

一百丛书

英汉对照 English-Chinese

陈德运·李仲·周国珍译

世界著名寓言一百篇

100

WORLD'S
GREAT
FABLES

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1 The Wolf and the Lion

A wolf, roaming by the mountain's side, saw his own shadow, as the sun was setting, become greatly extended and magnified, and he said to himself, "Why should I, being of such an immense size, and extending nearly an acre in length, be afraid of the lion? Ought I not to be acknowledged as King of all the collected beasts?" While he was indulging in these proud thoughts, a lion fell upon him, and killed him. He exclaimed with a too-late repentance, "Wretched me! this over-estimation of myself is the cause of my destruction."

Aesop

2 The Fox and the Lion

A fox who had never seen a lion, when by chance he met him for the first time, was so terrified that he almost died of fright. When he met him the second time, he was still afraid, but managed to disguise his fear. When he saw him the third time, he was so much emboldened that he went up to him and asked him how he did.

Familiarity breeds contempt.

Aesop

一 狼和狮子

狼在山坡下徘徊，正值落日斜照，看见自己的影子变得又长又大，于是自言自语道：“我这么巨大的个子，身长百尺，难道还要害怕狮子么？我不该被公认为百兽之王吗？”正当它顾影自怜，想入非非之际，一头狮子猛扑上来，一口把它咬死。狼死前后悔地哀叹：“呜呼！过高地估计自己，是我送命的祸根。”

伊索

二 狐狸和狮子

有一只狐狸从来未见过狮子。第一次偶然碰到狮子时，狐狸差点给吓死了。第二次见到狮子时，狐狸虽然心里害怕，却已经能强作镇静。第三次见到狮子时，狐狸就壮起胆子，迎上前跟狮子打招呼。

可见，由狎生慢。

伊索

3 The Mules and the Robbers

Two mules well laden with packs were trudging along. One carried panniers filled with money, the other, sacks weighted with grain. The mule carrying the treasure walked with head erect, as if conscious of the value of his burden, and tossed up and down the clear-toned bells fastened to his neck. His companion followed with quiet and easy steps.

Suddenly robbers rushed from their hiding-places upon them, and in the scuffle with their owners, wounded with a sword the mule carrying the treasure, which they greedily seized upon, while they took no notice of the grain.

The mule which had been robbed and wounded, bewailed his misfortunes. The other replied, "I am indeed glad that I was thought so little of, for I have lost nothing, nor am I hurt with any wound."

Aesop

4 The Dogs and the Fox

Some dogs found the skin of a lion and began to tear it to pieces with their teeth. A fox, seeing them, said, "If this lion were alive, you would soon find out that his claws were stronger than your teeth."

It is easy to kick a man that is down.

Aesop

三 骡子和强盗

两头骡子驮着沉重的背包，吃力地往前走。一头驮的是满袋金钱，另一头驮的是满袋粮食。驮着财宝的骡子似乎意识到自己驮的东西价值不菲，所以昂首阔步，把系在脖子上的铃子上下摆动得叮当作响。他的同伴却默默地踏着轻松的步伐跟在后面。

突然，一伙强盗从隐蔽处窜出来，扑向他们。强盗跟赶骡子的人扭打时，用刀刺伤了驮财宝的骡子，贪婪地把财宝一抢而光，对粮食则不加理睬。

给抢劫并受了伤的骡子，大叹倒楣。驮粮食的骡子对他说：“人人都对我不屑一顾，我才感到高兴哩。我一无所失，也没有捱刀子！”

伊索

四 狗和狐狸

几条狗捡到一张狮子皮，他们就用尖牙把它撕成一片片。狐狸看见了就说：“这狮子如果是活的，你们就会懂得狮子的爪子比你们的牙齿还厉害得多哩。”

打落水狗并不难。

伊索

5 The Sick Lion

A lion, no longer able, from the weakness of old age, to hunt for his prey, laid himself up in his den, and, breathing with great difficulty, and speaking with a low voice, gave out that he was very ill indeed. The report soon spread among the beasts, and there was great lamentation for the sick lion. One after the other came to see him; but, catching him thus alone, and in his own den, the lion made an easy prey of them, and grew fat upon his diet.

The fox, suspecting the truth of the matter, came at length to make his visit of inquiry, and standing at some distance, asked his Majesty how he did? "Ah, my dearest friend," said the lion, "Is it you? Why do you stand so far from me? Come, sweet friend, and pour a word of consolation in the poor lion's ear, who has but a short time to live."

"Bless you!" said the fox, "but excuse me if I cannot stay; for, to tell the truth, I feel quite uneasy at the mark of the foot-steps that I see here, all pointing towards your den, and none returning outwards."

Affairs are easier of entrance than of exit; and it is but common prudence to see our way out before we venture in.

Aesop

五 病獅

一头年老体弱的獅子，无力自行觅食，只好躺在洞穴里；他呼吸困难，说话有气无力，一脸病入膏肓的样子。这消息很快在兽群之间传开了，大家都为病獅哀伤不已。他们一个接一个地来探望他；哪知道这头獅子就这样待在自己的洞穴里，轻而易举地把探望者一个个捉住吃掉，把自己养得胖胖的。

狐狸对这件事有点怀疑，最后也来看个究竟。他站得远远的恭问万兽之王安好。獅子道：“啊，我最亲爱的朋友，是你呀！为什么站得那么远？来，好朋友，在我这可怜的獅子耳边说句安慰的话吧，我快不行啦。”

“愿上帝保佑你！”狐狸说：“但请原谅，我不能久留。老实说，我感到十分不安。我看到这里许多脚印都是只向府上走进去，没有一个是走出来的哩！”

凡事进易退难，是以谋定而后动为不易之道理。

伊索

6 The Cock and the Jewel

As a cock was scratching up the straw in a farm-yard, in search of food for the hens, he hit upon a jewel that by some chance had found its way there. "Ho!" said he, "you are a very fine thing, no doubt, to those who prize you; but give me a barley-corn before all the pearls in the world."

Aesop

7 The Astronomer

An astronomer used to walk out every night to gaze upon the stars. It happened one night that, as he was wandering in the outskirts of the city, with his whole thoughts rapt up in the skies, he fell into a well. On his holloaing and calling out, one who heard his cries ran up to him, and when he had listened to his story, said, "My good man, while you are trying to pry into the mysteries of heaven, you overlook the common objects that are under your feet."

Aesop

六 公鸡和宝石

一只公鸡正在农家院子里扒开稻草给母鸡找吃的。忽然，他发现一颗不知怎的落在那儿的宝石。“哼！”公鸡说：“对于赏识宝石的人来说，你倒是宝贝；但我现在情愿要一颗麦粒，也不稀罕世上所有的珠宝。”

伊索

七 天文学家

一位天文学家每天晚上出外观察星宿。一天晚上，他在市郊踽踽前行，只顾仰头观察夜空，一不留神掉进一口井里。他大声喊叫呼救。有人听到喊声，跑过来救起他。听了天文学家所说的因由后，他说：“老兄啊，你只顾探索天上的奥秘，却连跟前的普通事物也视而不见了。”

伊索

8 The Countryman and the Snake

A countryman returning home one winter's day, found a snake by the hedge-side, half dead with cold. Taking compassion on the creature, he laid it in his bosom and brought it home to his fire-side to revive it. No sooner had the warmth restored it, than it began to attack the children of the cottage. Upon this the countryman, whose compassion had saved its life, took up a club and laid the snake dead at his feet.

Aesop

9 The Oxen and the Axle-Trees

As some oxen were dragging a waggon along a heavy road, the axle-trees set up a tremendous creaking. "Brute!" cried the driver to the waggon, "why do you groan, when they who are drawing all the weight are silent?"

Those who cry loudest are not always the most hurt.

Aesop