

| 中国民俗故事 |  
STORIES OF FOLK CUSTOMS

# 年除夕的故事

*The Story Behind Chinese New Year's Eve*

主编 / 赵镇琬



Edited by  
Zhao Zhenwan

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The Story Behind  
*Chinese New Year's Eve*

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## 前言



中国有很多古老美丽的故事和传说，这些故事都充满了纯真的思想和深邃的人文气息，因此便构成了中华民族的精神象征之一，这些故事更巩固了中国人的同源意识。

在这套“幼学启蒙丛书”中，内容涵盖了大家所熟悉的民俗故事、神话故事、节日故事、名胜传说与古代名医、贤哲、名相、名将、帝王、智童、科学家、智谋、诗书故事等等，总计八十册。为了让孩子们了解祖先们活动的广阔天地和历代的政治变迁、科学发展与文学艺术上的成就，我们运用最精炼的文字与生动的插画，将其一一呈现给中国儿童，并使得这些久远的历史人物，轻松地进入儿童的思想领域，与他们的血脉相连接。

身为中国人，对中华民族的认知，就好像一个做儿女的，应该了解他的大家庭一样，如此他才会对这个家庭有感情、有责任。我们希望这套书的出版，能够引导孩子在人生记忆力最好的时候，去了解祖国历史的脉络、认同中华民族的生活轨迹与精神内涵，从而拥有高瞻远瞩的智慧，成为一个心胸开阔、人格健全的人。

“幼学启蒙丛书”，是为中国儿童编辑的，为这一套丛书撰稿和绘图的儿童文学工作者，都以传统文学和艺术观点来诠释中国古老的神话、传说和历史，我们希望这套丛书能为每一个中国家庭，每一个中国儿童所喜爱。

赵镇琬

## Preface

China is a beautiful treasure-house of ancient tales and folklore. Here are stories filled with sincere reflection echoing the vast and deep spirit of our culture and civilization. These represent the best of Chinese culture—tales that uphold a people's sense of their common origin.

This collection of *First Books for Early Learning* offers stories familiar to all of us. Drawn from folklore and mythology, along with the origins of special days in the traditional calendar and of famous places, these eighty books also recall ancient physicians, philosophers and thinkers, figures famed for statecraft, generals, royalty, prodigies and scientists, remembered through tales of wisdom and great poetry.

To give Chinese children all over the world an understanding of their ancestors' lives, and the changes through the different ages of China's history, scientific development and achievements in arts and literature, we have brought together concise language with most vivid illustrations. These ancient historical figures also give inspiration and ideas to children to connect with their own roots.

As Chinese, we know Chinese history well as a son or a daughter knows his or her family. Only with such knowledge can one possess a depth of passion and a sense of responsibility. It is our wish that this collection will guide children at an early age to learn from the history of our nation and to identify with the social progress and philosophical spirit of the Chinese people. We hope our children will develop wider horizons of wisdom to become open-minded yet with a rooted outlook on life.

*First Books for Early Learning* was originally compiled in Chinese for the children of China. The writers and artists who contributed to this collection have used the perspective of traditional literature and arts to interpret Chinese mythology, legends and history. We hope this collection will be enjoyed by Chinese people—and, now in translation, also by people all over the world—and all children who want to learn more about China.

*Zhao Zhenwan*





在很久很久以前，人世间出现了一个名叫夕的怪兽。夕平时躲在洞穴里睡大觉，可是一到阴历腊月的最后一天，就跑出来找吃的，到处行凶作恶。夕的胃口大极了，恨不得把所有的猪、羊、马、牛一口都吞了，甚至连人也不肯放过。

Once upon a time, in this world there lived a monster named Xi. Xi would just hide in his cave and sleep most of his time away. However, whenever the last day of the last month in the lunar calendar arrived, Xi would emerge from his cave looking for food and commit all manner of horrible acts. Xi had an enormously big appetite. If he had his way, he would eat, one at a time, all the pigs, sheep, horses and cattle he could find. And even humans.

人们很想把夕制服,可是想了许多办法都不顶用。年年岁岁,牲口被夕吃没了,人也逐渐稀少了。所以每到腊月最后一天,人们都十分惧怕夕的来临。

People decided to capture and put down Xi. But all their strategies failed. Year after year, animals almost became extinct, with the human population thinning too. Every year on the last day of the last month of the year, people would grow truly terrified of Xi's emergence from his cave.



灶君府

灶王爷

下界保平安

上天言好事



后来，人们终于想了一个好办法——腊月二十三这天，家家都做又黏（nián）又甜的糖瓜儿，请灶王爷吃了，去天上求玉帝派神仙到人间来除夕。

Finally, people thought of a good idea.

On the twenty-third day of the last month of the year, every household began to make very sweet and sticky candies and place them in front of the statues of the Kitchen God. Then they asked the Kitchen God to plead with the King of Heaven to send a deity to rid the Earth of Xi.

玉帝从灶王爷那儿听说了夕在人间造的罪孽，就把除夕的事交给了神农办理。

After the King of Heaven listened to all the tales the Kitchen God told him about the bad things done by Xi, he sent Shennong, the God of Agriculture, to undertake the task of eliminating Xi from Earth.



神農



