

ENGLISH—CHINESE
A CHOICE SELECTION
OF ENGLISH FABLES

英语寓言精选

张春柏 陈茂庆 编译

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说 明

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前 言

本书选收英语寓言 112 篇。说是英语寓言，其实在很大程度上是各国寓言的英译本。这或许是多数英语寓言共有的特点。一方面，英语国家的经典寓言极为丰富；另一方面，世界文化遗产本来就具有互通性。

本书所选的寓言题材广泛，风格多样，文字浅显，寓意深刻。尽管绝大多数寓言都是动物故事，但由小见大，读者仍可以从中看到世界各国文化传统的一个个侧面。如，从《罗马人故事集》所选的寓言折射出古希腊和古罗马哲学的光华；而从盖尔的寓言中我们则可以看到印度佛教文化的影子。同时这些寓言还反映了每位寓言作者不同的语言风格和写作特点，如，伊索的朴实无华，拉封丹的严谨缜密，盖尔的清新浪畅。有的故事（如伊索寓言）常常在结尾来个画龙点睛，点出寓意；有的（如列·托尔斯泰的寓言）寓意隐含其中，让读者自己去揣摩玩味。但所有这些寓言都包含着深刻的哲理，隽永的意味，足以发人深思。

当然，由于语言风格的不同，这些寓言自然会有一定程度的难易之分，但总的说来，它们都比较浅显。这是寓言本身的民间文学性质所决定的。初级程度的读者，不妨先看伊索和盖尔等人的寓言，熟悉

了寓言的语言特点之后,再看其他稍难一些的。

本书每篇寓言均附有汉语译文。为了方便读者的理解,译文以直译为主,同时兼顾汉语的流畅性。限于我们的水平,其中疏漏之处恐在所难免,望能得到广大读者的指正。

编译者

1997年5月

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The Farmer And The Eagle

Aesop

A Farmer, who was out walking one fine day, found an Eagle caught in a snare. Struck with the beauty of the bird, and being a kindhearted fellow, he let the Eagle go. The sun was shining fiercely, and the Man soon sought out a cool spot in the shadow of an old wall, where he sat down upon a stone. A few moments later, he was surprised by the Eagle swooping down upon his head and carrying off his hat. The bird flew off some distance, and then let it fall. The Man ran after his hat and picked it up, wondering why an Eagle to which he had shown so much kindness should play such a mischievous trick in return. As he turned round to go back to his seat by the wall, he was astonished to see, where the wall had just been, nothing but a heap of stones.

— *An act of kindness is never wasted.*

农夫与鹰

伊 索

一个晴朗的日子，一位农夫出去散步，看见一只老鹰陷入罗网。善良的农夫见到如此美丽的鸟，动了恻隐之心，把它放走了。这时太阳照得火辣辣的，农夫很快在一段古老的围墙影子下找了块阴凉的地方，坐在石头上。不一会儿，那老鹰突然从天空俯冲下来，抓起他的帽子飞走。农夫不胜惊讶。那老鹰飞了一段路，又把帽子扔了下来。于是，他便奔过去，捡起了帽子，心里很纳闷，老鹰受了他的救命之恩，怎么竟会以这种恶作剧来回报。可是，当他回到墙边原来的座位时，却惊奇地发现，原来的那堵墙已经坍倒在地，成了一片废墟。

——行善总不会白搭。

The Ass, The Cock And The Lion

Aesop

An Ass and a Cock lived in a farm-yard together. One day a hungry Lion passing by and seeing the Ass in good condition, resolved to make a meal of him. Now, they say that there is nothing a Lion hates so much as the crowing of a Cock; and at that moment the Cock happening to crow, the Lion straightway made off with all haste from the spot.

The Ass, mightily amused to think that a Lion should be frightened at a bird, plucked up the courage and galloped after him, delighted with the notion of driving the king of beasts before him. He had, however, gone no great distance, when the Lion turned sharply round upon him, and made an end of him in a trice.

— *Presumption begins in ignorance and ends in ruin.*