

受戒 The Love Story



つ汪曾祺

Wang Zengqi

外语教学与研究出版社 FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



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受戒 The Love Story of a Young Monk

○ 汪曾祺 著Wang Zengqi

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Multi-language Center for International Promotion of Chinese Language, Beijing Foreign Studies University Chinese-English "China Stories" Series

北京外国语大学汉语国际推广多语种基地中英对照"中国故事"丛书







Publisher's Note

"Once upon a time...", such is the beginning of a story that may have accompanied many people through their childhood no matter what country they live in and what language they speak. When we grow up, we remain keen on one kind of stories or another. This is because stories always keep us at a fascinating distance: things that take place around us may drive home to us a timeless truth, while remote or illusory stories may as well be relevant to reality or reflect the problems of today.

However, if a story is linked with the name of a country, what can the listener expect from it?

The China Stories series is dedicated to those who are fond of stories and hope to know about China. The reason why we have chosen this way of storytelling is that while people nowadays may easily get to know a country by turning on the television, surfing the Internet or touching a cellphone screen, we believe stories make China look more vivid, serene and down-to-earth than media or political or economic commentators, historical archives or museums do.

Our stories or "storytellers" generally fall into two categories. Firstly, small works of big names in contemporary Chinese literature, such as The Love Story of a Young Monk by Wang Zengqi and Ah, xiangxue by Tie Ning; Secondly, Chinese tales told by writers from other lands from the "other" perspectives, like The magic of the White Snake by the German freelancer Helmut Matt. The differences in settings, plots and the storytellers' personalities have added to the charisma of our stories. This China Stories series will maintain its openness by putting forth new stories, so as to present a rich, varied three-dimensional China to our readers. In this sense, this series is catered not only to foreign friends but also to Chinese-speaking natives so that they can observe this country from a fresh point of view.

Instead of lengthy narratives that may wear our readers down, the *China Stories* series is a collection of short stories and novellas that are meant for a pleasant reading experience, an experience that is made all the more delightful by our elaborately produced bilingual texts and beautiful illustrations.

Whether the storyteller or the listener comes from China or elsewhere, we believe that you can derive your own impression of China from these stories, and feel closer to it whether it was familiar or strange to you before you lay your hands on the *China Stories* series. So let's read *China Stories*, and get a taste of China from them.

Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press



"很久很久以到……", 许多人的量年或许都伴随着这样开头的故事, 无论她或他身处哪个国家, 说看何种语言。当我们长大, 依然热衷于各种故事。因为故事总是与人们保持一种远近适宜的奇妙距离: 身边发生的故事有时能让人悟到恒久长远的道理, 而遍远的甚至虚幻的故事又能使人联想到现实的处境, 回应当下的问题。

而当故事与一个国家的名称联系在一起的时候,又会给听者一种怎样的期待?

《中国故事》系列丛书献给那些喜欢听故事并且希望了解中国的人们。之所以选择这种方式而不是别的——毕竟,现在想了解一个国家,打开电视,浏览互联网,或者触摸一下手机屏蔽就可以做到——因为我们相信,比起新闻媒体、政经评论或者历史文献、博物馆陈列中的中国,也许故事所反映的那个中国来得更真切,更沉静,也更实在。

故事的来源,或者说"讲故事的人"大体有两类。一方面我们收集了现当 代一些中国文学大家的小作品,例如汪曾祺的《受戒》,铁殿的《哦,香雪》; 另一方面,来自中国以外的作者们基于"他者"的视角重述中国的传奇,例如 德国赫尔穆特·马特先生的《白蛇传奇》。故事的背景和事件被此不同,更因叙 述者的个性特征而平添魅力,本系列还将不断推新以保持一种开放性。因此呈现给各位的这一套丛书应该是丰富和立体的,希望借此传达的中国形象也能更加真实、丰满。从这个意义上讲,丛书的目标读者应不仅仅限于海外的朋友,其实也包括以中文为母语的读者们,以便透过新鲜的角度来观察这个国家。

这里没有宏大的叙事,而是以中短篇小说的篇幅给读者绝不沉重的阅读体验。这种轻松感还将通过我们精心提供的双语文本和优美插图得到进一步的体会。

无论讲故事的人以及听故事的人是来自中国还是其他国家,我们都相信您能从故事中获得自己对于中国的印票,对这个已经熟悉或者还很陌生的国度,更多一点儿亲近——阅读中国的故事,品味故事中的中国。

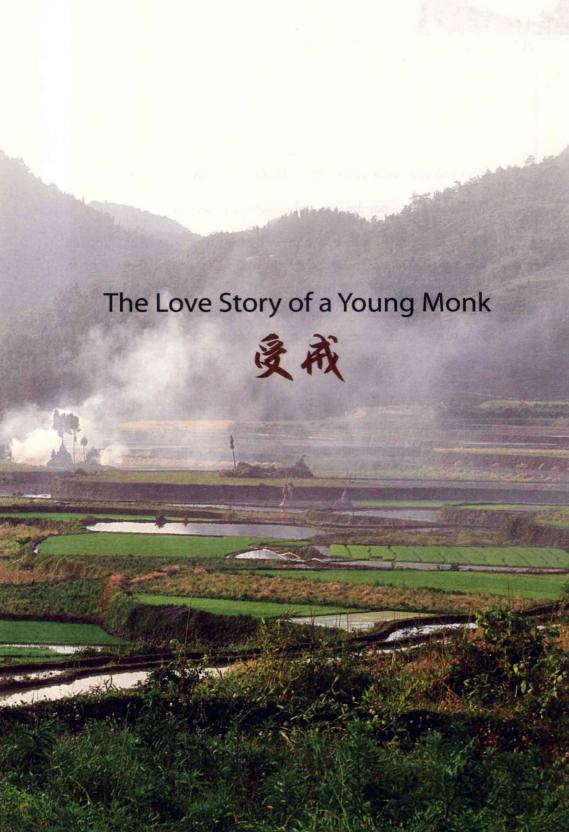
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It was already four years since Minghai had become a novice.

He had come when he was only thirteen years old.

The name of the place, Anzhaozhuang, was somewhat unusual. The word Zhao signified that the majority of villagers had the same surname, Zhao. Though it was called a village or zhuang, the houses were scattered far apart in twos and threes. From one door could be seen the neighbouring houses, but it was a long walk to reach them because there was no road, only the winding paths between the fields. As to the word an, that was easy to understand for there was a nunnery in this village, which was originally named Boddha Nunnery. Later it was wrongly called Biqi (Water Chestnut) Nunnery, and even those living within had called it that. "Monks in the monasteries and nuns in nunneries," so the saying goes, but that nunnery was occupied by monks. Because it was so small it was probably called a nunnery and not a monastery.

When he had lived at home, Minghai had been called Mingzi. From his early childhood, it was decided that he would become a monk. His native village was famous for its supply of monks just as other places were known for their pig-castrators, mat-weavers, coopers, cotton-fluffers, painters and prostitutes. A household with several sons always sent one to be a monk. There were also factions among the monks, and one must have certain relations with them in order to join. Many of the villagers, who had become monks, went to faraway monasteries, such as Lingyin Temple in Hangzhou, Jing'an

明海出家已经四年了。

他是十三岁来的。

这个地方的地名有点怪,叫魔赵庄。赵,是因为庄上大都姓赵。叫做庄,可是人家住得很分散,这里两三家,那里两三家。一出门,远远可以看到,走起来得走一会,因为没有大路,都是弯弯曲曲的田埂。庵,是因为有一个庵。庵叫菩提庵,可是大家叫讹了,叫成荸荠庵。连庵里的和尚也这样叫。"宝刹何处?"——"荸荠庵。"庵本来是住尼姑的。"和尚庙","尼姑庵"嘛。可是荸荠庵住的是和尚。也许因为荸荠庵不大,大者为庙,小者为庵。

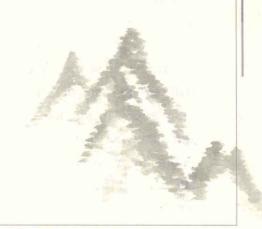
明海在家叫小明子。他是从小就确定要出家的。他的家乡不叫"出家",叫"当和尚"。他的家乡出和尚。就像有的地方出劁猪的,有的地方出织席子的,有的地方出箍桶的,有的地方出弹棉花的,有的地方出画匠,有的地方出婊子,他的家乡出和尚。人家弟兄多,就派一个出去当和尚。当和尚也要通过关系,也有帮。这地方的和尚有的走得很远。有到杭州灵隐寺的、上海静安

Temple in Shanghai, Jinshan Temple in Zhenjiang or Tianning Monastery in Yangzhou. But generally, they lived in local temples. Mingzi's family had only a few *mu* of land, and his three elder brothers could easily cope with the work. As the fourth son, he had no choice but to go to a temple and become a monk.

One day, when he was seven years old, his uncle, who was a monk, visited his home. After consulting with him, Mingzi's parents decided to let him become a monk. He was standing near them and thought it a very reasonable suggestion, finding no cause to object. There were many advantages in such a life! First of all, he could have his meals every day free of charge. As a rule, both the food and clothing of every monk were supplied by the temple. Secondly, he could save money. Once he had learned how to perform the Buddhist rites, he would surely obtain his due portion of the service charge. When he had saved enough money, he could resume his secular life and marry a village girl. If, however, he did not leave the temple, he could buy a few mu of land.

Still, it was not so easy to become a monk in those days. In the first place, the candidate must be good-looking, with a face like a bright full moon. Secondly, he must have a sweet musical voice. Thirdly, he must be intelligent and have a good memory. His uncle studied his face carefully, urged the boy to walk a few steps forward and back, and sing a line from a work song which the local peasants sang while driving oxen to the threshing ground. Finally, his uncle

寺的、镇江金山寺的、扬州天宁寺的。一般的就在本县的寺庙。明海家田少,老大、老二、老三,就足够种的了。他是老四。他七岁那年,他当和尚的舅舅回家,他爹、他娘就和舅舅商议,决定叫他当和尚。他当时在旁边,觉得这实在是在情在理,没有理由反对。当和尚有很多好处。一是可以吃现成饭。哪个庙里都是管饭的。二是可以攒钱。只要学会了放瑜伽焰口,拜梁皇忏,可以按例分到辛苦钱。积攒起来,将来还俗娶亲也可以;不想还俗,买几亩田也可以。当和尚也不容易,一要面如朗月,二要声如钟磬,三要聪明记性好。他舅舅给他相了相面,叫他前走几步,后走几步,又叫他喊了一声赶牛打场的号子:"格当嘚——",



said, "Mingzi will surely be a good monk. I'm willing to vouch for him!" To do that, his parents had to spend money sending the boy to school, there being no illiterate monks. So, Mingzi was enrolled in a private school, studied textbooks and practised calligraphy. The villagers praised him highly for his neat handwriting.

On an appointed day several years later, his uncle came back, bringing an extra Buddhist short jacket which he urged his elder sister to shorten for Mingzi. Wearing this jacket, a pair of ordinary purple trousers and new cloth shoes on his bare feet, Mingzi kowtowed to his parents and set out with his uncle.

While in school, Mingzi had been called Minghai. His uncle said there was no need to change that and so it became his Buddhist name.

They crossed a big lake — an immense lake! — and reached the county seat which was bustling with activity. In the main street there were an official salt shop, tax bureau, cloth store, butcher's and so on. A donkey was grinding sesame seeds in the oil workshop and the aroma filled the street. On both sides were various kinds of stalls selling cosmetics, velvet flowers, silk threads, sugar figures and other goods. In addition, there were also men selling quack remedies and snake performers. Mingzi was fascinated by these interesting sights and would have liked to take a good look at each of them. His uncle, however, urged him along, saying, "Don't dawdle! Hurry up! Be quick!"

说是"明子准能当个好和尚,我包了!"要当和尚,得下点本——念几年书。哪有不认字的和尚呢!于是明子就开蒙入学,读了《三字经》、《百家姓》、《四言杂字》、《幼学琼林》、上《论》、下《论》、上《孟》、下《孟》,每天还写一张仿。村里都夸他字写得好,很黑。

舅舅按照约定的日期又回了家,带了一件他自己穿的和尚领的短衫,叫明子娘改小一点,给明子穿上。明子穿了这件和尚短衫,下身还是在家穿的紫花裤子,赤脚穿了一双新布鞋,跟他爹、他娘磕了一个头,就随舅舅走了。

他上学时起了个学名,叫明海。舅舅说,不用改了。于是 "明海"就从学名变成了法名。

过了一个湖。好大一个湖!穿过一个县城。县城真热闹:官 盐店,税务局,肉铺里挂着成片的猪,一个驴子在磨芝麻,满街 都是小磨香油的香味,布店,卖茉莉粉、梳头油的什么斋,卖绒 花的,卖丝线的,打把式卖膏药的,吹糖人的,耍蛇的……他什 么都想看看。舅舅一个劲地推他:"快走!快走!" At last, they reached a river where a small boat was waiting for them by the bank. A tall, slender man about fifty years old stood in the boat, while a girl about the same age as Mingzi squatted in the stern. She was breaking open a lotus seedpod with her hands. The boat set out as soon as Mingzi and his uncle got in.

Before long, Mingzi heard someone talking to him. The speaker was none other than the girl. "Isn't it you who's going to Biqi Nunnery to be a monk?"

Mingzi nodded.

"They'll burn incense scars on your head if you want to be a monk. Aren't you afraid?"

Not knowing how to answer, Mingzi shook his head vaguely.

"What's your name?"

"Minghai."

"And what do they call you at home?"

"Mingzi."

"Mingzi! I'm called Xiaoyingzi! We'll soon be neighbours. I live next door to your temple. — Take it!" She threw him the remaining half of the lotus seedpod. Mingzi began to break it open and eat the seeds one by one.