



英汉对照
With English & Chinese Versions

中国文化经典启蒙读本

成语故事

CHENG YU GU SHI

对牛弹琴

负荆请罪

邯郸学步

吉林摄影出版社

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对牛弹琴

duì niú tán qín

From *Mou Zi*

It is used to ridicule either those who don't understand others or those who don't choose the right listener.

出自：《牟子》

chū zì móu zǐ

讥笑听话的人不懂说话人的意思，

jī xiào tīng huà de rén bù dǒng shuō huà rén de yì si

或讽刺说话的人不看对象。

huò fěng cì shuō huà de rén bù kàn duì xiàng



Gong Mingyi is a talented musician who can play a kind of musical instrument quite well.

古时候有个音乐家叫公明仪，他弹琴弹

gǔ shí hòu yǒu gè yīn yuè jiā jiào gōng míng yī tā tán qín tán

得好极了

de hǎo jí le



He can make bird sounds with the instrument.
Birds think the sounds are calls from their friends,
so they fly towards him.

他弹出鸟鸣声，小鸟以为是同伴呼唤，
纷纷飞来。



He can make the sounds of a stream too. Deers run towards him to look for water.

他弹出溪水响，小鹿以为找到了小河，

tā tán chū xī shuǐ xiǎng xiǎo lù yì wéi zhǎo dào le xiǎo hé

奔来饮水。

bēn lái yǐn shuǐ



Passers-by also stop to listen intently to his playing.

行走的人听到琴声，也停住脚步，仔细

xíng zǒu de rén tīng dào qín shēng yě tíng zhù jiǎo bù zī xì

聆听。

líng tīng



One day, Gong Mingyi sees a herd of cattle eating grass leisurely.

有一天，公明仪看见一群小牛在草地上

yǒu yī tiān gōng míng yì kàn jiàn yī qún xiǎo niú zài cǎo dì shàng

悠闲地吃草。

yōu xián de chī cǎo



He thinks, "Why don't I play for the cattle to see if they can understand the sound."

他想，我何不给小牛弹奏一曲，看它们
tā xiǎng wǒ hé bù gěi xiǎo niú tán zōu yī qǔ kàn tā men
会不会欣赏。
huì bù huì xīn shàng



Then he plays an elegant tune. But the cattle don't even raise their heads.

于是，他弹了一支高雅的曲子 可小牛

yú shì tā tàn le yī zhī gāo yǎ de qǔ zǐ kě xiǎo niú

头也不抬

tóu yě bù tái



Then he plays a popular song, But the cattle still do not react and go on eating.

他又弹了一支通俗的曲调，小牛仍然一
tā yòu tán le yì zhī tōng sù de qǔ diào xiǎo niú réng rán yì
点儿反应也没有，继续吃草。
diǎnr fǎn yīng yě méi yǒu jì xù chī cǎo



Just then, a friend comes along. Gong Mingyi asks his friend, "Why don't they understand me? Is it because I don't play well?"

这时，走来一位朋友。他问朋友：“是我的
zhè shí zǒu lái yī wèi péng you tā wèn péng you shì wǒ de
琴弹得不好吗？它们怎么不理我？”
qín tán de bù hǎo ma tā men zěn me bù lǐ wǒ



His friend says with a smile: "No. It's because cattle cannot understand what you are playing."

朋友笑着说：“不是你的琴弹得不好，是
péng yǒu xiào zhe shuō bú shì nǐ de qín tán de bù hǎo shì

牛听不懂你的琴声呀！”

niú tīng bù dǒng nǐ de qín shēng ya



“Oh, I see.” This time, Gong Mingyi imitates the sound of mosquitoes and gadflies.

“哦，是这样呀！”这回公明仪模仿蚊子、
ō shì zhè yàng ya zhè huí gōng míng yí mó fǎng wén zi

牛虻的叫声弹了起来

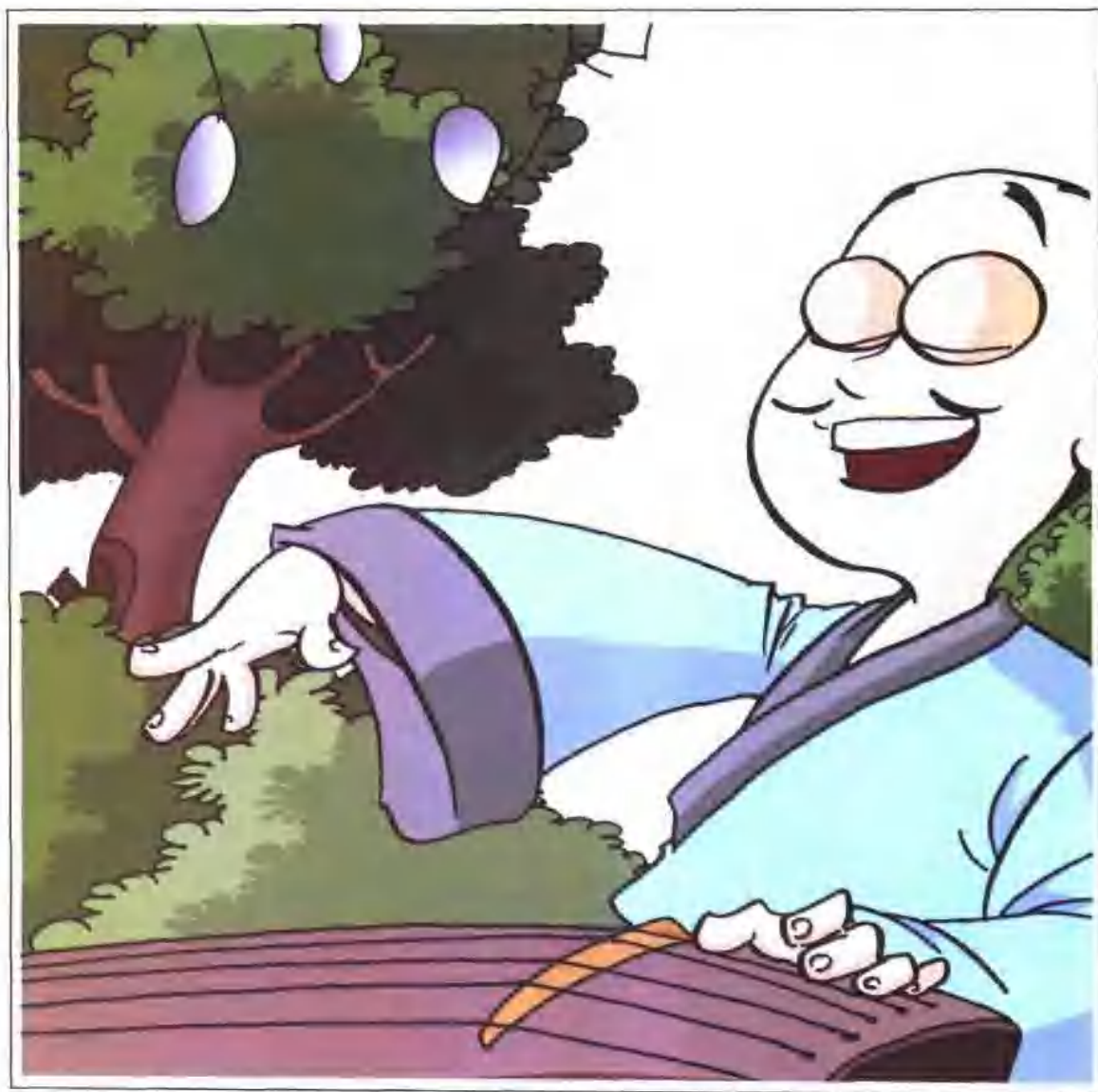
niú méng de jiào shēng tán le qǐ lái



The cattle sway their tails at once. They are all ears.

小牛们立刻摇着尾巴，竖起了耳朵。

xiǎo niú men lì kè yáo zhe wěi ba shù qǐ le ěr duo



Gong Mingyi is quite pleased. Next, he plays music that sounds like calves looking for their mothers.

公明仪很高兴，他又弹出像孤独的牛犊

gōng míng yī hěn gāo xìng tā yòu tán chū xiàng gū dú de niú dú

寻找妈妈的叫声

xún zhǎo mā ma de jiào shēng



The cattle are excited. They run up and go back and forth and listen carefully.

牛群立刻激动起来，走来走去，仔细地

niú qún lì kè jī dòng qǐ lái zǒu lái zǒu qù zī xì de

倾听。

qīng tīng