



Chinese-English / 中英对照

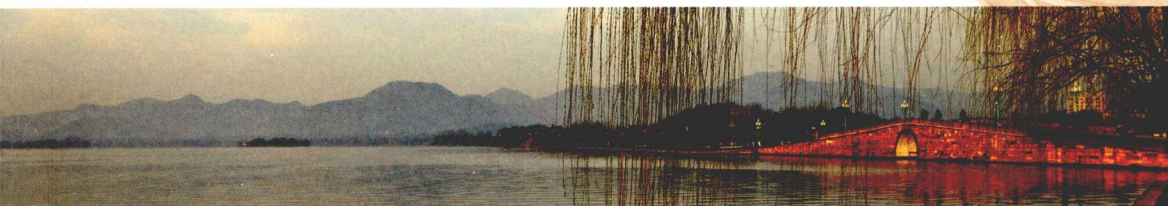


白蛇传奇

中国的魔法世界

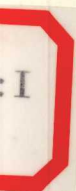
THE MAGIC OF THE WHITE SNAKE

Enchanting Insights into a Mysterious Country



○ HELMUT MATT (德) LINDA MARIE MATT (美) 著

○ 刘 达 邓晓菁 译



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China Stories

Chinese-English / 中英对照

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雷峰塔

Leifeng Pagoda



Publisher's Notes

"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 cell-phone 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" perspective, 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 story-teller 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.



出版说明

“很久很久以前……”，许多人的童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，说着何种语言。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，而遥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幕就可以做到——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》，铁凝的《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》。故事的背景和事件彼此不同，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象，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。

外语教学与研究出版社

2012年3月

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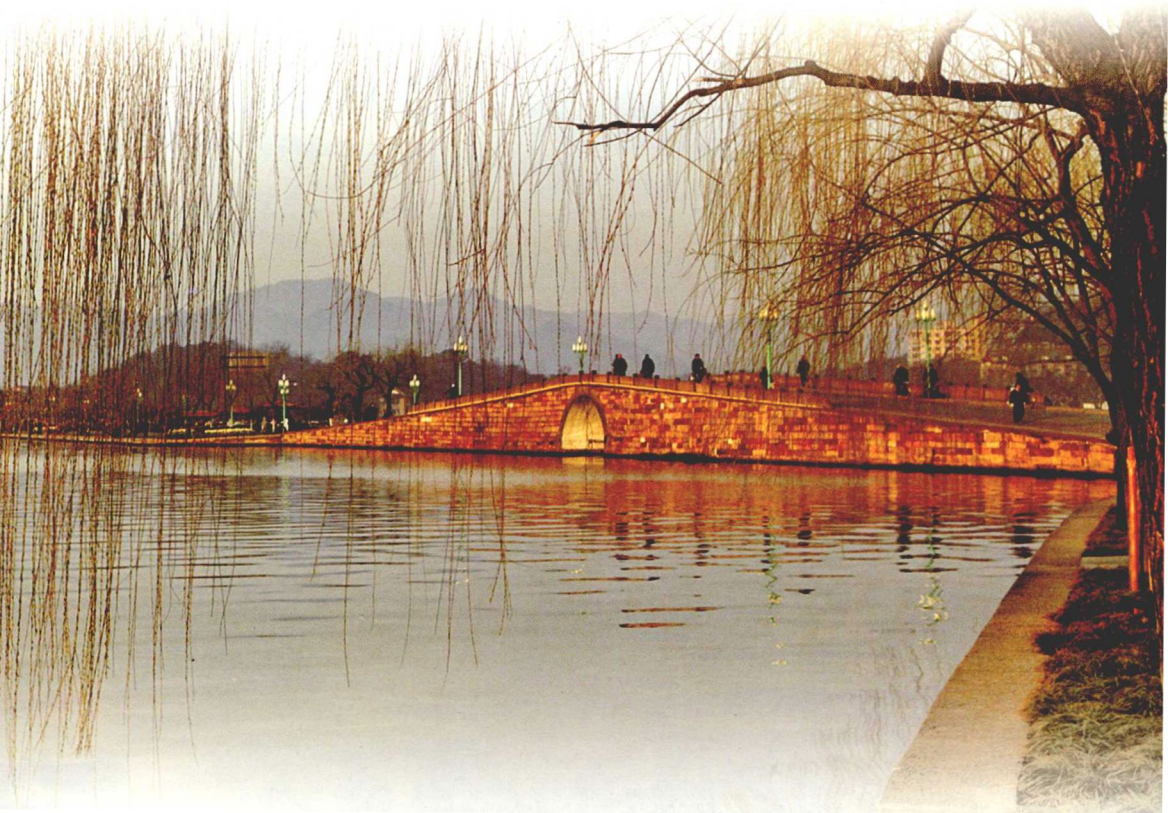
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一切都有个说法，
在每一个习俗的背后都隐藏着深刻的涵义。
这便是我在中国之行中的感悟。

Everything has its own significance, and each
custom reveals a deeper meaning. This is one
of the discoveries made during my journeys
throughout china.

— HELMUT MATT



Preface to the Chinese-English Version

Two years after publication of the original German version, this book is now ready to reach readers beyond the German-Chinese language barrier. The eminent history of China, its philosophy and culture, as well as the moving myths and fairy tales still, today, provide the fundamentals for the lives of the people of the Middle Kingdom. The legend of the white snake is known everywhere in China — for centuries this drama has touched the hearts of humankind.

A classic Chinese work seen through the eyes of a European evolves into a new story: what will Chinese readers think of this well-known tale transformed yet again? Two very different cultures join in a drama of love and passion; sprung from the deep emotions of the apparent conflict, a new world emerges in which time and space have lost their power.

Above all, I would like to thank my wife, Linda, who with great sensitivity and much understanding for the poetic language of the original version successfully translated my novel and made the publication of this Chinese-English version possible.

My thanks also go to my publisher, FLTRP, especially to Ms. Deng. Without her aid and support, this book would never have been printed in China.

It is my heartfelt wish that this story opens the eyes of its readers for the unique fascination and magic that arises when various cultures meet, enabling them to take first step toward a mutual understanding and to find ways of sharing common expression.

Helmut Matt
Herbolzheim, March, 2012

中英对照版序

在《白蛇传奇——中国的魔法世界》中德对照版出版两年之际，该书的中英对照版如今问世，呈现给德、汉两种语言之外更多的读者。中国源远流长的历史，璀璨的哲学和文化，以及动人的神话传说，时至今日，仍在为这个国家里人们的生活提供根基。“白蛇传”的故事在中国家喻户晓，几个世纪以来，一直震撼着人们的心灵。

一部中国经典作品，透过一位欧洲人的视角，演化成一个新的故事。中国的读者们对这个经久流传又被重新诠释的故事，会有怎样的看法？两种完全不同的文化在一部爱情传说中交织、融合。从表面的冲突之下蕴藏的深切情感中，一个新的世界展现出来，让时间和空间都失去了力量。

首先，我要感谢我的妻子琳达。她敏感又充满感知力，成功地将我原作中诗意的语言翻译成英文，使这本中英对照本得以出版。

我还要感谢这本书的出版商，外语教学与研究出版社，尤其要感谢邓女士。由于她的无私帮助和大力支持，这本书才得以在中国问世。

我衷心祝愿，这个故事能够让读者体会到不同文化交汇时所展现的独特魅力与魔力，使其迈出相互理解的第一步，并找到分享共同感情的方式。

赫尔穆特·马特

2012年3月于赫伯兹海姆

Preface to the Chinese-German Version

China is a fabulous world of stories, myths, and legends. Despite the extensive destruction in its long history, the country retained an abundance of unique natural, cultural, and intellectual treasures.

Everything has its own significance, and each custom reveals a deeper meaning. This is one of the discoveries made during my journeys throughout China.

The landscapes and natural beauties of a country are always closely related to its cultural values. In China, almost each place tells its own story.

Zhejiang is a province in Southeast China. For many Chinese people, the West Lake of Hangzhou, vibrant capital of the province, is one of the most beautiful places in the whole country. Even visitors from Western countries let themselves be inspired by the age-old cultured landscape. In order to experience the romantic beauty of the West Lake to its full extent, it is worthwhile to view the landscape in historical perspective in regard to its tales and legends. *The Legend of the White Snake* is one of the four most famous and most touching love dramas in Chinese history. The mythos is portrayed closely interwoven with the West Lake, its landscapes and inhabitants in this book.

The story itself is inseparable from the customs and traditions of the country. Understanding the plot and its background landscape becomes easier if its historical and traditional context is considered.

原中德对照版序

中国是一个充满故事、神话与传说的国度。即使经历沧桑变迁，这个国家依然保留着无穷无尽的自然、文化和精神宝藏。

一切都有个说法，在每一个习俗的背后都隐藏着深刻的涵义。这便是我在中国之行中的感悟之一。

一个国家的人文与自然景观总是和文化价值紧密相连。在中国，几乎所有的地方都在讲述自己的故事。

浙江省位于中国东南部，其省会杭州是一个活力四射的城市，那里的西湖堪称中国人眼中最美的地方之一。来自西方的游客们也不禁会被这古老的文化景致深深吸引。若要感受她全部的魅力与浪漫，应当把风景与当地的传说联系起来。《白蛇传》是中国古代四大爱情传奇之一*。本书向您呈现的就是这个故事和西湖风景及百姓生活之间的渊源。

*另外三个故事
分别是《牛郎织
女》、《孟姜女》
和《梁山伯与祝英
台》。

白蛇的故事本身和中国的风俗习惯密不可分。如果这段历史和传统的关联有所了解，就会更容易理解故事情节和作为背景的风景名胜。

单纯去复述《白蛇传》的故事并不是我写这本书的目的。毕竟，它已经有太多的版本和解说了。风光和传说构成了叙述的框架。人物和情节在这本书里得到了重新塑造，并且和故事发生的地点有着史诗般的联系。

It was not my intention to simply renarrate the *Legend of the White Snake*. The large variety of versions and interpretations would not allow this at any event. Landscape and legend provide only the framework. In my novella, the protagonists are reborn and the plot recreated in a unique epic relationship to the places described in the story.

Most of the photos were taken on my trips to Beijing and to the south-eastern province of Zhejiang. I want to thank the German Service of China Radio International, especially Director Sun Jingli for giving me permission to use several illustrations and photos.

It is my sincere wish that this book find a large number of readers and that it may contribute to a greater open-mindedness and better understanding of China, its customs, landscapes, and people.

Helmut Matt
Herbolzheim, Germany, August 2008