

| 中国民俗故事 |
STORIES OF FOLK CUSTOMS

年糕的故事

The Story of the New Year Cake



主编 / 赵镇琬

Edited by
Zhao Zhenwan

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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



过年吃年糕的习俗，从周朝开始，已经有三千多年的历史。吃年糕，有祝贺五谷丰登的意思，还有“年高”取长寿之意。在江浙一带，至今还流传着一则年糕的故事。

The consumption of “*nian gao*” (what became New Year cake, as part of Spring Festival celebrations) started in the Zhou Dynasty and has a history of three thousand years. New Year cake also signifies the celebration of good grain harvests. Also sounding the same in Chinese as “a ripe old age,” *nian gao*, or New Year cake is hence used as a symbol for wishes for longevity. In and around the areas of the provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang, there is still a very popular folktale about the New Year cake.

春秋时期，吴国大夫伍子胥，被吴王夫差（chāi）赐剑自刎而死。子胥死前嘱咐亲信：“我死之后，如果国家有难，民众缺粮，你们到相门城墙挖地三尺，可以得到粮食。”

In the history of China, during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 BC), Wu Zixu, a high-ranking court official of the State of Wu, was sentenced to death by his own sword, “gifted” to him by the King of Wu, Fu Chai. Before he died, Wu Zixu told his trusted followers, “After my death, should hard times hit the country, and if there is famine and the people of Wu want for food, you should go to the city wall around Xiang Gate. Dig to a depth of three feet, and you shall find food.”

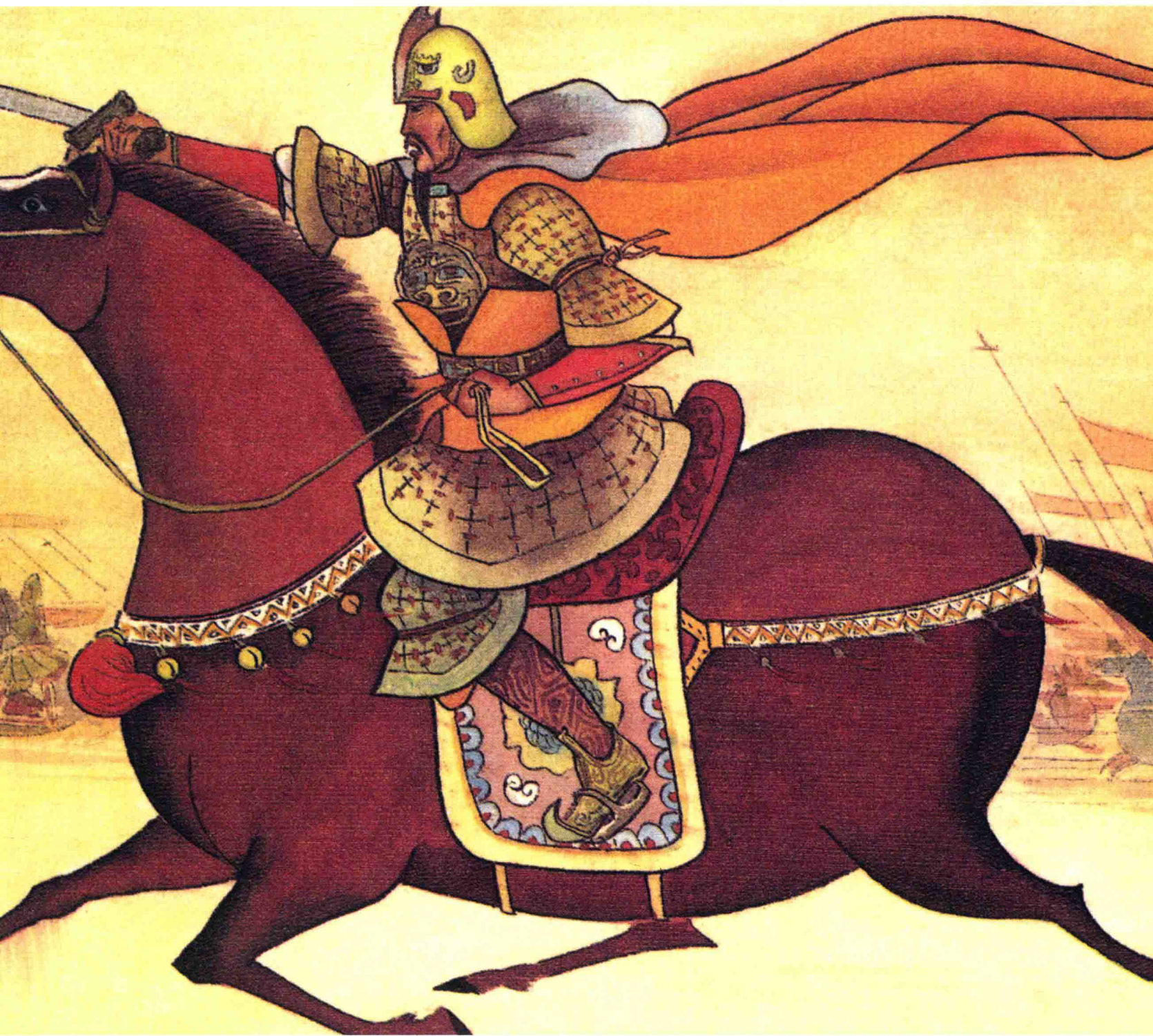




伍子胥死后，越王勾践闻知，认为吴国失去主将，就决定攻进吴国雪耻。

Meanwhile, King Gou Jian of the State of Yue heard the news of Wu Zixu's death. He thought, since the State of Wu had lost its chief general of its army, this was a good chance to launch an attack and invade the State of Wu. He wanted to free himself from the shame of the defeat suffered at the hands of King Fu Chai.







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