

LIAOZHAI GUSHIXUAN

马德五

编译

Selected Stories of
LiaoZhai ZhiYi



聊斋故事选

[英汉对照]



安徽人民出版社



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责任编辑:孙文波

封面设计:亚施设计·李 昕

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Preface

序 言

A Brief Background of the Stories in the Book

Buddhism was founded in India two thousand and five hundred years ago. Five hundred years later in the first century of Christian era, the religion was introduced into China, and the Chinese people accepted the doctrine almost immediately. By the fifth century, Buddhism had been widely accepted by almost every Chinese person, and the emperors of many kingdoms in China worshiped Buddha so reverently that they even made Buddhism their national religion.

Taoism was a religion founded by the Chinese in the third century. By the sixth century, the religion was so enthusiastically endorsed by the Chinese people that it became the only religion able to compete with Buddhism in China. Since then, the Chinese people have mixed the doctrines of both Buddhism and Taoism into a kind of unique belief containing the most superstitious parts of the

书中故事的背景 简介

佛教是两千五百年前在印度创立的。五百年后也就是公元一世纪时传入了中国,几乎是立刻就被中国人所接受。到了五世纪时,佛教已经差不多被每一个中国人信仰,而且中国的很多皇帝因为信仰太深了而把佛教定为国教。

道教是三世纪时由中国人自己创立的。到了六世纪时,道教已经被中国人广泛信仰,成了在中国可以与佛教相抗衡的唯一宗教。自此以后,中国人就把佛教与道教中最为迷信的部分混合而成为一种独特的信仰了。

two religions.

What are those superstitions?

For thousands of years, the Chinese people have always believed that after death a person will become a ghost living in the world of the underground. A ghost will be arranged to be reborn as a person again. If a person has performed a great number of good deeds in his life, after death the spirit (ghost) of the person will be arranged to be reborn into a rich and dignified family to enjoy a good life. If the person has committed a great number of bad deeds, after death the spirit of the person will be arranged to be reborn into a poor family to suffer a miserable life, or simply be arranged to be reborn as an animal to live a cruel life.

Who is in charge of these rebirths? In the world of the underground, there is a grand ruler called Yama who is assisted by many ghost officials handling the everyday official business pretty much like the government functions in the world of human beings. The ghost officials are in charge of the rebirth of the ghosts under the leadership of Yama.

Above the world of human beings is a world of immortals in heaven. In the world of

这些迷信究竟又是些什么呢?

千百年来,中国人都相信一个人死后便会变成鬼住在地下的世界里。鬼是可以被安排投胎重新为人的。如果这个人在世时曾经做过很多的善事,死后他的鬼魂便会被安排投胎于一个富贵的人家,享受美好的人生。如果这个人在世时曾经做过很多的恶事,死后他的鬼魂便会被安排投胎于一个贫穷的人家,困苦一生,或者干脆被安排投胎为一个畜生,过着悲惨的生活。

谁来主持这些投胎转世的事情呢?在地下的世界里,有一个统治者名叫阎罗王,他有很多的鬼官吏辅助他处理这些日常事务,就好像人世间的政府运转一样。在阎罗王的领导下,这批鬼官吏们负责办理一切鬼魂投胎转世的事务。

在人的世界外,还有天堂,那就是神仙的

immortals, there is a grand ruler called Jade Emperor who is assisted by many immortal officials to rule all the immortals, also similar to the government system in the world of human beings.

Every person and animal has a spirit. Even a plant also has a spirit. The life of a person or an animal or a plant will come to an end, which means death. But its spirit will still exist and can be reborn.

An immortal will not die, but can be punished by being reborn as a person living in the human world if he or she makes a great mistake.

And a person, an animal, a plant, or a ghost can also become an immortal if he or she is aware enough of the way and can commit to going through a very strict regime of ascetic practices.

All the ghosts, the immortals, and even some of the spirits of animals or plants may have somewhat supernatural powers, which human beings do not have. Furthermore, all the ghosts, immortals, animals, and plants may have affections and dislikes as humans do.

世界。在神仙的世界里有一位最高统治者名叫玉皇大帝,玉皇大帝有很多神仙官员辅助他管理所有的神仙,也如同人世间的政府系统一样。

每一个人和每一个畜生都有一个灵魂。就连每一株植物也有一个灵魂。每一个人、一个畜生或一株植物的生命都会终止,就是说死亡。可是,他的灵魂仍然存在而且能够投胎转世。

神仙是不会死亡的,但是,如果一个神仙犯了大错,他就会被惩罚投胎为人,生活在人的世界中。

人、畜生、树木或鬼如果可以悟道而且能够严格履行禁欲修道的密窍的话,也是可以变成神仙的。

所有的鬼、神仙,甚至一些畜生或树木的精灵都会有些超自然的法力,而人类则不拥有。此外,鬼、神仙、动物以及植物也和人类一样有感情和喜恶。

Thus, in this book, a love story between a human and a spirit is much more attractive and complicated than those that occur strictly between two humans. The spirits in the book are all vividly personified. They live with humans in the human world, and also in their own world. They travel from one world to the other easily and frequently. Although they have the advantage of supernatural powers, they still like to show themselves in human form. They look and act like human beings when they live in the human world. It is sometimes hard to distinguish which one is human and which is spirit. The ingenious revelation of that secret, therefore, often becomes the most exciting part of the story.

Stories Selected from Liao Zhai is a collection of 21 such complex and enticing stories, which I selected and translated from an old Chinese book, *Liao Zhai Zhi Yi*, by Pu Song Ling (1640–1715). *Liao Zhai Zhi Yi* has been unanimously acknowledged, both popularly and academically, as the most remarkable work of this sort in the thousands of years of the Chinese literature history.

因此,这本书中关于人和精灵之间的恋爱故事比那些只发生在两个人之间的恋爱故事更为复杂和有趣的多。书中的精灵都被很生动地拟人化了。他们与人共同生活在人的世界,也生活在他们自己的世界里。他们来回于这两个世界是那么地轻易和频繁。虽然他们拥有超自然的法力,可他们却仍喜欢以人的形态出现。当他们居住在人的世界时,他们在外观及行为上完全像人。有时候就很难区分出谁是人、谁是精灵。因此,当这个秘密被巧妙地揭穿时往往也就是这个故事的高潮。

《聊斋故事选译》包含 21 个这样复杂和有趣的故事,是我从一本中国古书,即蒲松龄(1640—1715 年)的《聊斋志异》中精选出来后翻译而成的。《聊斋志异》不论在学术上抑或在通俗上都被公认为是数千年中国文学史上该领域里最为杰出的一本巨著。

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Happenings by the Han River

汉水河边的故事

A man named Yu Jing ran short of money while traveling through a town by the Han River in west-central China. He was awfully tired and hungry, but he had no money to buy food or check into an inn. Before sunset, he passed by a small temple with its door wide open. He went inside and found that it was a temple worshipping the Goddess of Han River, with a large painted carved wooden statue of the Goddess on the altar. On the walls of two sides, there were many carved Chinese characters praising the Goddess. Obviously, nobody lived in the temple, as Yu Jing did not see a person in the building. As it was getting dark, he decided to spend the night there.

"It'll be much better than sleeping on the road," he told himself.

Before lying down on the floor in a corner of the main hall, he knelt down toward the wooden Goddess, self-introducing and explaining his destitute situation. He prayed for help from the Goddess. Then he drifted off to sleep.

汉水位于中国的中西部。一天,有个名叫余京的男子行经汉水旁一个小镇时发现川资短缺。虽然又累又饿,可他无钱去购买食物或住进旅舍。夕阳西下时,他经过了一座很小的庙宇,庙宇的门是开着的。他走了进去,发现这是个供奉汉水女神的庙宇。供台上有座很大的木刻女神塑像,两边的墙壁上还可以看到很多刻着赞美女神的文字。到处看不到一个人,显然,没有人居住在这庙里。由于天色已晚,余京决定就在那儿过夜。

"这总比睡在马路上强多了。"他自语着说。

他在大殿一角的地面上躺下之前,向着木塑的女神像跪下,喃喃地自我介绍、陈述他的窘境。他祈求女神的帮助,然后便倒头睡去。

Soon a man in a gray uniform came to Yu Jing, telling him that the Goddess of Han River had received his request and wanted to see him. Standing up and following the man, Yu Jing entered a splendid hall. He saw a dignified lady sitting on a platform, and many female officials in different colored uniforms standing on either side. The man whispered to Yu Jing that the dignified lady was the Goddess and urged him to kneel down toward her. Yu Jing did immediately and respectfully.

The Goddess seemed to be kind. She gently asked Yu Jing to stand up before asking her officials, "Which team has a vacancy?"

One female official, dressed in black, reported humbly, "I have a vacancy in my team."

"Put him in," the Goddess ordered.

The official walked over and gave Yu Jing a black coat asking him to wear.

Putting on the coat, Yu Jing suddenly turned into a blackbird.

Flying out of the hall and joining countless other blackbirds resting on trees outside of the temple, he received a warm welcome from

不久,一个身着灰色制服的男子来到了余京的面前,告诉他女神已经收到了他的请求要召见他。余京站起身子,跟着这个男子走进了一座豪华大殿。他看到了一位高贵的女士坐在上,两边站立着很多女官,她们穿着各种不同颜色的制服。这个男子向着余京耳语,告诉他这位高贵的女士就是女神,要他向她下跪。余京立刻恭敬地跪下了。

女神看起来很慈祥。她温和地要余京站起来,然后问她的官员们,“哪一个队里还有缺额?”

一个身着黑色衣服的女官恭敬地回答,“我的队里还有一个缺额。”

“把他补上去。”女神命令道。

这个官员走过来给了余京一件黑色的上衣,要他穿上。

穿上了上衣,余京突然变成了一只黑色的鸟。

飞出大殿后,他加入了停在庙外树上无数鸟儿们的行列,接受它们的

the other birds.

The next morning, he followed the birds' leader flying toward the riverside, where he found many boatmen throwing their leftovers into the water. Yu Jing joined the other birds as they dropped down searching for a good, tasty meal. After eating, the birds flew to a nearby forest, playing in the branches and darting from one tree to the other. It was indeed a carefree life, but Yu Jing was not happy as he missed his family.

The bird leader soon understood Yu Jing's situation and reported it to the team official. The next day, the Goddess of Han River assigned a female bird named Zhu Qing to be Yu Jing's wife. Zhu Qing was a pretty, young blackbird with a few long yellow feathers on her neck that made her quite attractive. The newlyweds loved and cared for each other very much. In the daytime, Yu Jing and Zhu Qing ate and played together. When the darkness covered the ground, they rested on the same branch. Yu Jing did not feel lonely any more.

Because Yu Jing had been a human, he was not afraid of people when the birds were scavenging for food among the boatmen's garbage. In order to find better and more food, Yu

热烈欢迎。

第二天早晨,他追随着群鸟的领袖飞到水边。在那儿,他发现很多船民将他们的残羹剩饭倒向河里。余京跟着群鸟飞下去寻觅一顿美味的大餐。吃饱了以后,鸟儿们飞到附近的森林里,在树丛中飞逐嬉戏,玩得不亦乐乎。这真是无忧无虑的生活,可是余京并不快乐,因为他思念他的家人。

鸟领袖很快得知了余京的情况,于是向它们队上的官员报告。第二天,汉水女神指派了一只名叫竹青的雌鸟作为余京的妻子。竹青是一只年轻美丽的黑鸟,她的颈子上长有几根长长的黄色羽毛,益发显得妩媚。新婚夫妇非常恩爱。白天,余京与竹青一同觅食和游戏。当天色昏暗了以后,它们便栖息在同一根树枝上。余京不再感觉寂寞了。

因为余京曾经是人,当群鸟飞向船民抛弃的残腐食物争相抢夺时,他是一点儿也不惧怕人的。由于想获得更多更好的

Jing often flew close to the boatmen. Zhu Qing warned him of the danger, but he seldom listened to her. They argued about it, but soon afterward, they became cheerful again as he realized that all her warnings came from love. He promised her that he would take her advice not to fly too closely to the people again. But whenever he discovered the food, he would soon forget his promise to her.

One day, a boatman's boy used a hand-made bow to shoot at Yu Jing while Yu Jing's head was bowed to look for food. Yu Jing was injured badly, unable to fly up. Before the boy came over to catch him, Zhu Qing flew down trying to attack the boy. The unexpected attack frightened the boy away, and Zhu Qing carried Yu Jing in her bill, flying up into the sky. It was very risky, but she bravely made it.

Zhu Qing carried Yu Jing back to the woods and put him down on the ground. Though she had tried every way she could to take good care of him, he still died a few hours later.

Suddenly, Yu Jing woke up from his dream and found that he was still sleeping in a corner of the hall in the temple. He

食物,余京往往飞近船民。竹青警告他这样做太危险了,可是他很少听进去。他们为此而时常争吵,不过吵完了很快就会和好如初,因为他知道她的用意是出于爱他。他答应她他会接受她的忠告不再飞近人们,可是每当他发现食物时,就会很快地忘记他曾经答应过她的事情了。

一天,当余京在低头寻找食物时,一个船民的儿子用手制的弹弓射中了余京。余京受伤很重,无法飞起来了。在这个男孩准备将他抓住时,竹青飞来攻击男孩。这个突如其来的攻击举动吓退了男孩,竹青用她那尖长的嘴巴将余京衔起飞向天空。这是一个非常冒险的行为,然而她勇敢地完成了。

竹青将余京衔到森林里,把他放在地上。虽然她尽其全力去照顾他,数个小时后他还是死了。

突然间,余京从梦中醒了过来,发现他仍然躺在这座庙宇大殿一角

remembered everything vividly in his dream of becoming a bird. Standing up, he found that he did not feel hungry anymore, but he had sharp pain in both his shoulders.

Later that day, when a few wealthy people came to the temple to offer sacrifices to the Goddess, they met Yu Jing and realized his destitute situation. A kind man donated a small amount of money to Yu Jing for his travel fees, and he returned home.

A year later, when Yu Jing was again passing through the town near Han River, he purposely stopped at the temple. He found many blackbirds flying in the trees. He bought a small bag of corn and tossed them up into the sky to feed the birds.

"If Zhu Qing is here, please fly down and stand in front of me," he prayed.

When no bird flew down, Yu Jing was disappointed. Going inside of the temple, he knelt down before the statue of the Goddess, telling her how much he appreciated the help she had given to him a year earlier. Then he went to the town and checked into a small inn to sleep.

When Yu Jing was about to go to bed, a blackbird flew into his room. Before Yu Jing

的地上。他清晰地记得在梦中他变成了一只鸟后的每一件事情。站起身子,他发觉自己现在是一点儿也不感到饥饿了,不过两个臂膀上感到剧痛。

那天以后,当一些富裕的人来到庙宇向女神提供祭品时,他们遇到余京,知道了他的困境。一个好心肠的男子赠送余京一些路费,于是他回到了家。

一年后,余京又经过汉水旁边的这个集镇,他故意在这座庙宇内停留了一下。他发现很多只黑鸟在树丛中飞来飞去。他买了一小袋玉米撒向空中喂鸟。

"假如竹青也在这儿,请飞下来站在我的面前。"他祈祷着。

当没有一只鸟儿飞下时,余京感到很失望。他走进庙宇内,跪倒在女神的塑像前,告诉她他是如何地感谢一年前她所给他的帮助。然后他进去了集镇,找了一家小旅舍准备就寝。

当余京正要睡觉时,一只黑色的鸟飞进了他

could react, the bird stood on the ground and turned into a pretty lady, smiling at Yu Jing.

“I’m your wife, Zhu Qing,” she said sweetly.

Then Zhu Qing told the confused Yu Jing that because of her for her brave rescue of him from the boy’s control a year ago, the Goddess of Han River praised her courage and wisdom and appointed her the official in charge of all the blackbirds by the riverside. When he was feeding the birds outside the temple, she was in a meeting with the Goddess. Upon her return, she was informed of his arrival by the other birds, and immediately flew over to meet him.

They hugged and kissed just like a husband and wife after a long time of separation. Yu Jing and Zhu Qing had a very sweet conjugal relationship that night in the small hotel room.

But when he woke up the next morning, Yu Jing was further surprised to find that he was sleeping in a beautiful bedroom with his pretty wife, Zhu Qing, by his side. She told him, “While you were sound asleep last night, I moved you to my home.”

Looking around, Yu Jing found that this

的屋内。在余京还未来得及有任何举动前,鸟儿站在地上变成了一位美丽的 女子,向着余京微笑。

“我是你的妻子竹青,”她甜甜地说。

竹青告诉错愕中的余京,因为一年前她勇敢地从一个男孩的控制中拯救了他,女神赞赏她的勇气及智慧,指派她为官员,负责管理河边的所有黑鸟。当他在庙宇前面喂鸟时,她正参加女神召集的一个会议。她回来后群鸟连忙告诉她他来了,所以她立刻飞来与他见面。

他们拥抱热吻,如同一对久别重逢的夫妇。当天夜晚,余京和竹青在这个小旅舍的房间里享受了甜蜜的夫妻生活。

可是当他第二天醒来后,余京更为惊讶地发觉他睡在一间漂亮的卧房里,而他的美丽妻子竹青正睡在他的身旁。她告诉他,“昨天夜里当你熟睡时,我将你移来我的家里了。”

四周一望,余京发现这真是一座漂亮的房子,

was a nice house much better than his own home. Yu Jing happily stayed with his bird wife, Zhu Qing, at her home, and she took good care of him.

But Yu Jing had already been married before meeting Zhu Qing in a dream. His human wife was at home a hundred miles away. After having been with Zhu Qing for a month, he missed his human wife and worried about her because he had been away for too long. He told Zhu Qing that he must return to his own home.

Zhu Qing was very considerate. She did not want to force him to stay with her all the time. She took out a black coat from her closet, telling him it was the coat the official had given to him in the beginning. She taught him how to put it on to become a bird and how to take it off to turn back into a person. She told him that whenever he missed her, he could put on the coat to become a bird and fly back to stay with her again.

Yu Jing put on the coat and indeed turned into a blackbird again. It did not take him too long to fly home. After reaching his home, he used the method Zhu Qing had taught him to take off the coat and once again he became a person.

Eight months later, he missed Zhu Qing

比他自己的家要强多了。自此以后,余京愉快地住在他的鸟妻竹青的家中,接受她的细心照顾。

余京在梦中与竹青相遇前早已结婚了。他的妻子住在百里之外的家中。与竹青相聚一个月后,他开始怀念他的妻子并担心她,因为他离家太久了。他告诉竹青他必须回他自己的家了。

竹青很识大体,她并没有强力留他要她与她长住。她从衣橱中拿出了一件黑色的上衣,告诉他这还是那位官员当初给他的衣服。她教他如何穿上就可以变成一只鸟及如何脱下又会变回一个人。她对他说不论什么时候当他想念她时,他就可以将这衣服穿上变成一只鸟飞回与她再行团聚。

余京穿上了衣服,果真又变成了一只黑色的鸟。他很快地飞回了家。到家后,他用竹青教他的方法把衣服脱下又变回了一个人。

八个月后,他非常思

very much. He told his wife he must pay Zhu Qing a visit. Putting on the black coat, he became a bird and flew back to Zhu Qing. Soon after he walked into Zhu Qing's home, she happily hugged him and told him, "I'm very glad to see you back." Then, she kissed him and congratulated him.

"What are the congratulations for?"

"You are going to be a father soon," she said, "Soon after you left, I found I was pregnant. We'll have our first baby next month."

Yu Jing had been married to his human wife for several years, but they had not had any children. Now he was soon to be the father of a child. It was just too good for him to believe. He held Zhu Qing in his arms and jumped up and down and yelled wildly.

"Put me down, honey," she urged him sweetly, "You are hurting our baby."

The couple was so excited that they kept hugging and kissing until the darkness covered the ground.

A month later, Zhu Qing gave birth to a

念竹青,他告诉妻子说他想去看望竹青。穿上了黑衣,他变成了一只鸟,飞回到了竹青的家中。当他一脚踏进竹青家的大门时,她就快乐地拥抱他并告诉他,“我好高兴看到你回来。”接着她吻他并向他道喜。

“为了何事要向我道喜?”

“你很快就要做父亲了,”她说,“你走后不久,我就发现怀孕了。下个月我们的第一个小孩就要出生了。”

余京和他的元配妻子结婚已经好几年了,可他们一直没生一儿半女。现在,他不久就要成为一个孩子的父亲了,这个消息真是好得叫他难以相信。他把竹青紧紧地抱住,跳上跳下,狂叫不已。

“把我放下来,亲爱的,”她甜蜜地要求他,“你把我们的婴儿弄伤了。”

夫妻两个是如此的兴奋,他们不停地拥抱和接吻直到黑暗笼罩着大地。

一个月后,竹青生了

son. When the boy was one month old, Yu Jin flew back to his home and told his human wife the happy news about the son. His wife asked him to beg Zhu Qing if she could let him bring the boy back to let her take care of him for one month, as she had never borne a child and had so wished to. Yu Jing flew back to Zhu Qing relaying his human wife's request. Zhu Qing said it was all right for her to let his human wife take care of her son for one month, but after one month, he must bring the boy back. Yu Jing promised and took his son back to his human wife.

Yu Jing's human wife loved the boy so much that she treated the boy as if he were her own son. One month quickly passed. No matter how many times Yu Jing reminded her that he must take the boy back to his mother, his wife cried and begged him to let her have the baby for one more month. Yu Jing could not help but agree reluctantly.

Early in the second month, the baby suddenly became sick. Yu Jing and his wife brought in many doctors, but none of them could tell what was wrong with the baby. Within a few days, the boy died. Yu Jing's wife was so sad that she tried to hang herself. Luckily, Yu Jing had discovered before another tragedy

一个男孩。当小孩满月时,余京飞回他的家中告诉妻子这个好消息:他有儿子了。妻子要他央求竹青同意他把小孩带回家来让她照顾一个月,因为她从来没有生育过,好想也能带一带孩子。余京飞回竹青家转述了他妻子的要求。竹青说可以让他的发妻带一个月,不过,一个月到期必须把小孩带回给她。余京答应照办,于是他把他的儿子带回家交给他的发妻。

余京的发妻非常疼爱这个小男孩,把他当作自己的亲生孩子一样地爱护。一个月很快过去了,不管余京如何提醒她应该把孩子带回给他的母亲,他的发妻都哭着央求他让她再带一个月。余京没办法只好勉强同意。

第二个月刚开始,小婴儿就突然生病。余京和他的妻子请了很多医生,可是没有一个医生知道这个婴儿生的是什么病。不过数日,小孩就死了。余京的妻子伤心极了,甚至企图上吊自杀,在这第二个悲剧发生前,