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About the Translators

季布栾布列传

【原文】

季布者,楚人也。为气任侠,有名于楚。项籍使将兵,数窘汉王。及项羽灭,高祖购求布千金,敢有舍匿,罪及三族。季布匿濮阳周氏。周氏曰:"汉购将军急,迹且至臣家,将军能听臣,臣敢献计;即不能,愿先自刭。"季布许之。乃髡钳季布,衣褐衣,置广柳车中,并与其家僮数十人,之鲁朱家所卖之。朱家心知是季布,乃买而置之田,诫其子曰:"田事听此奴,必与同食。"朱家乃乘轺车之洛阳,见汝阴侯滕公。滕公留朱家饮数日。因谓滕公曰:"季布何大罪,而上求之急也?"滕公曰:"布

【今译】

季布,是楚国人。仗义行侠,在楚国很有名。项籍派他率领军队,多次使汉王陷于困境。到项羽被消灭后,高祖悬赏千金捉拿季布,敢有窝藏的,连坐三族。季布躲在濮阳一个姓周的人家。周氏说:"汉朝悬赏捉拿将军很急,追查踪迹很快要到我家里了,将军如果能够听从我,我愿意替你出个计策;如果不能,我情愿先在你面前自杀。"季布答应了他。于是周氏给季布剃去头发套上铁锁,换上粗布衣服,让他坐进运棺材的车里,和周家的数十名家僮一起,到鲁县把他们卖给朱家。朱家心里知道是季布,就买了下来将他安排到田里去干活,并告诫他的儿子说:"年市,就买了下来将他安排到田里去干活,并告诫他的儿子说:"年市,就买了下来将他安排到田里去干活,并告诫他的儿子说:"年市,就买了下来将他安排到田里去干活,并告诫他的儿子说:"年市,就买了下来将他安排到田里去干活,并告诫他的儿子说:"年市,就买了下来将他安排到田里去干活,并告诫他的儿子说:"年市,就买了下来将他安排到田里去干活,并告诫他的儿子说:"年初,是一样他这么

Ji Bu and Luan Bu

Ji Bu was a man of Chu, where he was well-known for his gallantry and spirit. Made a general by Xiang Yu, he worsted the king of Han (206B.C.-8A.D.) on several occasions. After Xiang Yu perished, the emperor offered a reward of a thousand gold pieces for his capture, threatening anyone who dared to shelter him with the destruction of three classes of their relatives.

Ji Bu took refuge in Puyang with a man named Zhou, who told him, "The emperor is searching hard for you, general, and will soon trace you here. If you are willing to take my advice, I shall venture to propose a plan. If not, I had better kill myself."

Ji Bu agreed to his plan and let himself be shaved and dressed in coarse clothes, with an iron chain round his neck. Then he was sent in a covered wagon with several dozen slaves to be sold to Zhu Jia in Lu.

Zhu Jia, knowing that this was Ji Bu, bought him and set him to work on his farm. He instructed his son, "You must farm as this slave says and share your meals with him." Then he went by a one-horse carriage to Luoyang to see Xiahou Ying, marquis of Ruyin and Lord Teng. The latter entertained him for several days, and Zhu Jia found an opportunity to ask, "What is Ji Bu's great crime that the emperor is searching so hard for him?"

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【原文】

数为项羽窘上,上怨之,故必欲得之。"朱家曰:"君视季布何如人也?"曰:"贤者也。"朱家曰:"臣各为其主用,季布为项籍用,职耳。项氏臣可尽诛邪?今上始得天下,独以己之私怨求一人,何示天下之不广也!且以季布之贤而汉求之急如此,此不北走胡即南走越耳。夫忌壮士以资敌国,此伍子胥所以鞭荆平王之墓也。君何不从容为上言邪?"汝阴侯滕公心知朱家大侠,意季布匿其所,乃许曰:"诺。"待间,果言如朱家旨。上乃赦季布。当是时,诸公皆多季布能摧刚为柔,朱家亦以此名闻当世。季布召见,谢,上拜为郎中。

【今译】

急?" 滕公说:"季布好几次替项羽把皇上逼入困境,皇上怨恨他,因此一定要捉到他。"朱家说:"您看季布是个什么样的人?"滕公说:"是个贤能的人。"朱家说:"臣子各自替自己的主子尽力,季布替项羽尽力,这是他的职责而已。项氏的臣子难道能统斩尽杀光吗?当今皇上刚刚得到天下,仅仅为了自己的私仇而四处搜捕这么一个人,这是告诉天下的人自己的心胸是多么不广阔!况且像季布这样贤能的人而汉朝搜捕他急成这样,这使他不是向北逃往匈奴,就是向南逃往南越。像这种嫉恨壮士反而逼他去帮助敌国的事情,就是伍子胥之所以会对楚平王掘墓鞭尸的缘故。您为什么不找个机会对皇上说说呢?"汝阴侯滕公心里知道朱家是一位大侠,料想季布就躲藏在他家中,便答应说:"好。"等到有了机会,滕公果然照朱家的意思向皇上进言。皇上于是赦免了季布。在这个时候,大家都赞赏季布能变刚为柔,朱家也因此命他做郎中。

"Ji Bu often had him on the spot when he was fighting for Xiang Yu," replied Lord Teng. "The emperor bears him such a grudge that he has set his heart on capturing him."

"What is your opinion of Ji Bu?"

"An able man."

"Every subject serves his own master. Ji Bu, serving Xiang Yu, was doing no more than his duty. Does the emperor mean to kill all Xiang Yu's followers? The empire is newly won and if the emperor hounds one man on account of a private grudge, how narrow-minded the world is going to think him! Besides, if Ji Bu is an able man and the emperor hounds him like this, he will escape north to the Huns or south to the Yues. Goading a good man into helping an enemy state was what made Wu Zixu whip the grave of the king of Chu. Might you mention this to the emperor if an occasion arises?"

Lord Teng knew that Zhu Jia was noble-minded and guessed that Ji Bu was hiding with him, so he agreed. Later he found occasion to speak to the emperor as Zhu Jia had suggested, and Ji Bu was pardoned.

Ji Bu won general approval at the time for the way he adapted himself to circumstances, while Zhu Jia made a name. for himself on this account too. Ji Bu was summoned to court, where he apologized to the emperor and was appointed an imperial guardsman.

孝惠时,为中郎将。单于尝为书嫚吕后,不逊,吕后大怒,召诸将议之。上将军樊哙曰:"臣愿得十万众,横行匈奴中。"诸将皆阿吕后意,曰:"然。"季布曰:"樊哙可斩也!夫高帝将兵四十余万众,困于平城,今哙奈何以十万众横行匈奴中,面欺!且秦以事于胡,陈胜等起。于今创痍未瘳,哙又面谀,欲摇动天下。"是时殿上皆恐,太后罢朝,遂不复议击匈奴事。

季布为河东守,孝文时,人有言其贤者,孝文召,欲以为御史 大夫。复有言其勇,使酒难近。至,留邸一月,见罢。季布因进 曰:"臣无功窃宠,待罪河东。陛下无故召臣,此人必有以臣欺陛

【今译】

孝惠帝的时候,季布担任中郎将。匈奴单于曾写信侮辱吕后,对吕后出言不逊,吕后大怒,召集众将领来商议这件事。上将军樊哙说:"我愿意带领十万兵马,在匈奴境内横冲直撞。"各位将领都迎合吕后的心意,说:"对。"季布说:"樊哙该杀!高祖带兵四十多万人,尚且被匈奴围困在平城,现在樊哙怎么可能凭十万人就在匈奴境内横冲直撞呢,真是当面骗人!况且秦朝正是因为对胡人用兵,才引起陈胜等的暴动。至今战争的创伤还没有医治好,樊哙又当面阿谀逢迎,企图使天下陷于动荡。"这时殿上的人都非常惊恐,太后退朝,就不再商议征伐匈奴的事了。

季布担任河东郡守,孝文帝的时候,有人推荐说他很贤能,孝文帝召见他,想任用他做御史大夫。又有人说他勇敢,爱喝酒使性子,令人难以亲近。季布到京城,留在客馆里住了一个月,文帝见过就不理他了。季布因此向皇上进言说:"我无功而受宠,得以在河东担任郡守。陛下平白无故地召见我,这一定是有人拿

During the reign of Emperor Hui, while Ji Bu was captain of the imperial guards, the Hunnish khan sent a coarse and insulting letter to Empress Lü. In a rage, she summoned the generals for a consultation.

Fan Kuai the high marshal said, "Give me a hundred thousand men and the Huns will scatter before me."

Other generals, to please the empress, expressed approval.

But Ji Bu said, "Fan Kuai deserves to lose his head. The First Emperor, with more than four hundred thousand men, was nevertheless surrounded at Pingcheng. Now Fan Kuai with a hundred thousand will make the Huns scatter before him. A bare-faced lie! Besides, it was Qin's campaigns against the Huns that enabled Chen She and the rest to start a rebellion. The country has not yet recovered from the ravages of war, but Fan Kuai is flattering you to stir up fresh trouble for the empire."

The whole court was aghast. Empress Lü dismissed the generals, and no more was said about attacking the Huns.

In the reign of Emperor Wen, when Ji Bu was governor of Hedong, someone recommended him to the emperor, who summoned him to the capital with the intention of making him a chief counsellor. Then, however, it was reported that he was reckless, headstrong when in his cups, and hard to deal with. So after his arrival he was lodged in a government hostel for a month and then dismissed.

When he went to take his leave of the emperor, he said, "For no merit of mine, I was favoured with the governorship of Hedong, then received an unexpected summons to court, due no doubt to an unwar-

下者。今臣至,无所受事,罢去,此人必有以毁臣者。夫陛下以一人之誉而召臣,一人之毁而去臣,臣恐天下有识闻之有以窥陛下也。"上默然惭,良久曰:"河东吾股肱郡,故特召君耳。"布辞之官。

楚人曹丘生,辩士,数招权顾金钱。事贵人赵同等,与窦长君善。季布闻之,寄书谏窦长君曰:"吾闻曹丘生非长者,勿与通。"及曹丘生归,欲得书请季布。窦长君曰:"季将军不说足下,足下无往。"固请书,遂行。使人先发书,季布果大怒,待曹丘。曹丘至,即揖季布曰:"楚人谚曰'得黄金百,不如得季布

【今译】

我来欺骗陛下。现在我到了,没有什么事情,就这样让我回去, 这就一定有人在陛下面前讲我的坏话。陛下因为有一个人称赞我 便召见我,因为有一个人诋毁我便让我回去,我担心天下有识之 士听说了这件事就会由此看出您的深浅来了。"皇上默不作声, 心中惭愧,过了好一会儿才说:"河东是我最重要的郡,所以特地 召见你罢了。"季布便告辞回到河东任上。

楚人曹丘生,是一个能言善辩的人,曾多次用金钱巴结权贵。他侍奉权贵赵同等人,与窦长君要好。季布听说这件事后,寄信劝窦长君说:"我听说曹丘生不是个有德的人,不要和他来往。"等到曹丘生回去时,要窦长君写封介绍信好去见季布。窦长君说:"季将军不喜欢你,你不要去。"曹丘生坚持请窦长君写了,于是拿着信走了。窦长君先派人给季布送信,季布果然大为愤怒,等着曹丘生到来。曹丘生到了,马上向季布长揖行礼说:"楚人有句谚语说'得到黄金一百,不如得到季布一句允诺',

ranted recommendation. Since my arrival, however, I have been given no new appointment but dismissed, due no doubt to some detractor. Apparently Your Majesty summoned me on one man's recommendation and dismissed me because another spoke ill of me. I fear that all intelligent men who hear this will know how to judge you, sir."

After a long, embarrassed silence the emperor said, "Hedong is a vital province in my eyes. That is why I sent for you." Then Ji Bu returned to his post.

An orator of Chu known as Master Caoqiu relied on influential connections to make money. He undertook certain tasks for Zhao Tong and other high officials, and was on good terms with Empress Jing's uncle, Dou Changjun. When Ji Bu knew this he wrote to warn Lord Dou, "I hear bad reports of Caoqiu Sheng. Better have nothing to do with the man!"

As Caoqiu Sheng was about to return to Chu, he asked Lord Dou for a letter of introduction to Ji Bu.

"General Ji has taken a dislike to you," said Lord Dou. "I advise you to steer clear of him."

But Caoqiu insisted on going. The letter of introduction was sent on ahead and, sure enough, Ji Bu was very angry as he waited for the orator.

Caoqiu, arriving, bowed to Ji Bu and said, "The men of Chu have a saying, 'A promise from Ji Bu is worth more than a hundred catties

一诺',足下何以得此声于梁楚间哉?且仆楚人,足下亦楚人也。 仆游扬足下之名于天下,顾不重邪?何足下距仆之深也!"季布乃 大说,引入,留数月,为上客,厚送之。季布名所以益闻者,曹丘 扬之也。

季布弟季心,气盖关中,遇人恭谨,为任侠,方数千里,士皆 争为之死。尝杀人,亡之吴,从袁丝匿。长事袁丝,弟畜灌夫、籍 福之属。尝为中司马,中尉郅都不敢不加礼。少年多时时窃籍其名 以行。当是时,季心以勇,布以诺,著闻关中。

季布母弟丁公,为楚将。丁公为项羽逐窘高祖彭城西,短兵接,高祖急,顾丁公曰:"两贤岂相厄哉!"于是丁公引兵而还,

【今译】

您凭什么能在梁国、楚国一带获得这样的名声呢?况且我是楚国人,您也是楚国人。我周游天下到处宣扬您的大名,您却这样不重视我吗?您拒绝我怎么这么远呢!"季布于是十分高兴,把他请了进去,留住了几个月,待为贵宾,临走时又送他一份厚礼。季布的名声之所以更大,就是曹丘生替他宣传的。

季布的弟弟季心,勇气和胆略在关中最有名,待人恭敬谨慎,行侠仗义,方圆数千里之内,士人都争着为他尽力效死。他曾经杀了人,逃亡到吴国,躲在袁丝家里。他以服侍长辈之礼对待袁丝,像对待弟弟一样照顾灌夫、籍福等人。他曾经担任过中司马,中尉郅都也不敢不礼遇他。年轻人很多常常假冒他的名义在外行事。那个时候,季心以他的勇敢,季布以他的信用,闻名关中。

季布的舅舅丁公,是楚王项羽的将领。丁公曾经为项羽率军 追困高祖于彭城之西,短兵相接,高祖危急,回头对丁公说:"两 of gold.' How did you make such a name for yourself in Liang and Chu? I am a native of Chu and so are you. Have I not done much to spread your fame through the world? Why should you be so prejudiced against me?"

Ji Bu was very pleased. He invited Caoqiu in and kept him for several months as his honoured guest, loading him with rich gifts when he left. It was indeed Caoqiu who helped to spread Ji Bu's fame.

Ji Bu's younger brother Ji Xin was so renowned within the Pass for his courtesy and chivalry that gentlemen for a thousand k around would risk their lives for him. Once he killed a man and fled to Wu to take refuge with Yuan Si. He treated Yuan Si as his senior and men like Guan Fu and Ji Fu as his juniors. When he served as major to the metropolitan commander Zhi Du, the latter had to show him respect. Many young men went about doing things in his name. For at that time Ji Xin's courage and Ji Bu's integrity were famed throughout the area within the Pass.

Ji Bu's maternal uncle, Lord Ding, was a general of Chu who had served under Xiang Yu and driven the Han emperor west of Pengcheng, where the two of them crossed swords. The emperor in desperation had turned to ask him, "Why should two good men harass each other like this?" Then Lord Ding led his forces back, allowing the emperor

汉王遂解去。及项王灭,丁公谒见高祖。高祖以丁公徇军中,曰: "丁公为项王臣不忠,使项王失天下者,乃丁公也。"遂斩丁公,曰:"使后世为人臣者无效丁公!"

栾布者,梁人也。始梁王彭越为家人时,尝与布游。穷困, 赁佣于齐,为酒人保。数岁,彭越去之巨野中为盗,而布为人所 略卖,为奴于燕。为其家主报仇,燕将臧荼举以为都尉。臧荼后 为燕王,以布为将。及臧荼反,汉击燕,虏布。梁王彭越闻之, 乃言上,请赎布以为梁大夫。

使于齐,未还,汉召彭越,责以谋反,夷三族。已而枭彭越

【今译】

个贤能的人何必相互残害呢!"于是丁公带兵返回,汉王才得以脱险而去。等项王被消灭,丁公去拜见高祖。高祖将丁公在军营中示众,说:"丁公身为项王的臣子而不忠于项王,使项王丧失天下的,正是丁公。"于是杀了丁公,说:"让后代做人臣子的不要效法丁公!"

栾布,是梁国人。当初梁王彭越还是普通百姓的时候,曾与栾布交往。栾布家里穷,到齐地做工,在一家酒店里当雇工。过了几年,彭越离家到巨野一带当了强盗,而栾布被人劫去卖掉,在燕地当奴隶。栾布替他的主人报仇,燕国的将军臧荼推荐他做了都尉。臧荼后来当了燕王,任用栾布为将军。到臧荼反叛时,汉朝攻打燕国,俘虏了栾布。梁王彭越听说了这件事,就去请求皇上,赎回栾布让他做了梁国的大夫。

栾布奉命出使齐国,还没有回来,汉高祖召见彭越,指责他 图谋反叛,将他父母、兄弟、妻子三族斩尽杀绝。行刑后又将彭 to escape. After Xiang Yu had been destroyed Lord Ding went to see the emperor, who denounced him publicly before the army.

"Lord Ding was disloyal to Xiang Yu," he said. "It was he who lost Xiang Yu his empire." He had him beheaded and warned, "Let no subject henceforward follow Lord Ding's example!"

Luan Bu was a man of Liang who befriended Peng Yue, king of Liang, when he was still a common citizen. Being hard pressed for money, they worked as hired hands in Qi and as waiters in a tavern. Some years later Peng Yue became a brigand in the Juye Marshes, but Luan Bu was captured and sold as a slave in Yan. Subsequently he avenged his master's death and General Zang Tu of Yan made him a commander. After Zang Tu became king of Yan, he made Luan Bu a general. When Zang Tu revolted, the army of Han attacked Yan and Luan Bu was captured. News of this reached Peng Yue, then king of Liang, who interceded with the emperor for Luan Bu's release and made him one of his ministers.

Luan Bu was sent as an envoy to Qi, but before his return the emperor summoned Peng Yue to court, accused him of treason and wiped out all his kinsmen. Peng Yue's head was displayed on the gate