

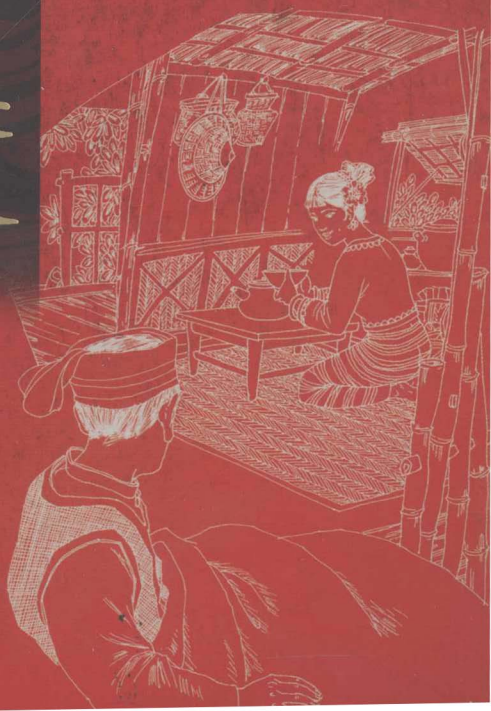
中国经典文化故事系列

Chinese Classic Cultural Stories Series

Ebing and Sangluo

娥并与桑洛

张祖荣 改编
朱宝锋 英译
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广东省出版集团

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一、桑洛降生

1. The Birth of Sangluo

在云岭以南那片广袤的土地西边，自北而南横亘着一座高耸入云的高黎贡山。高黎贡山有些山峰是终年积雪的。每到春暖花开，冰雪消融，从山上就流下一条条清澈的山泉，这些山泉弹着叮叮咚咚的无弦琴，到山下就汇成那条瑞丽江，然后它南出国门，并入伊洛瓦底江后一直流向印度洋。这条高黎贡山下的瑞丽江，哺育了一个个美丽的傣家寨子，养育了成千上万的傣家人。“泡沫跟着波浪漂，傣家跟着流水跑”，这句傣家谚语活生生地画出了这条傣家的母亲河跟傣家的关系。

To the southwest of the Yunling Mountain in Yunnan Province, southwest China, there extends a mountain named the Gaoligong Mountain, with some peaks covered by snow all year long. When spring comes, snow melts and gathers into clean streams down the mountain. These streams converge into a river called the Ruili River at the foot of the mountain, which flows southward out of the Chinese territory and then is embedded to the Yiluowadi River until it reaches the Indian Ocean. It is the Ruili River at the foot of the Gaoligong Mountain that nurtures thousands of the Dai people at a number of beautiful villages. As a proverb of the Dais goes,



“Bubbles drift with waves, and the Dai people inhabit along the river banks”, a picture is vividly presented of the close relationship between the river and the Dais.

在这些傣家寨子中，最美的就要数景多昂。景多昂也像其他傣家寨子一样，“寨前渔，寨后猎”，山清水秀，就像画中的仙境一样。景多昂非常热闹，赶街人的脚把街上铺的石板都要磨成镜子了。由于田好水好，这里的人衣食无忧，每当成排成行的竹楼的角指向星星和月亮时，猫多哩（小伙子）的琴声和小卜哨（少女）的口弦就此起彼伏地响成一片了。

Of those Dai villages, the most beautiful one is called Jingduoang, surrounded by green mountains and clean waters, which was like a picturesque fairyland. Like people at other Dai villages, villagers fished and hunted nearby. Jingduoang was such a busy market that stone paving slabs on the streets were shiningly polished by footsteps. Rich fields and water provide people there with enough food and clothing. That was why there is a mixture of the sound of young men's fiddles and girls' harmonicas after nightfall.

当然，这里也像别的地方一样，有的人家穷，有的人家富。这里的富人叫做沙铁，景多昂最大的沙铁是苏定那。据说苏定那的先人曾经向皇帝献过一副他们家作为传家宝的翡翠麻将，因此当上了那地方的土司。只是后来老皇帝死了，翡翠麻将作为殉

葬品跟着老皇帝一同入土了，新皇登基后，一朝天子一朝臣，到苏定那的爷爷那一代，土司就没得当了。按理，苏定那家的家境就该因此而一落千丈，再也做不成沙铁了。可怪的是自从苏定那娶了做玉石生意的商人康朗甩的女儿，也做起玉石生意后，这户人家却大发而特发起来，家里的财富甚至远远超过做土司的先人了。所以，他这个沙铁是铁定的了。

Of course, like other places, there were both poor families and rich families. The richest man at Jingduoang was named Sudingna. It was said that Sudingna's ancestor had been appointed as the local headman because he had submitted a jade mahjong set, his family heirloom, to the emperor of the time. When the emperor died, the jade mahjong set was buried with him as his funeral object. However, things might change with time. When a new emperor was enthroned, Sudingna's grandfather was not appointed as the local headman. Then the family might have waned in wealth rapidly and no longer remained as a rich one. Actually, Sudingna's family became far wealthier than his ancestors since he had married the daughter of a jade trader named Kanglangshuai and had been involved in the jade business. No doubt the family still remained rich.

沙铁是怎么发的家，只有他自己知道。他虽说做玉石生意，可并不懂玉石。那地方离翡翠的产地很近。做翡翠生意跟做别的





生意不一样，干这一行叫做赌石。说是从缅甸那边会定期拉进一车车其貌不扬的毛石来，然后由各路来的商人竞相报价，各自买下自己相中的石头。你运气好，买来的石头解开后，里面有“水”，有上好的翡翠，你就有可能因这块石头大大地发一个利市，家里就可以置田造屋；你运气不好，石头解开后一点水也没有，你就血本无归，有可能因此而倾家荡产。每一次沙铁相毛石时，他都会把老婆带去。他老婆煞有介事地看了看那些石头，挑中石头后，就跟丈夫咬了一阵子耳朵，一切就搞定了。人家奇怪了，这女人的眼力就真的有那么神？一次也不看走眼？当然，这事也只有沙铁自己知道，他跟谁也没有说而已。

How the rich man made a large fortune from the jade business remained a mystery to others because he knew little about jade. Unlike other businesses, the jade trade was like a game of gambling. It was said that raw stones were shipped in from Burma, which abounded with jade and was not far from Jingduoang. Jade traders inquired about prices and bought stones that satisfied them. If you were lucky, there would be “water”, first-class jade, in your stone after it was broken apart, and you might earn a lot of money from the stone to buy crop fields and build houses; otherwise, you might lose your original capital, even your whole family fortune. Each time he went to select raw stones, the rich man was always accompanied by his wife. The woman would watch those stones with seemingly careful eyes before a decision

was made. Then she would whisper in her husbands ear for a while before a deal was settled. They always got jade stones, and people wondered why the woman had such a pair of sharp eyes that not a single mistake was made at all. However, it remained a secret kept by the rich man and his wife.

原来，沙铁的女人有一个绝技：她能做假，她会把没有水的石头做出水来！或把品相不好的翡翠染成极品翡翠。这一套沙铁的老丈人康朗甩会，结果给他女儿偷着学会了。这一招只能偶尔救个急，因为这毕竟是伤阴鸷的事，做了要折寿的。可是，他的女儿掌握这一绝技后，几乎天天在用它。她在进行这一勾当时，紧闭了工房的门，就连老公也不让走进去，她这样做下去，这户人家的财富就像滚滚而来的洪水挡也挡不住了。正如景多昂一直在流传的民歌唱的：“沙铁的钱多得像谷子，金子银子堆得像小山，沙铁的家漂亮又宽广，养着成群的牛马和大象。”

Actually, Sudingna's wife could turn a waterless stone into one containing jade or dye ugly-looking jades into best-quality ones. She learned these tricks by peeking at what her father Kanglagnshuai did. For the old man who believed that evil would be rewarded with evil, these tricks were just used occasionally. His daughter, however, did such bad deeds nearly every day since she had mastered the tricks. With the workshop being closed during her work, even her husband was not allowed to enter to stop her tricks. As a result, the fortune of





this family grew and grew. A popular folk song at Jingduoang goes, "The rich man has as much money as his grain, and his gold and silver is piled like a hill; the rich man's house is beautiful and vast, full of herds of cattle and elephants."

可就是这样一个女人，嫁到苏定那家三年了，却没能给丈夫生下一男半女。这样，两口子犯愁了，我们这亿万家财日后传给谁呀？

However, such a "shrewd" woman did not give birth to any child in the three years after she had been married. The couple began to worry about where their large fortune would go if they had no child.

“你不会到奘房去求求菩萨？”女人给男人下命令了，“去求求送子观音，求她发发慈悲，给我们送一个儿子来。”

"Wouldn't you go to the temple and pray to the Bodhisattva who brings babies to the world?" The wife ordered her husband, "Go and beg her to show mercy to us and bring us a son."

傣家每个寨子都有奘房，也就是寺院。要是女人可以进奘房，沙铁的老婆早就自己去了。可是傣家的女人是不能踏进奘房大殿的。沙铁听老婆的话有道理，从九月十五的开门节开始，他手捧鲜花，天天去奘房拜佛了。

Each Dai village had a temple, where women were not allowed to enter. Had women been allowed to enter the temple of that village, the wife of the rich man would have gone there herself. The rich man thought that his wife's words made sense, so he went to the temple every day to pray to the Bodhisattva with flowers in hands from the Door-Opening Festival of the Dais (the 15th day of the 9th lunar month) onwards.

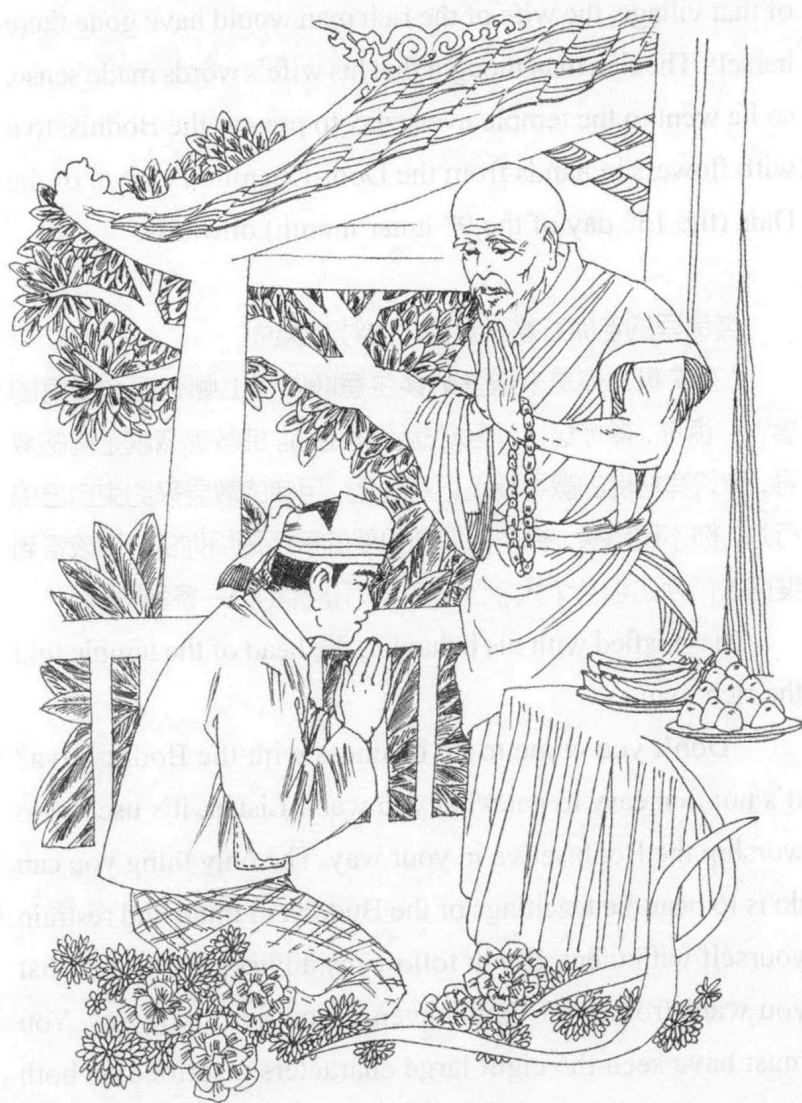
奘房里的老佛爷看在眼里，他对沙铁说：

“沙铁啊，你是来跟菩萨谈生意啊？世上哪有这么便宜的事？告诉你，像你这样拜菩萨是没有用的。佛教佛教就是佛的教导，你只有把佛的教导真正记在心里，用佛的教导来约束自己的行为，你不用磕头，佛也会把你想要的东西赐给你的。你该看到奘房大门两边那八个大字了吧？那可是佛的第一条教导啊！”

Dissatisfied with his behavior, the head of the temple told the rich man,

“Don't you come to do business with the Bodhisattva? It's not that easy to get what you want. Listen, it's useless to worship the Bodhisattva in your way. The only thing you can do is to bear the teachings of the Buddha in mind and restrain yourself with them. If you follow my advice, you'll get what you want from the Buddha even if you don't kowtow. You must have seen the eight large characters inscribed on both sides of the temple's gate. That's the first teaching of the





Buddha!”

沙铁一脸茫然。自己天天从柴房大门进进出出，竟然对那八个字视而不见。跪在老佛爷面前，他是一句话也答不上来了。

The rich man was at a loss then at the thought of his turning a blind eye to the eight characters each time he crossed the gate. Getting down on his knees before the head of the temple, he could not respond with a reply.

“去吧，去把那八个字读一遍，再好好想想，然后回去跟你老婆商量一下，该怎样来做到这八个字……”

“Go and read those eight characters. Then think it over, and go back to discuss with your wife about how to behave yourself according to the eight characters. ...”

沙铁出了大门，这一次他把“诸恶莫作、众善奉行”那八个字看清了，他也记住了。回到家里，他对老婆说：“咱那些勾当莫做了吧……”

Walking out of the temple, the rich man looked at the inscribed teaching—“Keep evil away and do kind deeds”—carefully and kept it in mind. Back home, he told his wife not to do those evil deeds.

老婆吃了一惊，问他话，他才把老佛爷的话复述了一遍，并





把奘房大门两边那八个大字用手指头蘸了茶水写在桌子上。望着这八个字，他老婆也呆住了。

Much surprised, his wife asked him why. Then he repeated what the head of the temple had said and wrote the teaching on the table with one of his fingers dipped in tea water. The sight of the characters shocked his wife.

从这一天开始，女人熬住了，她不再关了门做假翡翠；男人仍每天去奘房拜佛。这样，一个月后，女人还真的有了孕。可在这天晚上，她又偷偷地干起了老营生。这一个月，她算过，她仿佛看到多少白花花的银子流出去。她实在心疼啊！等到足了月，一个白白胖胖的儿子呱呱落地了，夫妻俩那个高兴啊！他们把儿子取名叫埃果那。可是这个儿子一天不多一天不少，刚刚活了一个月就死了。夫妻俩悲痛欲绝，哭得昏天黑地。哭着哭着，沙铁心里倒是哭明白了。他对老婆吼了起来：

“我叫你不要干那勾当了，你偏要干，我记得连你父亲都说过，这是伤阴鹭的事，你竟连你父亲的话也不听……”

From that day on, the woman began to restrain herself from making false jade; her husband continued his prayer at the temple every day. A month later, she became pregnant as expected. But she resumed her tricks secretly on the night of that day because she was so distressed to think that a large amount of money had been lost in the past month. When it came to the time a healthy son was born, how happy the couple

were. They named the child Aiguona, who died right on his one-month-old birthday. The couple were deeply grieved. While weeping, the rich man began to realize some truth and shouted at his wife, "I had told you not to do that again! Even your father had said that it would bring bad luck, how come you didn't do as your father told you?..."

“可是那是银子啊！能眼看着到手的银子不赚吗？”他老婆这么回答。

"But how can we resist easy money?" answered his wife.

“要是断子绝孙了，要银子有什么用？”沙铁朝老婆瞪圆了眼睛。

"What is our money for if we don't have any child?" the rich man stared at his wife in anger.

这一回，老婆的确是熬住了，她把那间工房的门上了锁，再也不踏进去一步。可是，就在那几天，家里花大价钱进了两大块毛石，解开来一看，一点水也没有，她完全看走了眼。这回的损失实在太大了，她的心痛到了肺里。本来，她是有办法扭亏为盈的啊，她能够让没有水的毛石里生出成色最好的水来。这一次她实在熬不住了，趁老公不在家，她又打开了那间工房的锁……算起来，这回她是整整戒了两个月。

After that, the woman did not enter the workshop any





more, which was locked by the husband. During that period, two large raw stones they bought at a very high price turned to be waterless ones. They suffered heavy losses this time because of the woman's mistake. The wife regretted that she had not grown best water out of raw stones to turn losses into profits. At the thought of this, she could not restrain herself and unlocked the door of the workshop while her husband was not at home. It was two months exactly since she played the last trick.

第二年开春，老婆又临盆了，她又为沙铁生了个大胖儿子。这回沙铁高兴啊，他急忙到茱房去还愿，亲戚朋友也都赶来祝贺。沙铁把这个儿子取名叫做易，意思是日月换新天。沙铁的日子有指望了！

At the beginning of the following spring, she gave birth to a second son, who was very healthy. The rich man was so pleased and hurried to the temple to tell the Buddha. His friends and relatives came to congratulate him on his son's birth. He named this son Yi, literally meaning "great changes". He thought that his life would become better and better.

他老婆却一点也开心不起来。因为她知道她老公并不晓得她实际上只戒了两个月，她抱着易，一天天惶惶然地数着日子。一

天又一天过去了，一个月、又一个月，刚刚满两个月，小易易好好地躺在摇篮里，不哭也不闹，可到傍晚，奶妈去给他喂奶时，小易易已经是冰凉的了……

But his wife was not happy at all because she kept it a secret to her husband that she had actually not played any tricks for only two months. Full of anxiety, she held her son Yi in her arms all day, counting the days. Day after day, when it was just on his two months' birthday, the little Yi lay quiet in the cradle all the day. However, his wet nurse found him dead when she went to feed him at dusk.

这一下真是天塌了。特别是等沙铁明白了一切之后，他就像疯了一样，一把火把那间单独的工房烧了个干干净净。他指着已经哭成个泪人儿似的老婆说，她以后还要干那勾当的话，他就会一纸休书打发她走人！

The news came as a bolt from the blue for the family. It drove the rich man mad and he wanted to burn up that workshop. Pointing to his weeping wife, he told her that he would divorce her immediately if she dared do that evil business again.

从这一天开始，俩口子还真的就像变了个人。他们成天吃素念经，沙铁还出钱在奘房后修了个佛塔，他大把大把地掏钱布施穷人。这一来那女人就像被剝去了心头肉，她寻死觅活地跟丈夫

