

Contemporary Chinese Fables



Panda Books

Panda Books
First Edition 1990
Copyright 1990 by CHINESE LITERATURE PRESS
ISBN 7-5071-0046-4 / I . 40
ISBN 0-8351-2070-8

Published by CHINESE LITERATURE PRESS
Beijing 100037, China
Distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation
21 Chegongzhuang Xilu, Beijing 100044, China
P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China
Printed in the People's Republic of China

Editors' Note

This is a collection of 76 contemporary fables by 33 writers.

The fable has a long history in China, and it dates back to the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods (770-221 B.C.), when well-known thinkers and writers produced a great number of remarkable pieces still popular among the common people today. Many more fables were produced, but it is in the last few decades that the Chinese fable has risen to prominence as a branch of literature, particularly in recent years, when fables by new writers have appeared, animating an erstwhile dearth. Since the founding of the Fable Association in 1984, fable writers and researchers have compiled and published a *Fable Dictionary* and collections of stories, with *Fable Magazine* providing much more space for writers.

Most of the fables in this collection are the recent work of well-known writers. Huang Ruiyun, a professor of Chinese classics and over fifty years old, is famous for profundity and meticulous observation in the genre, and Jin Jiang, who has worked in this field for more than thirty years, has published nearly thirty collections of fables which enjoy great popularity, especially among teenagers. Ning Xi is one of the more intelligent new writers and has published more than a thousand pieces. Altogether, this book is a reflection of life full of vivid characters and deep meaning.

编者说明

《中国当代寓言选》荟萃了三十三位作家的作品七十六篇。

寓言在中国有悠久的历史，早在公元前七世纪至公元前二世纪的春秋战国时代，就出现了著名的思想家、作家所写的一批至今仍为人所乐道的作品。之后，历代都有许多寓言传世。然而，寓言作为文学创作的兴起却是近几十年的事，特别是近些年来，新人新作不断涌现，一扫以往的沉寂。1984年成立的寓言学会，已拥有众多的寓言作家和寓言研究者，他们编辑出版了《寓言辞典》和各种寓言专集，而他们创办的《寓言》杂志，更为广大的寓言写作者提供了广阔的园地。本书正是在这样的基础上选取各家的精品辑录而成。

收入本书的作品，大都来自名家。五十多岁的黄瑞云是中国古典文学教授，同时又是一位著名的寓言作家，他的作品以观察深刻和思考精到著称；金江从事寓言创作已有三十余年，出版了近三十本寓言集，拥有众多的读者，特别在少年读者中较有影响；凝溪是近年涌现出的青年寓言作家之一，他敏慧多产，已创作出版了寓言作品一千余篇。本书所收寓言，大都是近年的新作，现实性强，而且形象生动，寓意深警，耐人寻味。

CONTENTS

Huang Ruiyun

Two Carrier-Pigeons	13
A Pottery Jar and an Iron Jar	15
Two Dogs	19
The Magic Tub	22
The Noisy Cat	25
The Mare and Her Colt	27
The Trapped Eagle	29
Two Date Trees	31
The Songster's Fate	33
The Puppet's Philosophy	35
The Camel's Self-confidence	37
The Termites' Meetings in the Pavilion	39

Jin Jiang

Two Crow Brothers	41
A Mouse in a Horn	43
The Old Donkey Who Turned a Millstone	45
Three Mice	47
The Landlord	49
The Thin-Feathered Hen	51
The Foolish Man Mends a Quilt	53

Liu Zhen

The Roast Swan	55
----------------	----

Shao Hua

How Snakes Eat Frogs	58
----------------------	----

Zhan Lu

The Fox's Eyes	60
----------------	----

目 录

黄瑞云

两只信鸽	14
陶罐和铁罐	17
两只狗	21
宝 桶	24
会叫的猫	26
老马和小马	28
落在网里的鹰	30
两棵枣树	32
歌手的遭遇	34
傀儡的哲学	36
骆驼的自信	38
水亭上的蛀虫会议	40

金 江

乌鸦兄弟	42
牛角尖中的老鼠	44
老驴推磨	46
三只老鼠	48
地 主	50
细毛鸡	52
呆人补被	54

刘 征

烤天鹅的故事	56
--------	----

韶 华

蛇吃青蛙	59
------	----

湛 卢

狐狸的眼睛	61
找食的狼	63

Wolf on the Prowl	62
Ning Xi	
Fare	64
A Concert	66
Wedding Day	68
A Flower and Its Bodyguard	70
The Cat and the Cavalry Horse	72
The Rooster and the Sun	74
The Big Zero and the Little Zero	76
The Road Sign and the Bicycle	78
The Fox, the Wolf and the Lion	80
The Tiger's Prestige	82
Strong Drink	84
The Stake and the Boat	86
The Stream, the Lake and the Sea	88
The Front Door's Dilemma	90
Lu Dehua	
The "Righteous" Fox	92
Fox Against Fox	95
Sun Chuanze	
The Two Archers and the Wolf	99
How Daji Selected Concubines	101
Three Pools	104
The Portrait on the Wanted Poster	106
Hai Daiquan	
The Unfired Brick	109
The Fox in the Butcher's	111
The Wild-Goose and the Cloud	113
A Book on Rat-catching	115
The Bat and the Mosquito	117
Chen Naixiang	
The Peacock's Prize	119
The Brown Dog's Tail	121

凝 溪	
车 钱	65
音乐会	67
黑熊结婚	69
花与卫士	71
猫与战马	73
晨鸡与太阳	75
小零与大零	77
路标和自行车	79
狐狸、狼与狮子	81
虎 威	83
酒 力	85
木桩与小船	87
小溪、湖泊与大海	89
房门的遭遇	91

吕德华	
主持“正义”的狐狸	94
狐狸和狐狸	97

孙传泽	
两个射手和狼	100
姐已选妃	103
三个池子	105
通辑告示上的画像	108

海代泉	
一块砖坯	110
狐狸卖肉	112
大雁和浮云	114
灭鼠的书	116
蝙蝠与蚊子	118

陈乃祥	
孔雀得奖	120
秃尾巴黄狗	122

Yu Weiye	
The Full Kettle, the Half-Full Kettle and the Empty Kettle	123
Ying Wu	
The Wolf and the Lamb	125
A One-Eyed Camel	127
Ignorance and Arrogance	129
Wu Guangxiao	
The Chicks' Nest	131
One and Zero	133
Xu Qianghua	
The Surgeon, the Crane and the Wild Duck	135
Li Jihuai	
The Moon's Reply	137
Liu Houming	
The White Sail and the Wooden Oar	139
Chen Jun	
The Salt Vendor	141
Lu Zhi	
The Crow Dyes Itself	143
Zhou Bingbing	
The Punctuation Dispute	145
Chen Liang	
The Noisy Cat and the Silent Dog	147
Du Li	
The Two Clay Men	149

余薇野		
满壶、半壶和空壶		124
英 武		
狼和小羊		126
一只眼的骆驼		128
无知和骄傲		130
吴广孝		
小鸟的巢		132
1 和 0		134
徐强华		
医生和白鸽、野鸭		136
李继槐		
月亮的回答		138
刘厚明		
白帆和木桨		140
陈 军		
盐贩子		142
鲁 芝		
乌鸦配色记		144
周冰冰		
标点符号争功记		146
陈 梁		
会叫的猫和不会叫的狗		148
杜 梨		
两个泥人		150
叶永烈		
钟表店里的争吵		152

Yonglie	
Talk in a Clock Shop	151
Lin Guanfu	
The Fate of a Pear Tree	153
Bai Lang	
The Fly on the Tiger's Head	155
Peng Wenxi	
The Foal Who Crossed the Stream	157
Shi Fatian	
The Sculptor and the Statue	161
Gao Lei	
Taking Things to Heart	163
Jiang Zibing	
A Cuttlefish in a Net	165
Shi Fei	
The King and His Two Ministers	167
Xie Puding	
The Bet	169
Liu Zhenhua	
The Fox and the Cormorant	171
He Yi	
The Lion Who Did Not Like Flattery	174
Qu Guanghui	
The Locomotive and the Kettle	176

林冠夫		
梨树的遭遇		154
白 浪		
老虎头上的苍蝇		156
彭文席		
小马过河		159
史发田		
艺人和雕像		162
高 磊		
闻过则记		164
蒋宇冰		
网中乌贼		166
石 飞		
国王和他的两个大臣		168
解普定		
赶 集		170
刘振华		
狐狸和鱼鹰		173
贺 宜		
不爱恭维的狮子		175
瞿光辉		
火车和水壶		177

Two Carrier-Pigeons

A man had two well-trained carrier-pigeons. Each time he released them with messages, they reached their destination correctly. But he soon discovered that they never arrived at the same time. Sometimes one was earlier than the other or vice versa. He wondered if perhaps the two birds occasionally made a detour or took a wrong direction so that was why they arrived at different times. Thus he hit upon the idea of tying them together, so that they would fly together in the right direction and arrive more quickly at their destination.

He put his scheme into practice, tethering the two pigeons together with a foot-long rope and releasing them.

But the birds didn't fly in formation keeping the same distance apart, nor could they fly at the same speed. The rope became entangled. The more they wished to speed ahead, the more they felt restrained. Finally they dropped from the sky. On the ground they struggled to fly into the air again, but failed and eventually died.

— If you let them fly freely to their destination, although they may make a small detour or fly at a different pace, they will arrive safely. Without such freedom, they will die en route.

两只信鸽

一个信鸽爱好者驯养了两只很好的鸽子。两只鸽子多次准确无误地飞回了目的地。但驯鸽者发现，它们总是有先有后，有时这一只先回，有时另一只先到。他想：虽然两只鸽子都能飞回目的地，但它们在路上还是因认错了路而多飞了路程；它们之所以有时这只先到，有时那只先回，显然有时那只飞了弯路，有时这只错了目标，要不然就会是同时到达的。他想，如果两只靠在一起，共同辨认方向和目标，那一定能更加迅速更加准确地到达目的地了。

他把这一设想付诸实行：用一根一尺长的绳子把两只鸽子并联起来，然后放它们飞行。

两个飞行伙伴不能持续不变地保持同一距离同一速度飞行，绳子使它们互相牵制，很快地从空中摔了下来，它们越是想尽快飞起，就越是牵制得紧，一再飞起，一再摔落，经过几番剧烈的挣扎，结果全死在路上了。

——只要方向和目标一致，让它们自由地飞行是能够到达目的地的，即使多少走点儿弯路也并无妨碍；取消这一点自由，它们就只能死在路上了。



A Pottery Jar and an Iron Jar

IN the king's kitchen there were two jars. One was made of pottery, the other of iron. The iron jar was very arrogant and always looked down on the other one, sneering at it.

"Bet you don't dare to knock yourself against me," jeered the iron jar.

"Quite right, dear brother," replied the pottery jar modestly.

"That's because you're a snivelling little coward!" the iron jar spoke contemptuously.

"It's not because I'm afraid of you that I don't want to crash against you," the pottery jar began patiently.

"Our job is to be containers, not to knock against each other. As far as our job goes, I'm just as good as you. In fact...."

"Shut up!" yelled the iron jar angrily. "How dare you presume to be my equal? Just you wait. I'll smash you to pieces within a few days. Then you'll be finished. But me, I'll last for ever! Nothing can bother me."

"Come now, don't talk like that," said the pottery jar trying to make peace with the other. "We should try to live together peacefully. There's no need to pick quarrels with each other."

"I'm ashamed just to be seen living together with you," roared the iron jar. "Why you ... you're just nothing! O.K. then. Let's wait and see. Sooner or later you'll be smashed to smithereens."

The pottery jar was silent.

Time passed and the world changed. The kingdom was destroyed. The palace crumbled. The two jars were buried in the ruins of the palace. The dust of the centuries covered the ruins.

After hundreds of years had passed, some people came to the place one day and started digging through all the deep

layers of dust. Finally they found in their excavations the pottery jar.

"Hey! Look at this! Here's a jar!" a man exclaimed in surprise.

"Wow! It's a pottery jar!" They all laughed delightedly.

Carefully they all helped to remove the pottery jar from the ruins. They dusted the earth from it and washed it clean. It was exactly as it had once been in the king's kitchen — plain and beautiful, with its shiny black glaze.

"What a beauty!" one man cried in wonder. "We must be very careful. It's a priceless treasure. We mustn't break it."

"Thank you so much," the pottery jar cried in gratitude. "My iron jar brother was lying beside me. Please, will you go and rescue him as well from the ruins? It was stifling down there."

Immediately the men set to work. They searched carefully, sifting the earth but could not find the iron jar. Instead, they found only a few rusty scraps and even then they couldn't be sure if these were the traces of the iron jar. It had been oxidized.

— Never emphasize another's weaknesses by comparing them to your own strengths. He may have good qualities that you do not see.

陶罐和铁罐

国王的御厨里有两只罐子：一只是陶的，一只是铁的。骄傲的铁罐看不起陶罐，常常奚落它。

“你敢碰我吗？陶罐子！”铁罐傲慢地问。

“不敢，铁罐兄弟。”谦虚的陶罐回答说。

“我就知道你不敢，懦弱的东西！”铁罐摆出一副轻蔑的神气。

“我确实不敢碰你，但不能叫做懦弱。”陶罐不卑不亢地说，“我们生来的任务是盛东西，并不是来互相碰撞的。在完成我们的本职任务方面，我不见得就比你差。再说……”

“住嘴！”铁罐愤怒地喝道，“你怎敢和我相提并论！你等着吧，要不了几天，你就会破成碎片，完蛋了！我却永远在这里，什么也不害怕。”

“何必这样说呢，”陶罐说，“我们还是和睦相处好，吵什么呢！”

“和你在一起我感到羞耻，你算什么东西！”铁罐说，“我们走着瞧吧，总有一天，你要变成碎片的！”

陶罐不再理会。

时间不断地向前推移，世界上发生了许多事情，王朝覆灭了，宫殿倒塌了。两只罐子被遗落在废墟里。历史在它们的上面盖满了渣滓和尘土，一个世纪连着一个世纪。

也不知过了多少年月。终于有一天，人们来到这里，掘开厚厚的堆积，发现了那只陶罐。

“哟，这里头有一只罐子！”一个人惊讶地说。

“真的，一只陶罐！”其它的人也跟着高兴得叫起来。

大家把陶罐捧起，把它身上的泥土刷掉，擦洗干净，和当年在御厨的时候完全一样：朴素，美观，釉黑锃亮。

“一只多美的陶罐！”一个人说，“小心点，千万别把它弄破了，这是古代的东西，很有价值的。”

“谢谢你们！”陶罐兴奋地说，“我的兄弟铁罐就在我的旁边，请你们把它掘出来吧，它一定闷得够受了。”

人们立即动手，翻来覆去，把土都掘遍了。但，一点铁罐的影子也没有。——它，不知在什么年代便氧化了。人们