟^①。有某武生，扭乡人来禀。许悉

qí rén yīn xún hé shì mǒu yún wǒ háng jiē shàng yī
其人，因询何事，某云：“我行街上，伊

dān fèn wū wǒ yī xǔ pāi àn yuē ěr xiāng méng ān dé
担粪污我衣。”许拍案曰：“尔乡氓安得

màn bù jīng xīn zhì huài xiàng gōng yī yīng zhòng zé bú
漫不经心，致坏相公衣，应重责不

dài xiāng rén āi qiū shèn qiè yuē rán zé ěr yuàn fá
贷。”乡人哀求甚切，曰：“然则尔愿罚

hū kě xiàng xiàng gōng kòu shǒu yī bǎi xià jí lìng mǒu nán
乎？可向相公叩首一百下。”即令某南

xiàng zuò xiāng rén kòu shǒu yú xià bǐ yì shù zhī zhì qī
向坐，乡人叩首于下，俾^②役数之，至七

shí yú yuē zhǐ wǒ yì gǔ tū yóu wèi wèn ěr shì wén
十余，曰：“止！我亦鹤突^③，犹未问尔是文

shēng yì wǔ shēng mǒu duì yǐ wǔ yuē wù yǐ wén
生？抑武生？”某对以武，曰：“误矣，文

shēng zhí kòu yī bǎi ruò wǔ zhǐ xū wǔ shí ěr dāng huán kòu
生值叩一百，若武只须五十耳，当还叩

èr shí yòu lìng xiāng rén nán xiàng zuò mǒu kòu shǒu yú
二十。”又令乡人南向坐，某叩首于

xià mǒu bù kěn liǎng yì jiāo nà zhī kòu bì wǔ shēng xīng
下。某不肯，两役交捺之，叩毕，武生悻

xīng ér qù
悻而去^④。

qīng dú yì wē tuì shì biān xiào xiào lù
清 / 独逸窝退士编《笑笑录》



You Have to Kowtow Back



Xu Zhi, magistrate of Huating County, was noted for his honesty and clear-sightedness. The people under his rule, therefore, never had cause for complaining.

One day, an actor who played the martial role on stage seized a countryman and dragged him before the magistrate. Xu, who knew what kind of man the actor was, asked what was the matter.

“Your Honour,” said the actor, “I was walking along the street when this fellow soiled my clothes with the dung he was carrying.”

“You bumpkin !” the magistrate smote the table and snapped at the countryman. “How careless of you! Since you’ve soiled the clothes of this young gentleman, you shall not go unpunished.”

At that the countryman piteously begged for mercy.

“Are you willing to take punishment?” asked the magistrate. “If so, you shall kowtow to this young gentleman one hundred times.”

Thereupon, the magistrate bade the actor to sit facing south and ordered that the countryman kowtow to him. Beside

白话
翻译

华亭县的县令许治，向来因为廉明而闻名乡里，当地的百姓对他评价都不错。有一次，有个武生扭了个乡下人来告状。许县令平时对这个武生多少有些了解，便问他是因为什么事。武生说：“我正走在街上，这个人挑粪，弄脏了我的衣服。”许治拍着桌子大声说：“你这个乡下人怎么那么不小心，怎敢弄脏这位相公的衣服，应该狠狠地惩罚你一下，绝不饶恕。”乡下人苦苦哀求，看起来非常可怜。许治便对乡下人说：“那么事情已经弄得很清楚明白了，你愿意受罚吗？就向这位相公磕头一百下！”于是就让武生面向南坐了上座，让乡下人跪在下面磕头，另外派了一个衙役来计数。当乡下人磕到七十多下的时候，许治忽然大喊一声：“停！我也是办事糊涂，刚才忘了问这位相公是文生还是武生？”这位武生回答说是武生。许县令略带惋惜地说：“那么是我弄错了，文生才值磕头一百下，如果是武生，只用磕五十下就行了，刚才乡下人已经磕了七十多下了，还应该还他二十下。”于是许治又让乡下人向南坐在上座，让武生跪在下面磕头，武生不愿意这样做，许治就命令两个衙役从两边按着他的头，磕了二十下才算完事。武生只好气呼呼地离开了。

注释

- ① 谤诟：诽谤和诬陷。
- ② 俾(bǐ)：使达到某种效果，命令。
- ③ 鹮突：与糊涂意思相似，指做事唐突，不明事理，方法方式错误。
- ④ 悻悻而去：怨恨愤怒的样子离开了。



them stood a yamen runner keeping count. On the count of seventy, the magistrate suddenly cried: "Stop!" and turning to the actor, he said:

"How muddleheaded of me! I forgot to ask you whether you are an actor who plays the scholarly role or the martial role."

The actor replied that he played the martial role.

"Ah," said the magistrate, "I'm afraid it's my mistake. An actor who plays the scholarly role is worth one hundred times of kowtowing while an actor who plays the martial role is worth only fifty. Now you ought to kowtow back twenty times to the countryman."

With that he bade the countryman to sit facing south and ordered that the actor kowtow to him. As the actor refused to do so, two yamen runners got hold of him and, forcing him to kneel down, bumped his head against the ground twenty times. After that, the actor left in a huff.

Hermit of Solitary Comfort Abode: Xiao xiao lu
(Rollicking Laughter)



痴
人
说
梦

qī mǒu yòu dān dú ér xìng chī yī rì zǎo qǐ wèi bì
威某幼耽^①读而性痴，一日早起，谓婢

mǒu yuē ěr zuó yè mèng jiàn wǒ fǒu dá yuē wèi
某曰：“尔昨夜梦见我否？”答曰：“未！”

dà chì yuē mèng zhōng fēn míng jiàn ěr hé yǐ lài qù
大斥曰：“梦中分明见尔，何以赖？”去

wǎng sù mǔ yuē chī bì gāi dǎ wǒ zuó yè mèng jiàn tā
往诉母，曰：“痴婢该打，我昨夜梦见他，

tā jiān shuō wèi mèng jiàn wǒ qǐ yǒu cǐ lǐ yē
他坚说未梦见我，岂有此理耶？”

qīng dú yì wǒ tuì shì biān xiào xiào lù
清 / 独逸窝退士编《笑笑录》

白话
翻译



有一个姓威的读书人从小就喜欢读书，不过读死书，久而久之，变得性情古怪痴呆起来。有一天早晨起床后，他就问一个婢女说：“你昨天晚上梦见我了没有？”这位婢女回答说：“没有梦见。”威生就大声喝斥她说：“我在梦中明明见过你，你怎敢抵赖？”他还跑到他母亲跟前告状说：“这个痴呆的婢女真该挨打，我昨天晚上在梦中明明遇见了她，她却死不承认梦见过我，真是岂有此理！”

注释

① 耽：沉溺、入迷。



Idiotic Nonsense



A man surnamed Qi, who used to give himself up to study when young, was a little idiotic. Rising early one morning, he asked the servant-girl:

“Did you dream of me last night?”

“No,” was the reply.

At that the man flew into a rage and berated her:

“I dreamt of you clearly last night. It’s no good trying to deny it! ”

Then he went to complain to his mother.

“This idiotic servant-girl needs a good spanking,” said he. “I dreamt of her last night, but she insisted that she didn’t dream of me. Preposterous, isn’t it?”

Hermit of Solitary Comfort Abode: Xiao xiao lu
(Rollicking Laughter)

gāo
高
mào
帽
zǐ
子

shì sù wèi mèi rén wéi dǐng gāo mào zǐ cháng yǒu mén
世俗谓媚^①人为顶高帽子。尝有门
shēng liǎng rén chū fàng wài rèn tóng yè lǎo shī zhè lǎo shī
生两人，初放外任，同谒老师者，老师
wèi jīn shì zhí dào bù xíng féng rén sòng dǐng gāo mào zǐ
谓：“今世直道不行，逢人送顶高帽子，
sī kě yǐ qí yì rén yuē lǎo shī zhī yán bú miù jīn
斯可矣。”其一人曰：“老师之言不谬^②，今
zhī shì bù xǐ gāo mào rú lǎo shī zhè yǒu jǐ rén zāi lǎo shī
之世不喜高帽如老师者有几人哉！”老师
dà xǐ jì chū gù tóng yè zhě yuē gāo mào yǐ sòng qù
大喜。既出，顾同谒者曰：“高帽已送去
yì dǐng yī
一顶矣。”

qīng dú yì wō tuì shì biān xiào xiào lù
清 / 独逸窝退士编《笑笑录》

白话
翻译



世人把向别人献殷勤、说好话、阿谀奉承俗称为送人高帽子。曾经有两个门生，初次要到外地赴任，临行来一起去拜访自己的老师，老师对他们叮嘱说：“如今世上说话太直白，做事太直接是行不通的，记住遇到人，要常常为他们送顶高帽子，这样的话才能在社会上混下去啊。”其中一个门生说：“老师说的话真是一点儿也不错，如今社会上能像老师这样不喜欢戴高帽子的人还有几个呢？”老师听了门生这话，心中非常高兴。等到从老师家里出来后，这位门生对同去的门生说：“高帽子我已经送出去一顶了！”



注释

① 媚：谄媚，讨好。

② 谬(miù)：错误、差错。



Tall Hat



To give someone a tall hat is a common saying which means to flatter someone. There were two disciples who, before going away to take up their first appointments, went to call on their teacher together. Said the teacher:

“Nowadays, it doesn’t pay to be straightforward in what one says. Take my advice for your own good: Give a tall hat to whomever you meet.”

“Our teacher is right,” said one of the disciples. “At the present time there are indeed very few people like our teacher who do not like tall hats.”

At that the teacher’s face lit up with pleasure. On their way out, that disciple said to the other:

“I’ve just given away one tall hat.”

Hermit of Solitary Comfort Abode: Xiao xiao lu
(Rollicking Laughter)



tōu
偷

jiǔ
酒

yī xiān shēng hào yǐn jiǔ guǎn tóng ài tōu jiǔ tōu de
一先生好饮酒，馆童爱偷酒，偷的

xiān shēng bù gǎn yòng rén zì wèi bì yào yòng yī bú huì chī
先生不敢用人，自谓必要用一不会吃

jiǔ zhě fāng bù tōu jiǔ rán gèng yào yī bù rèn dé jiǔ
酒者，方^①不偷酒，然更要一不认得酒

zhě nǎi zhēn bù chī shǐ bù tōu yě yī rì yǒu rén jiàn
者，乃真不吃，始不偷也。一日，友人荐

yī pú zhì yī huáng jiǔ wèn zhī pú yǐ chén shào duì
一仆至，以黄酒问之，仆以陈绍^②对。

xiān shēng yuē lián jiǔ zhī bié míng dōu zhī qǐ zhǐ huì
先生曰：“连酒之别名都知，岂只会

yǐn suí qiǎn zhī yòu jiàn yī pú zhì wèn jiǔ rú chū pú
饮。”遂遣之。又荐一仆至，问酒如初，仆

yǐ huā diào duì xiān shēng yuē lián jiǔ zhī jiā pǐn jìng zhī
以花雕对。先生曰：“连酒之佳品竟知，

duàn fēi bù yǐn zhī rén yòu qiǎn zhī hòu yòu jiàn yī pú
断非不饮之人。”又遣之。后又荐一仆，

yǐ huáng jiǔ shì zhī bù shí yǐ shāo jiǔ shì zhī yì bù
以黄酒示之，不识，以烧酒示之，亦不

shí xiān shēng dà xǐ yǐ wéi bù chī jiǔ wú yí yǐ suí
识。先生大喜，以为不吃酒无疑矣，遂

yòng zhī yī rì xiān shēng jiāng chū mén liú cǐ pú kàn
用之。一日，先生将出门，留此仆看

guǎn zhǔ zhī yuē qiáng guà huǒ tuǐ yuàn yǎng féi jī xiǎo
馆，属之曰：“墙挂火腿，院养肥鸡，小

xīn kān shǒu wū nèi yǒu liǎng píng yì píng bái pī yì píng
心看守。屋内有两瓶，一瓶白砒，一瓶

hóng pī wàn wàn bù kě dòng ruò chī le cháng wèi bēng
红砒，万万不可动；若吃了，肠胃崩

liè yī dìng shēn wáng dīng níng zài sān ér qù xiān
裂，一定身亡。”叮咛再三而去。先



Taking a Drink on the Sly



A teacher of an old-style private school who was very fond of the cup had in his employ a servant-boy who also had a craving for drink. When his master was not looking, he would help himself to a drink of his master's wine. The teacher eventually had to fire him and said that in future he would take on only someone who never touched alcoholic drinks, so that he would not take a drink on the sly. Then it occurred to him that it would be better still to take on someone who did not know what wine was. Such a man would never take a drink, let alone taking it on the sly.

One day, a friend of his recommended to him a servant. To put him to the test, the teacher showed him some yellow rice wine and asked him what it was. The servant said it was mellow Shaoxing rice wine. The teacher immediately sent him away, saying to himself:

“That fellow even knows the other name for yellow wine. Must be a drinker.”

Then his friend recommended to him another servant to whom the teacher applied the same test. The answer was Huadiao^①. Again the teacher sent him away, saying to himself:

shēng zǒu hòu pú shā jī zhǔ tuǐ jiāng liǎng píng hóng bái
 生走后，仆杀鸡煮腿，将两瓶红白
 shāo jiǔ cì dì yǐn wán bù jiào dà zuì xiān shēng huí
 烧酒，次第^③饮完，不觉大醉。先生回
 lái tuī mén yí kàn jiàn pú rén tǎng wò zài dì jiǔ qì xūn
 来，推门一看，见仆人躺卧在地，酒气熏
 rén yòu jiàn jī tuǐ jiē wú dà nù jiāng pú rén tī xǐng
 人，又见鸡腿皆无，大怒，将仆人踢醒，
 zài zài jiū jié pú rén kū sù yuē zhǔ rén zǒu hòu xiǎo de
 再再究诘。仆人哭诉曰：“主人走后，小的
 zài guǎn xiǎo xīn kān shǒu hū lái yī māo jiāng huǒ tuǐ diào
 在馆小心看守，忽来一猫，将火腿叨
 qù yòu lái yī quǎn jiāng jī zhú zhì lín jiā xiǎo de qíng
 去；又来一犬，将鸡逐至邻家。小的情
 jí fèn bù yù shēng yīn sī zhǔ rén suǒ zhǔ hóng bái èr
 急，忿不欲生，因思主人所属红白二
 pī pō kě zhì mìng xiǎo de xiān jiāng bái pī chī jìn bù
 砒，颇可致命，小的先将白砒吃尽，不
 jiàn dòng jìng yòu jiāng hóng pī yòng wán wèi néng shēn
 见动静；又将红砒用完，未能身
 wáng xiàn zài tóu yǎn nǎo mèn bù sǐ bù huó tǎng zài zhè
 亡，现在头晕脑闷，不死不活，躺在这
 lǐ zhēng mìng ne
 里挣命呢。”

qīng xiǎo shí dào rén zuǎn jí xī tán lù
 清 / 小石道人纂辑《嘻谈录》

白话
 翻译



有位书馆先生嗜酒如命，偏巧他的馆童也特别爱偷酒喝，直偷得这位先生再也不敢用这馆童了。先生声称一定要再换一个不会吃酒的人，肯定不会偷酒，如果换一个连酒也不认得的人，就更不会吃酒，也不至于偷酒吃了。有一天，先生的一位朋友向他推荐了一个仆人过来，先生指着黄酒问仆人，仆人说是陈绍。先生很惊讶地说：“他连这黄酒的别名都



“That fellow even knows the name for highgrade wine. Surely not one who never drinks.”

Finally, his friend recommended a man who knew neither yellow rice wine nor white spirit when shown the stuff. Overjoyed, the teacher immediately took him on, thinking that this fellow must be a teetotaler.

Then it happened that the teacher had to go away for some time and leave behind the servant to look after the school. Before he left, he enjoined his servant:

“Keep an eye on the ham on the wall and the fat chicken in the yard. There are two bottles in my room, one containing white arsenic and the other red arsenic. Both are deadly poison. If drunk by mistake, they would burst apart your inside and cause instant death.”

After the departure of the teacher, his servant began to kill the chicken and cook the ham preparatory to treating himself to a hearty meal. To his meal, he drank up the two bottles of wine, one red and one white, and fell down dead drunk.

Coming back from his trip, the teacher pushed open the door and found the servant lying on the ground, reeking of wine. Then he discovered that both the chicken and the ham were gone. Exasperated, the teacher fell to kicking the servant until he sobered up. When questioned, he said in tears:

“After you left, master, I stayed here and kept my eyes peeled. All of a sudden a cat appeared from nowhere and snatched away the ham. Then a dog intruded into the yard and

知道,岂止会饮酒!”于是就把那人打发走了。过了没几天,朋友又向他推荐了一个仆人过来,先生又指着黄酒试探发问,仆人回答说是花雕。先生一听,惊讶得很,说:“他竟然连酒中佳品都知道,绝对不是不饮酒的人。不可用!”不久,朋友又推荐来一个仆人,先生拿黄酒给他看,仆人不认得,又拿烧酒给他看,他仍然说不认得。先生心中大喜,以为这个人绝对不会饮酒,肯定不会偷酒,于是选中了他。一天,先生将要出门,要留这个仆人看馆,他一再嘱咐说:“墙上挂着火腿,院子里养着肥壮的鸡,你一定要小心看守。屋里放着两只瓶子,一只瓶盛着白砒霜,一只瓶盛着红砒霜,万万动不得;如果吃下去的话,一定会肠胃崩裂,立时身亡。”先生叮咛再三才离开了家。先生走后,仆人赶紧宰杀肥鸡,煮熟火腿,美美地吃起来;又把两瓶红白烧酒提过来,接连喝完,不知不觉中已经酩酊大醉,瘫倒在地上酣睡起来。先生从外面回来,推门一看,见仆人正躺卧在地,酒气熏人,又看到肥鸡和火腿都没有了,顿时火冒三丈,连踢几脚把仆人踢醒,逐一责问起来。仆人哭着说:“您走了之后,小的就在馆中小心地看守,忽然跑来一只猫,将火腿叼了去;又来了一条狗,把鸡追到邻家。小人一时害怕,不想活着见您了,想起您临走前嘱咐的红白二瓶砒霜可致死人命,就先把白砒霜喝光,还不见死的动静,就又将红砒霜也喝光,也未能死去。现在,小的正头脑昏昏,心中憋闷,不死不活地躺在地上挣扎活命呢。”



注释

① 方:方才,才能。

② 陈绍:绍兴老酒贮存年代久远,品质也属于一流,一些大酿酒房常以“陈年老酒”或者“远年陈绍”来标榜所酿之酒的品位。绍兴酒分花雕、女贞陈绍两种。

③ 次第:按照先后顺序,依次。



chased the chicken off to the neighbour's. In a moment of desperation, I wanted to end my own life. I remembered the bottles of arsenic you told me about. First I gulped down the white arsenic but nothing came of it. Then I drank up the red arsenic, but the thing didn't kill me, either. Now I feel dizzy, lying here on the ground, more dead than alive."

Little Stone Taoist Hermit: Xi tan lu (*Ripples of Mirth*)



Note

① High-grade Shaoxing wine.

fù
富
jiā
家
shǎ
傻
zi
子

yī fù wēng kè bó chéng jiā jī zī shù wàn yóu
一富翁刻薄成家，积资数万，犹

shí shí lìn sè jiào liàng zī zhū rén jiē yuàn hèn zhòu zhī
时时吝啬，较量锱铢。人皆怨恨，咒之

yuē cǐ děng rén bèi rù bèi chū dìng yǒu bào yìng fù
曰：“此等人，悖入悖出，定有报应。”富

wēng wén zhī fèn hèn yí jí yǒu yī zǐ nián yǐ chéng
翁闻之，愤恨已极。有一子，年已成

rén xìng hān shǎ zuì shē chí fù wēng jiào zhī yuē nǐ
人，性憨傻，最奢侈，富翁教之曰：“你

yǐ chéng rén shàng bú biàn shǔ mài wǒ yù lìng jiā rén dài
已成人，尚不辨黍麦，我欲令家人带

nǐ chū mén kàn kàn wù lì jiān nán shì shì dōng xī guì
你出门，看看物力艰难，试试东西贵

jiàn shǎ zi xīn rán lè cóng fù wēng jí lìng jiā tóng dài
贱。”傻子欣然乐从。富翁即令家童带

zhī chū mén chū dé chéng lái xíng zhì shān zhōng kàn jiàn
之出门。出得城来，行至山中，看见

shí jiàng zài nà lǐ zāo shí dǎ chéng dà xiǎo shí shī èr gè
石匠在那里凿石，打成大小石狮二个；

shǎ zi shèn ài yí dìng yào mǎi máng wèn jià zhí duō
傻子甚爱，一定要买，忙问：“价值多

shǎo shí jiàng rèn de shì fù jiā shǎ zi nǎi kuàng zhī
少？”石匠认得是富家傻子，乃诳之

yuē xiǎo shī zi yào yín sān qiān dà shī zi yào yín wǔ
曰：“小狮子要银三千，大狮子要银五

qiān shǎ zi shuō yào jià bù duō kuài gěi wǒ tái le jiā
千。”傻子说：“要价不多，快给我抬了家

qù shí jiàng xiān jiāng xiǎo shí shī sòng dào jiā zhōng shǎ
去。”石匠先将小石狮送到家中。傻

zi huí jiā jiàn le fù qīn xīn xīn rán gào zhī yuē wǒ mǎi
子回家，见了父亲，欣欣然告之曰：“我买



The Imbecile Son of a Rich Family



There was once a rich man who had by hook and by crook amassed a fortune of myriads of taels of silver. And he was such a calculating tightwad that he was hated by everyone. Some would even call down a curse upon him:

“ill-gotten, ill-spent. A man like him will suffer inevitable retribution.”

This being repeated to the rich man, he felt a furtive sense of resentment.

The rich man had a grown-up son who was as extravagant as he was idiotic. One day, his father admonished him:

“You’re no longer a boy, son. Yet you are unable to tell beans from wheat. Now, I’ll have one of the servants take you out to see the world. You’ll come to understand how hard one has to work to earn a living and how expensive things are.”

The nitwit was glad to comply with his father’s wish. Thereupon, his father bade a servant-boy to accompany him.

After leaving their home-town and walking some distance, they found themselves amid the mountains where they came upon a few stonemasons at work. Soon two stone lions, one big and one small, took shape under their chisels. Taking a



pián yí huí lái le fù wèn mǎi hé wù shǎ zǐ lìng rén
便宜回来了。”父问买何物，傻子令人
jiāng shí shī tái jìn fù wèn jià zhí ruò gān shǎ zǐ shuō jià
将石狮抬进，父问价值若干，傻子说：“价
zhí sān qiān wēng dà nù mà zhī yuē nǐ yòng zhòng
值三千。”翁大怒，骂之曰：“你用重
jià mǎi cǐ wú yòng zhī wù zhēn nǎi bài jiā zhī zǐ guài
价，买此无用之物，真乃败家之子，怪
bù dé rén shuō wǒ zǒng yǒu bào yīng shǎ zǐ gǔ zhǎng dà
不得人说我总有报应。”傻子鼓掌大
xiào yuē wǒ gào sù nǐ ba zhè hái shì xiǎo bào yīng hái
笑曰：“我告诉你罢，这还是小报应，还
yǒu yí gè dà bào yīng zài hòu tóu ne
有一个大报应在后头呢。”

qīng xiǎo shí dào rén zuān jí xī tán lù
清 / 小石道人纂辑《嘻谈录》

白话
翻译



有一个富翁，依靠刻薄、吝啬发了家，积攒起数万的资财；但是他仍旧吝啬，也更加锱铢必较了。人们都很怨恨他，诅咒说：“这种人钱财来得不光明正大，必定还会胡乱地花掉，一定会有报应的！”富翁听说这些，非常愤恨。富翁有个儿子，已长大成人，但性情憨傻，又十分奢侈，花钱无数。富翁教导儿子说：“你已长大成人，还分不清黍谷、麦子，我想让仆人带你出门走走，看看物力的艰难，试试东西的贵贱。”傻子欣然同意，愿意前往。富翁就让家童带着他出门。等到出城之后，他们走进山中，看见石匠正在那里凿石头，已经凿成大小石狮子两个。傻子看见石狮子，非常喜欢，一定要买，忙问：“这两个石狮多少钱？”石匠认出来了这就是那富家傻子，于是诓骗他说：“小狮子要三千两银子，大狮子要五千两银子。”傻子说：“要钱不多，快给我抬



fancy to these lions, the imbecile insisted on buying them.

“How much?” he asked the stonemasons.

Recognizing the imbecile son of the rich man, the stonemasons, trying to hoax him, said:

“3,000 taels for the small lion and 5,000 for the big lion.”

“Quite reasonable,” said the imbecile. “You guys carry them to my house. Quick! ”

The stonemasons delivered the small lion first to the rich man’s house. When the imbecile came back home, he joyfully told his father:

“What I’ve bought today is a real bargain, dad.”

Asked what it was, he had the stone lion carried in. When the father asked how much he had paid for it, he said:

“Three thousand taels.”

At that the rich man instantly flared up and berated his son:

“For this trash you have paid such a high price? You’re surely a good-for-nothing prodigal. No wonder people say that retribution will overtake me one of these days. This is indeed a retribution.”

Upon that, the imbecile clapped and said gleefully:

“You know what, dad? This is only the small retribution. Another bigger retribution is coming soon.”

Little Stone Taoist Hermit: Xi tan lu (*Ripples of Mirth*)

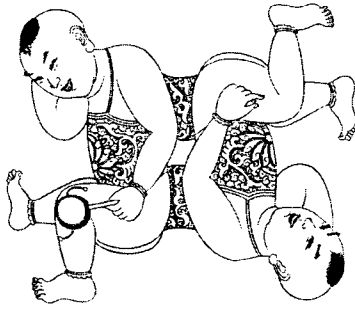


回家去。”石匠先将小石狮送到富人家中，傻子回家，见到父亲，高兴地对他说：“我买便宜回来了。”父亲急忙问他买了什么，傻子便叫人把石狮子抬进家里，父亲问花了多少钱，傻子说：“不贵不贵，才三千两。”父亲听了大怒，骂道：“你用这么贵的价钱，买了这样无用的东西，真是个败家子，怪不得人们说我总有报应。”傻子鼓掌大笑说：“我告诉你吧，这不过是个小小的报应，还有一个大报应在后头呢。”



注释

① 剋(kè):同“刻”,苛刻、刻薄。



qī
七
yuè
月
ér
儿

yǒu huái yùn qī yuè ér jí chǎn yī ér zhě qí fū kǒng
有怀孕七月儿即产一儿者，其夫恐

yǎng bù dà yù rén jí wèn yī rì yǔ yǒu tán jí cǐ
养不大，遇人即问。一日，与友谈及此

shì yǒu yuē zhè gè yuè wú fāng wǒ jiā zǔ yì shì qī gè
事，友曰：“这个月无妨，我家祖亦是七个

yuè chū shì de qí rén cuò è wèn yuē ruò shì zhè děng
月出世的。”其人错愕^①问曰：“若是这等

shuō lìng zǔ hòu lái bì jìng yǎng dé dà fǒu
说，令祖后来毕竟养得大否？”

qīng yóu xì zhǔ rén zuǎn jí xīn juān xiào lín guǎng jì
清 / 游戏主人纂辑《新镌笑林广记》

白话
翻译



有一个妇人怀孕后七个月就生下来一个男孩，她的丈夫担心这个孩子养不大，遇见人就问这件事。有一天，他又与一个朋友谈起了这件事，这个朋友听了以后说：“这个月出生没事的，我的祖父就是七个月生的。”这个人听了之后惊奇地说：“如果像你所说的那样，你的祖父后来毕竟还是养大了？”



注释

① 错愕：仓卒惊讶，表示非常惊异。

Seven-month Baby



A woman only seven months gone gave birth to a boy. Fearing that his son could not grow up, her husband sought advice on the subject from everyone he met. While talking to a friend one day, he again brought the subject up.

“No matter,” said his friend. “My great grandmother was also only seven months gone when she gave birth to my grandfather.”

Astounded, the man said:

“Well, well, did your grandfather grow up after all?”

Master of Games: Xin juan xiao lin guang ji
(*Jest Book: Newly Engraved Edition*)



cáng
藏

nián
年

yī rén qū yī lǎo qī zuò chuáng shí jiàn miàn duō zhòu
一人娶一老妻，坐床时，见面多皱
wén yīn wèn yuē rǔ yǒu duō shǎo nián jì fù yuē sì
纹，因问曰：“汝有多少年纪？”妇曰：“四
shí wǔ liù fū yuē hūn shū shàng xiě sān shí bā suì yī
十五六。”夫曰：“婚书上写三十八岁，依
wǒ kàn lái hái bù zhǐ sì shí wǔ liù kě shí duì wǒ shuō
我看来还不止四十五六，可实对我说。”
yuē shí wǔ shí sì suì yī fū fù zài sān jié zhī zhī yī
曰：“实五十四岁矣。”夫复再三诘之，只以
qián yán duì shàng chuáng hòu gèng bú fàng xīn nǎi qiǎo
前言对。上床后，更不放心，乃巧
shēng yī jì yuē wǒ yào qǐ lái gài yán wèng bù rán bèi
生一计曰：“我要起来盖盐瓮，不然，被
lǎo shǔ chī qù yī fù yuē dào hǎo xiào wǒ huó le liù
老鼠吃去矣。”妇曰：“倒好笑，我活了六
shí bā suì bìng bù wén lǎo shǔ tōu yán chī
十八岁，并不闻老鼠偷盐吃。”

qīng yóu xì zhǔ rén zuǎn jí xīn juān xiào lín guāng jì
清 / 游戏主人纂辑《新镌笑林广记》

白话
翻译



有个人娶了一个年纪较大的妻子，等到晚上坐在床边
上，细看之下觉得她的脸上布满了皱纹，于是就问她说：
“你今年有多大年纪？”妻子说：“我今年四十五六。”丈夫
说：“在我们结婚证书上写的可是三十八岁，依我看来，你
还远远不止四十五六岁，你可要对我说实话啊。”妻子说：
“我实际上已经五十四岁了。”丈夫再三询问，妻子还是照
着前面的来回答，始终都不松口。等到熄灯休息后，丈夫还
是不甘心，于是想出一条计策来，他说：“我要起来去把咱
家的盐罐儿盖上，要不然，那些盐就会被老鼠偷吃了去。”
妻子笑着说：“这个事儿听起来真好笑，我活了六十八岁，
从来就没有听说过老鼠偷盐吃的。”



Concealing Her Age



A man married a woman who was no longer young. Sitting on the nuptial bed, he noticed that her face was seamed with wrinkles.

“How old are you?” he asked the bride.

“About forty-five or six,” was the reply.

“But the marriage certificate says thirty-eight. In my opinion, you are more than forty-five or six. Do tell me the truth.”

“Well, the truth is I’m fifty-four.”

Though the husband pressed her again and again, she insisted that she was no more than fifty-four. Tortured by doubt, he was about to go to bed when a bright idea came to him.

“I’d better go and cover up that urn, or the rats will eat up the salt in it.”

“What a joke! ” the woman cried out. “For sixty-eight years that I’ve been in the world, I’ve never heard of rats eating salt.”

jiè
借

yī jiā qǐng kè , shī fēn yī zhǔ shàng cài zhī hòu ,
一家请客，失分一箸，上菜之后，

zhòng kè cháo gǒng jǔ zhù qí rén dú xiù shǒu ér guān xú
众客朝拱举箸，其人独袖手而观，徐

shuǐ
水

xiàng zhǔ rén yuē qiú cì qīng shuǐ yì wǎn zhǔ wèn yuē
向主人曰：“求赐清水一碗。”主问曰：

hé chù yòng zhī dá yuē xǐ gān jìng le zhǐ tóu hǎo niān
“何处用之？”答曰：“洗干净了指头好拈

cài chī 。”
菜吃。”

qīng yóu xì zhǔ rén zuǎn jí xīn juān xiào lín guǎng jì
清 / 游戏主人纂辑《新镌笑林广记》

白话
翻译



有一户人家请客，少分给客人一根筷子。等菜上来以后，其他的客人都举起筷子准备就餐，唯独这个人呆在一旁袖手旁观，后来他就对主人说：“请你帮我端一碗清水过来。”主人问道：“你要清水做什么用？”这位客人回答说：“我用清水洗干净了手指头，好用它来拿菜吃啊。”



May I Have Some Water, Please?



A guest invited to dinner found at his seat only one chopstick. When the service began and all the other guests raised their chopsticks to help themselves, he just sat tight, hands in sleeves, and looked on. A little while later, he said to the host:

“May I have a bowl of clean water, please?”

“Whatever for?” asked the host.

“To wash my fingers so that I can help myself like everybody else.”

Master of Games: Xin juan xiao lin guang ji
(*Jest Book: Newly Engraved Edition*)



zuò
坐
yǐ
椅
zǐ
子

yì jiā suǒ zhài rén duō yǐ dèng jù zuò mǎn gèng yǒu
一家索债人多，椅凳俱坐满，更有

zuò kǎn shàng zhě zhǔ rén sī wèi zuò kǎn zhě yuē zú xià
坐槛上者，主人私谓坐槛者曰：“足下

míng rì zǎo lái xiē nà rén yì qí xiān wán jǐ shì nǎi dà
明日早来些。”那人意其先完己事，乃大

xǐ suí yáng yán yǐ sàn zhòng rén cì zǎo lí míng jí wǎng
喜，遂扬言以散众人。次早黎明即往，

kòu qí xiāng yuē zhī yì dá yuē zuó rì yǒu láo zuò kǎn
叩其相约之意，答曰：“昨日有劳坐槛，

shèn shì bù ān jīn rì zǎo lái kě xiān zhàn bǎ jiāo yǐ
甚是不安，今日早来，可先占把交椅。”

qīng yóu xì zhǔ rén zuǎn jí xīn juān xiào lín guāng jì
清 / 游戏主人纂辑《新镌笑林广记》

白话
翻译



有一户人家欠了很多债，每天来索要债务的人都非常多，家里的椅子上、凳子上都坐满了人，更有人没有地方坐，就坐到了门槛上。主人偷偷对其中一个坐在门槛上的人说：“您明天早点时候过来吧。”那个人以为是主人让他先来办完自己的事情，所以心中非常高兴，于是就让大家回去了。等到第二天早上刚刚黎明的时候，他便来到这户人家叩门，并表明昨天已经约好了，主人回答说：“昨天真是有劳您坐在我们家的门槛上，所以我心中感到非常不安，今天你早早地过来，就可以先占着一把交椅了！”



To Occupy a Chair



A debtor had so many creditors coming to demand payment of his debts that all the chairs and stools in his house were taken, and one of the creditors was even sitting on the threshold. To the latter he whispered:

“Come again, sir, early tomorrow morning.”

Thinking that the debtor intended to settle with him first, the man was overjoyed and informed the others of what he thought was the intention of the debtor so that they would leave.

The next day, the man came again at dawn and asked the debtor why he had made that appointment with him.

“I felt uneasy,” replied the debtor, “when I saw you sitting most uncomfortably on the threshold yesterday. By coming early this morning you can occupy a chair.”

Master of Games: Xin juan xiao lin guang ji
(*Jest Book: Newly Engraved Edition*)

致选译者



“中华传统文化精粹”丛书,是根据我公司 20 世纪 90 年代出版的“一百丛书”重新编选、修订的。与本丛书有关的各项版权事宜,包括选译者的稿酬等,我公司已委托中华版权代理总公司代为办理。

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中国对外翻译出版公司

2007 年 11 月

[G e n e r a l I n f o r m a t i o n]

书名 = 中国幽默故事选

作者 = 卢允中编选、英译

页数 = 262

SS号 = 11898512

出版日期 = 2007.12

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书名
版权
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