

中国经典文化故事系列

Chinese Classic Cultural Stories Series

Selections of Classical Chinese Tales

# 中国历代典藏故事精选

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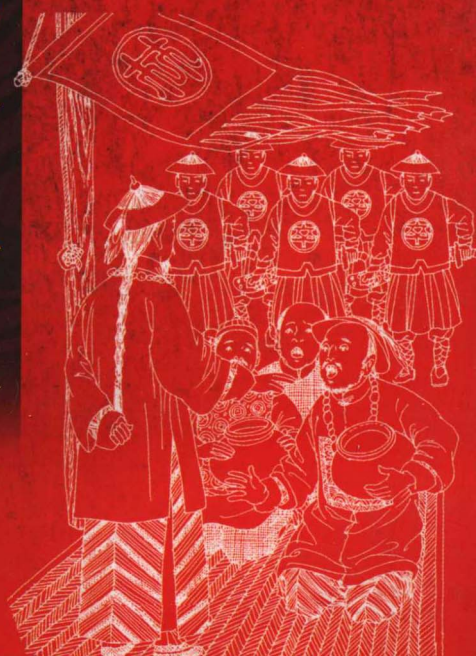
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## 写在前面

民间故事是一种口头文学，它以口耳相传的方式在民众中世代传承，绵延不绝。另一方面，历代文人也早已注意到了它的存在，并对它产生了浓郁的兴趣。历代文人采录、整理、改写的民间故事，保存在浩如烟海典籍之中，同样是弥足珍贵的文化遗产。中国是世界上古文明国家之一，典籍之丰富一向令人瞩目。为了便于青少年阅读和国际文化交流的需要，我们从历代典籍中钩沉梳理出这样一个选本，写成白话文，译成英文，作为《中国历代典藏故事精选》，结集出版。这还是一种尝试，不当之处，希望能得到各方面的批评指教。

### Foreword

Folk tale is handed down, usually by word of mouth, from generation to generation. However, folk tales were also preserved and spread in the classics due to the recording, editing and adapting by those men of letters who were interested in them. The voluminous Chinese classics are certainly a precious source of folk tales. We try to select some tales from these classics and translate them into modern Chinese and English, with the intention to contribute to youth





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reading and international communication. This is the reason of the publication of this collection *Selections of Classical Chinese Tales*. Finally, for this attempt is by no means free from demerits, all critiques and suggestions are welcome.

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## 一、大禹治水

### 1. Yu the Great Tames the Mighty Flood

帝尧的时候，老是遭灾，先是大旱，天空中一下子升起了十个太阳，热得老百姓都快发疯了。后来出了个英雄羿，射下来九个太阳，又诛除了恶禽猛兽，为百姓解救苦难。谁知道大旱之后，竟又出现了漫天的大水。大水可厉害呢！据说是因为百姓做错了事，上帝才派水神共工来发大水，惩罚老百姓的。

During Ruler Yao's period, people frequently suffered natural disasters. Having lived under ten suns, people were afflicted with severe draught. Hero Yi came out and threw himself into relieving the draught. He shot nine suns down the sky and killed all bad beasts as well as evil birds. Scarcely had the draught gone when great flood broke out. It was said that the flood, generated by Water Deity Gonggong who was at God's service, was a punishment for what the wrongs people had done.

老天一连下了九九八十一天的大雨，洪水铺天盖地涌过来，包围了山头，没掉了丘陵，老百姓扶老携幼，四处逃难，饥寒交迫，忧心忡忡。

It rained heavily for eighty-one days on end.







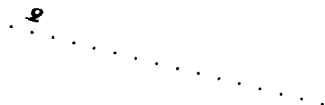
Consequently, the mighty flood poured into the country, submerged the hills and reduced the people to suffering. Tormented by cold and hunger, the panic-stricken people brought old parents and young kids with them on the run from the flood.

帝尧要找一个会治水的能人，于是，大臣们向他推荐了鲧。

When Yao, the ruler, asked for a man who was capable of controlling the flood, his courtiers recommended Gun to him.

鲧是黄帝的孙儿，他看见洪水泛滥，百姓受苦，心中非常难受，可是一时又找不到治水的好办法。有一次，他偶然听到猫头鹰和乌龟之间的一番话，知道在上帝的天庭里藏着一种神奇的“息壤”，能够生长不息，就冒着生命危险，到天庭里偷来了息壤，用它来填塞洪水。这息壤果然灵验，只用了一点点，就可以不断地长大，变成堤岸，把洪水给挡住了。

Gun, Yellow Emperor's grandson, having grieved over people's sufferings caused by the flood, was at a loss how to tame the mighty flood. Later by accident he heard a conversation between an owl and a tortoise, which informed him of the "quelling soil", which could reproduce itself incessantly, having been kept secretly in the heaven. He stole the soil from the heaven at the risk of his life and used it in an attempt to prevent the flooding. It turned out to be effective: a





little soil could reproduce itself into a large quantity, with which to build an embankment and to block the flood.

鲧盗窃息壤的事，终于被上帝发觉了。上帝暴跳如雷，立即派火神祝融下凡，在羽山附近抓住了鲧，一刀斫去，把鲧砍死，并且蛮横地夺走了他手里剩下来的息壤。这样一来，洪水重又泛滥起来了，天下大乱，百姓呼天抢地，他们哭鲧的壮烈牺牲，也哭自己的苦难深重。

Later the God in the heaven discovered that Gun had stolen the “quelling soil”. He flared into a rage and dispatched Fire Deity Zhurong to the earth immediately. In a place near the Plume Mountain Zhurong killed Gun with a sword and robbed him of all the remaining “quelling soil”. As a result, the water flooded again and the country got into turmoil. People cried bitterly for the death of Gun and the misery of their life.

鲧治水还没成功，就惨遭杀害，他壮志未酬，精魂不散。三年过去了，他的尸体都没有腐烂，仍旧双眼圆睁，手指东南，他的腹部一天天鼓胀起来，里面正孕育着一个新的生命。

Gun was murdered before he managed to tame the mighty flood. As he had not realized his aspiration, his spirit was unwilling to disperse. His body did not decay for three years: his eyes were still staring and his fingers pointing to the





southeast. His belly swelled, in which a new life was conceived.

上帝知道了，派一个天神，带了一把利刀，来到鲧的尸体旁边。一刀下去，从鲧的肚子里窜出一条虬龙，盘曲腾跃，飞上九重云霄，这就是鲧的儿子大禹。鲧的尸体也化成黄龙，跃入了旁边的羽渊之中。

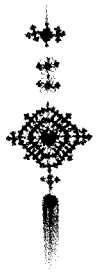
A deity was sent by God to cut open Gun's belly with a sharp sword. He saw a small dragon with horns jump out of the belly and soar into the air. It was Yu the Great, whose father then turned into a yellow dragon and disappeared in the abyss of the Plume Mountain.

大禹诞生之后，发下誓言，一定要继承父亲的遗愿，为天下百姓治水。

Yu the Great swore that he would fulfill his father's wish by helping the people tame the mighty flood.

上帝也被鲧禹父子的精神感动了，就改变主意，任命大禹去治理天下洪水，派应龙和大乌龟去帮助他，并且把从鲧手里夺回的息壤也交还给了禹，让他率领百姓治水。大禹变成了人的模样，率领百姓，浩浩荡荡来到治水工地。他让应龙在前面开路，应龙的尾巴在地上画出标记，他就率领百姓沿着这个标记开凿河道。他又让大乌龟驮着息壤跟在后面，必要的地方放





一点息壤，一则可以阻拦洪水，逼洪水改道，二则又可以加高土地，让百姓在高处居住。这样，堵的地方后来成了名山，疏的地方成了大江大河。

The persistence of Yu and his deceased father moved God to change his mind. He appointed Yu to deal with the flood, sent two deities, Winged Dragon and Great Tortoise, to assist Yu, and returned the “quelling soil.” With God’s permission, Yu transformed himself into a human being and led the people to tackle the flood on the work site. Yu assigned Winged Dragon to blaze the path and then had a canal dug along the trail left by Winged Dragon with its tail. At the same time, Great Tortoise was assigned to carry the “quelling soil” on its back and scatter it wherever necessary. By so doing, Yu not only blocked and diverted the flood but also settled the people down on the highland. These places later became famous mountains and great rivers.

大禹治水，渐渐地有了成效，百姓欢欣鼓舞；水神共工却一肚子的无名火，于是就又掀起了洪水，故意跟大禹作对，这洪水从西方一直涌到空桑（今天的山东曲阜一带）。大禹也发怒了，就在会稽（今天的浙江绍兴一带）会集天下群神，召开紧急会议，商量和共工开战的大事。那时候，巨人防风氏迟到，大禹毫不客气地把他杀了；于是群神畏惧，令行禁止，大家都跟着大禹上阵，去打共工。





Yu's success in controlling the flood inspired the people, but enraged Water Deity Gonggong, who caused a flood surging from the west to Kongsang (the present area of Qufu in Shandong Province). Yu was so furious that he summoned all the deities at Huiji (the present area of Shaoxing in Zhejiang Province) to have an urgent meeting on declaring war on Water Deity Gonggong. Giant Fangfeng was put to death by Yu without hesitation as he was late for the meeting. The other deities were frightened and followed him to fight against Gonggong.

这一仗打得很漂亮，撵走了共工，又杀死了共工的部下柳相，从此以后，大禹就可以专心致志地治水了。

Yu defeated Gonggong and killed his subordinate, Liu Xiang. By getting rid of Gonggong, Yu was able to concentrate on administrating the flood.

治水是非常辛劳的。禹每到一个地方，总是身先士卒，带头苦干，累得他脸色憔悴，手上长满了老茧，大腿上的皮磨破了，小腿上的汗毛磨光了，由于长年累月在外奔波，他走起路来就有些一拐一拐的，后人把这种步子叫做“禹步”。

It was tough indeed. As Yu took the lead in working hard wherever he went, he looked exhausted. He had his hands full of calluses, had his skin scraped off the thighs and his





hair off the shanks. For he was busy taming the flood all year around, he walked with a slight limp, which people later referred to as “Yu’s steps”.

大禹在外治水十三年，有三次路过自己的家门，他怕耽误了治水，竟一次也没有进。

Lest he should delay the job, Yu, who had worked outside for thirteen years, passed his house three times and never stepped into it.

大禹吃得很简单，穿得很马虎，把全部精力都用在治水上。每到一个地方，禹都要测量地势的高低，立许多木桩子，用它做标记，根据高山的形势，就可以安排河水的走向；又把天下分成了九州，哪个州适宜种植什么庄稼，哪个州适宜狩猎、捕鱼，都一一作了妥善的安排。从此以后，百姓安居乐业，人人都称颂大禹的功德。

With meager food and simple clothes, Yu dedicated himself to tackling the flood. Wherever he visited, he would set up many wooden stakes to measure its topography so as to arrange the river course. He divided the country into nine regions, each of which had its own functions, the region for cultivation, the region for hunting or the region for fishing. People from then on lived peacefully and enjoyed their work in the regions. They all had a high regard for Yu.



大禹老了，他依旧不忘记自己的百姓，拖着疲惫的身躯，还是在九州大地上四处奔波。这一年，他巡狩来到会稽，终于长眠不起。百姓含着热泪将他埋葬在当地，这就是今天浙江绍兴的大禹陵。

Yu cared for his people even in his old age, travelling over hills and dales. After years of toil, he died at Huiji on a hunting journey. With tears in their eyes, people buried his body on the spot, presently called the tomb of Yu the Great in Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province.

据说，后来每逢春天，总有成群结队的鸟儿飞来，聚集在大禹的墓地上，一齐啄除杂草。人们都说，连鸟儿也为大禹的精神所感动了。

It was said that when the spring was due, flocks of birds would perch on the tomb and pecked off the wild grass. Maybe birds were moved by Yu's devotion, people said.



## 二、九方皋相马

### 2. Jiufang Gao Inspecting Horses

春秋的时候，秦国有个名叫伯乐的人，很会识别马的优劣。

In the Spring and Autumn Period (770AD—476 AD) in Chinese history, there lived a man called Bo Le in the State of Qin, who was good at distinguishing steeds from normal horses.

太行山附近出了一匹能日行千里的好马，因为周围的人谁也不识马，所以马主人总觉得这马平平常常的，不会有什么用处。马的年纪一年年大了，主人就让它去拖着盐车走山路。

There was a steed in the vicinity of Mount Taihang. Unfortunately, no one in the neighborhood knew how to inspect horses. As a result, the steed owner took the real steed for a normal horse and had it drag a salt wagon to go through mountains as it grew old.

一次，它拖着沉重的盐车上太行山，伸着蹄子，屈着膝盖，浑身上下全被汗水湿透了，却还是上不了山。正好伯乐路过，一见，大吃一惊，连忙赶过去拉住车辕，把马从车上卸了下来，又脱下自己的外衣去披在马背上，一边抚摸着马，一边忍不住落