



In ancient times in the south of China lived a highly skilled mason.

在古代中国的南方住着一位技艺精湛的石匠。



One day, a rich man who admired his work asked the mason to go to his home to make some carvings.

有一天，一个很欣赏他手艺的富人请求石匠到他家里做雕刻。



The mason envied the well-to-do life of the rich man's family.

石匠嫉妒富人家庭富裕的生活。





From then on he dreamed of being a rich man.

从那时起，他梦想着做一个富人。



An immortal was aware of his wish and turned him into a rich man.

一位神仙知道了他的愿望，就把他变成富人。



Several days later an arrogant government official passed by the mason's house.

几天以后，一个傲慢的官员路过石匠的房子。





The mason, being a rich man now, ignored the official and failed to pay him proper respect.

现在是一个富人了的石匠，怠慢了官员，没有给官员适当的尊重。



Because the mason was impolite, the official ordered him beaten with three hundred strokes and fined him three hundred taels of silver.

因为石匠很没有礼貌，官员命令打他三百大板，并罚他三百两银子。







“Ai, an official is more powerful than a rich man,” sighed the mason. From then on he dreamed of being a government official.

“唉，官员比当富人更有势力。”石匠叹息。从那时起，他梦想着变成一名政府官员。



Once again the immortal made his wish come true—the mason became a government official.

神仙又一次让他的梦想成真——石匠变成了政府官员。





The mason was proud of being such a powerful man, and he paraded around to show how important he was.

石匠很骄傲，他变成了强大威武的人，他到处炫耀他是多么重要。





He happened to spot some beautiful girls, and a wicked idea came to his mind. He commanded his men to carry them off.

他正好看到一些漂亮的姑娘，产生了一个邪恶的想法。他命令他的人把她们带走。





The farmers in the land were indignant over this act. They came from all directions to get even with the scoundrel.

田里的农民对他的行为很愤怒。他们从不同的地方赶来找这个恶棍算账。



They caught the mason, escorted him to their village, and taught him a good lesson.

他们抓住石匠，把他押到村里，好好地教训了他一顿。







The mason thought angrily, "Those farmers were much more terrible than the official. I wish I were a farmer."

石匠生气地想道：“这些农夫比官员更厉害。我希望我是个农夫。”



Knowing this, the immortal turned him into a farmer. The mason beamed with satisfaction.

知道这些，神仙把他变成了农夫。石匠喜形于色。





It was summer. The farmers were tilling the land on a mountain slope, feeling dizzy under the scorching sun.

到了夏天。农夫们在山坡上种地，烈日下感到头晕。