

英语经典名篇阅读

A Selection of World Fairy Tales

世界民间 故事精选

(上卷)

林俐译

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前 言

每个国家和民族都拥有属于本土文化的童话故事,其中有一部分是童话作家的个人创作,而另一部分则属于民间口头文学,直到后来才被文字记录下来。这部分民间童话往往是夜幕降临时,一家人围坐在火炉边,爸爸、妈妈或祖父、祖母讲给孩子们听的故事,它们可能是祖母的祖母或祖父的祖父曾经讲过的,然后等孩子们长大后又讲给自己的孩子听。这些古老的故事就这样一代代流传下来,在这过程中,人们给它们添枝加叶,使它们的情节越来越丰满,人物性格越来越鲜明,知道和讲述他们的人也越来越多。

民间故事的诞生和演变决定它所呈现出来的不是某个特定作家个人的观念和情感,而是一群人、一个民族的整体欢乐、痛苦、希冀与信仰。阅读一个国家的民间童话不仅能享受到想象和梦幻所带来的快乐,也能领略到一种文化的智慧和魅力,感受一个民族独特的思维方式、性格特质和民风民俗。本书所收集的正是诞生于世界各国(主要是欧洲国家)的民间童话故事。它们流传久远、脍炙人口,可以说是童话故事中永恒的“经典”。

我们以双语的形式把这些民间童话奉献给读者,使大家能享受到原汁原味的英语阅读快乐。民间童话故事的语言运用往往体现出一种语言最生动有趣的一面,现在生活中许多常用的习语、比喻、象征也都诞生于此;民间童话还是一些生动形象的大宝库,许多这样的经典形象已成为某一类事物的代名词。阅读了这些故事,你就会明白为什么 *cinderella*(灰姑娘)用来指代那些表面平凡,内心高贵,受人欺压,终将获得幸福的女孩;为什么 *dragon*(龙)在中国文化中代表高贵、祥瑞、至高无上的权力,而在许多西方国家则是邪恶和黑暗势力的守护者。

另外,童话故事的内容生动、逻辑简单、语言也较易懂,是学习英语的青少年的理想读物。

编者

2007年8月

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THE BRONZE RING

Once upon a time in a certain country there lived a king whose palace was surrounded by a spacious garden. But, though the gardeners were many and the soil was good, this garden yielded neither flowers nor fruits, not even grass or shady trees.

The King was in despair about it when a wise old man said to him:

"Your gardeners do not understand their business; but what can you expect of men whose fathers were cobblers^① and carpenters?^② How should they have learnt to cultivate your garden?"

"You are quite right," cried the King.

"Therefore," continued the old man, "you should send for a gardener whose father and grandfather have been gardeners before him, and very soon your garden will be full of green grass and gay flowers, and you will enjoy its delicious fruit."

So the King sent messengers to every town, village, and hamlet^③ in his dominions^④, to look for a gardener whose forefathers had been gardeners also, and after forty days one was found.

青铜戒

很久以前的某个国度里,住着一位国王。他的宫殿四周有着开阔的花园,尽管花园的土壤很肥沃,照看它的园丁也很多,却总长不出一朵鲜花或一粒果实,甚至连小草和成荫的绿树也不见踪影。

国王对此很绝望。这时有一个聪明的老头告诉他:

"您的园丁们对自己的活计一无所知,您怎么能希望鞋匠和木匠们的儿子会照看好您的花园呢?"

"你真聪明!"国王大声地说。

"所以,"老人继续说,"您必须找到一个祖父和父亲都是园丁的人来照看您的花园,不久您的花园中就会长满绿草开满鲜花,还有美味的水果供您享用呢。"

于是,国王派出传令官,来到他的每一座城市、每一个乡镇和村落寻找这样一位世代都是园丁的园丁。四十天后,这样的人终于找到了。

①cobbler n. 补鞋匠 ②carpenter n. 木匠 ③hamlet n. 村落 ④dominion n. 领土

"Come with us and be gardener to the King," they said to him.

"How can I go to the King," said the gardener, "a poor wretch like me?"

"That is of no consequence," they answered, "Here are new clothes for you and your family."

"But I owe money to several people."

"We will pay your debts," they said.

So the gardener allowed himself to be persuaded, and went away with the messengers, taking his wife and his son with him; and the King, delighted to have found a real gardener, entrusted him with the care of his garden. The man found no difficulty in making the royal garden produce flowers and fruit, and at the end of a year the park was not like the same place, and the King showered^① gifts upon his new servant.

The gardener, as you have heard already, had a son, who was a very handsome young man, with most agreeable manners, and every day he carried the best fruit of the garden to the King, and all the prettiest flowers to his daughter. Now this Princess was wonderfully pretty and was just sixteen years old, and the King was beginning to think it was time that she should be married.

"My dear child," said he, "you are of

"跟我们走吧,去做国王的园丁。"那些传令官对他说。

"像我这样卑贱的人怎么能去见国王呢?"园丁说。

"噢,这不成问题,"传令官回答,"我们会给你穿崭新的衣裳,你的家人也能穿得漂漂亮亮!"

"可是,我还欠了好几个人的钱。"

"我们会替你还债。"传令官说。

园丁就这样被说服了,带着他的妻儿随着传令官来到国王的宫殿,国王很高兴找到了一个真正的园丁,放心地把自己的花园交给他照看。园丁很快就让清冷荒芜的皇家花园长出了鲜花和水果,一年过去了,花园再也不是从前的样子了,国王赏赐给他的新仆人许多礼物。

正如大家已经听说的,园丁有个儿子,是个长相英俊、举止文雅的年轻小伙子,他每天把花园中最美味的水果献给国王,最鲜艳的花朵送给国王的女儿——小公主已经长成十六岁的美人儿了,国王也开始考虑她的婚姻大事。

一次,国王对公主说:"亲爱

①shower sth. (up) on sb. 大量给予

an age to take a husband, therefore I am thinking of marrying you to the son of my prime minister^①. ”

“Father,” replied the Princess, “I will never marry the son of the minister. ”

“Why not?” asked the King.

“Because I love the gardener’s son,” answered the Princess.

On hearing this the King was at first very angry, and then he wept and sighed, and declared that such a husband was not worthy of his daughter, but the young Princess was not to be turned from her resolution to marry the gardener’s son.

Then the King consulted his ministers. “This is what you must do,” they said. “To get rid of the gardener you must send both suitors^② to a very distant country, and the one who returns first shall marry your daughter. ”

The King followed this advice, and the minister’s son was presented with a splendid horse and a purse full of gold pieces, while the gardener’s son had only an old lame horse and a purse full of copper^③ money, and every one thought he would never come back from his journey.

The day before they started the Princess met her lover and said to him:

“Be brave, and remember always that I love you. Take this purse full of jewels and make the best use you can of them for love of

的女儿,你已经长大了,我打算把你嫁给大臣的儿子。”

“噢,父亲,我决不嫁给大臣的儿子。”公主回答。

“为什么不呢?”国王问。

“因为我爱园丁的儿子。”公主回答。

国王听女儿说要嫁给园丁的儿子,暴跳如雷,接着又叹息流泪,宣称这样的丈夫根本配不上她的女儿,可是年轻的公主一点也不肯改变主意,她发誓要嫁给园丁的儿子。

国王只好找大臣们商议。“您可以这样做,”大臣们说,“把两个求婚者都送到很远的国度去,谁能先回来,就把公主嫁给谁。”

国王认为这是个好主意,他给了大臣的儿子一匹健壮的好马和满满一口袋的金币,而园丁的儿子只得到了一匹上了年纪的瘸马和一口袋铜币,所有的人都认为他再也回不来了。

出发的前一天,公主约会了心上人并对他说:

“勇敢地出发吧,永远记住我爱你。带着这些珠宝,为了我的爱好好珍惜它们,早日回来!”

①prime minister 首相

②suitor n. 求婚者

③copper n. 铜

me, and come back quickly and demand my hand."

The two suitors left the town together, but the minister's son went off at a gallop^① on his good horse, and very soon was lost to sight behind the most distant hills. He travelled on for some days, and presently reached a fountain beside which an old woman all in rags sat upon a stone.

"Good-day to you, young traveller," said she.

But the minister's son made no reply.

"Have pity upon me, traveller," she said again. "I am dying of hunger, as you see, and three days have I been here and no one has given me anything."

"Let me alone, old witch," cried the young man, "I can do nothing for you," and so saying he went on his way.

That same evening the gardener's son rode up to the fountain upon his lame grey horse.

"Good-day to you, young traveller," said the beggar-woman.

"Good-day, good woman," answered he.

"Young traveller, have pity upon me."

"Take my purse, good woman," said he, "and mount behind me, for your legs

两位求婚者一起出发了,大臣的儿子骑着好马,风一样地消失在遥远的大山背后。走了很多天后,他来到一眼泉水跟前,泉水旁的石头上坐着一个衣衫褴褛的老妇人。

"你好啊,年轻的旅行者。"老妇人说。

大臣的儿子没有理会。

她又说道:"可怜可怜我吧,我在这里坐了三天,可是没有一个人理睬我,现在,我快饿死了。"

"不要碍事,老巫婆,"大臣的儿子生气地大声吼道,"别指望我帮你什么!"说着便骑着马飞快地跑远了。

就在同一天傍晚,园丁的儿子也骑着他的瘸腿灰马来到泉眼前。

"你好啊!年轻的旅行者,"乞讨的老妇人向他打招呼。

"你好啊,好心的老妈妈,"他回应道。

"好心的年轻人,可怜可怜我吧!"

"拿走我的口袋吧,老妈妈,"他说,"爬上马背,坐到我身

①gallop n. 疾驰,奔腾

can't be very strong."

The old woman didn't wait to be asked twice, but mounted behind him, and in this style they reached the chief city of a powerful kingdom. The minister's son was lodged in a grand inn, the gardener's son and the old woman dismounted at the inn for beggars.

The next day the gardener's son heard a great noise in the street, and the King's heralds^① passed, blowing all kinds of instruments, and crying:

"The King, our master, is old and infirm^②. He will give a great reward to whoever will cure him and give him back the strength of his youth."

Then the old beggar-woman said to her benefactor:

"This is what you must do to obtain the reward which the King promises. Go out of the town by the south gate, and there you will find three little dogs of different colours; the first will be white, the second black, the third red. You must kill them and then burn them separately, and gather up the ashes. Put the ashes of each dog into a bag of its own colour, then go before the door of the palace and cry out, 'A celebrated^③ physician has come from Janina in Albania. He alone can cure the King and give him back the strength of his youth.' The King's physicians will say,

后,看起来,您的两条腿并不十分健壮啊。”

老妇人不等再次邀请就很快爬上马背,他们就这样慢慢悠悠来到一个强大王国的国都。大臣的儿子也来到这里并住进了豪华的大旅馆,园丁的儿子和老妇人住进了一家为乞丐准备的旅馆。

第二天,园丁的儿子听到街上非常吵闹,原来是国王的传令官正吹吹打打穿过大街,他们边走边喊:

“我们的主人,伟大的国王年老体弱,久病缠身,如果谁能医治国王,使他重返青春,国王会重重地酬谢他。”

老妇人对他的恩人说:

“我会告诉你怎么做才能得到国王的奖赏。记住,出了南城,你会找到三只不同颜色的狗仔,一只白色,一只黑色,最后一只红色。你必须杀死它们,分别烧成灰。并把它们的灰分别放入三个与它们颜色一样的口袋里,然后去国王的宫殿门前大声喊:‘一位神医从阿尔巴尼亚的吉尼亚来到贵国,只有他能治好国王的病,使他重返青春。’虽然国王的大夫们会指责你说:‘这不过是个骗子,哪是个有学问的人。’

①herald n. 传令官

②infirm a. 衰老的,虚弱的

③celebrated a. 著名的,有名的

‘This is an impostor^①, and not a learned-man,’ and they will make all sorts of difficulties, but you will overcome them all at last, and will present yourself before the sick King. You must then demand as much wood as three mules can carry, and a great cauldron^②, and must shut yourself up in a room with the Sultan, and when the cauldron boils you must throw him into it, and there leave him until his flesh is completely separated from his bones. Then arrange the bones in their proper places, and throw over them the ashes out of the three bags. The King will come back to life, and will be just as he was when he was twenty years old. For your reward you must demand the bronze ring which has the power to grant you everything you desire. Go, my son, and do not forget any of my instructions.”

The young man followed the old beggar-woman’s directions. On going out of the town he found the white, red, and black dogs, and killed and burnt them, gathering the ashes into three bags. Then he ran to the palace and cried:

“A celebrated physician has just come from Janina in Albania. He alone can cure the King and give him back the strength of his youth.”

The King’s physicians at first laughed at the unknown wayfarer^③, but the Sultan

并给你制造种种困难,可你最终会克服它们,站在生病的国王面前。接下来,你必须耍三头骡子才能驮动的柴火和一口大锅,并和国王单独呆在一间屋子里,烧好一锅水,把国王推进锅里,直到他的肌肉完全与骨骼分离。把他的骨头重新排列好,撒上三个口袋中的灰。这样国王就会复活过来,并如同二十岁时一样年轻。至于报酬,你一定要求得到那只青铜戒,它能给你想要的任何东西。去吧,好孩子,不要忘了我的嘱咐。”

园丁的儿子听从老妇人的教导,在城外找到了白、红、黑三只不同颜色的狗仔。他杀死了它们,并把它们烧成灰,分别装入三个口袋里。接下来,他跑到宫殿门口,大声喊道:

“有一位来自阿尔巴尼亚的吉尼亚的神医,只有他能医治国王,使他重返青春!”

起先国王的大夫们都嘲笑这位名不见经传的过路者,但是国

①impostor n. 冒名顶替的人,骗子

②cauldron n. 等同于 caldron, 大锅, 大汽锅

③wayfarer n. 徒步旅行者

青铜戒

ordered that the stranger should be admitted. They brought the cauldron and the loads of wood, and very soon the King was boiling away. Towards mid-day the gardener's son arranged the bones in their places, and he had hardly scattered the ashes over them before the old King revived, to find himself once more young and hearty.

"How can I reward you, my benefactor?" he cried. "Will you take half my treasures?"

"No," said the gardener's son.

"My daughter's hand①?"

"No."

"Take half my kingdom."

"No. Give me only the bronze ring which can instantly grant me anything I wish for."

"Alas!" said the King, "I set great store by② that marvellous ring; nevertheless, you shall have it." And he gave it to him.

The gardener's son went back to say good-bye to the old beggar-woman; then he said to the bronze ring:

"Prepare a splendid ship in which I may continue my journey. Let the hull③ be of fine gold, the masts④ of silver, the sails⑤ of brocade⑥, let the crew consist of twelve young men of noble appearance, dressed like

王却想见一见他。他们准备好大锅和柴火,很快,国王就被放入了锅中。快到中午的时候,园丁的儿子把国王的骨头重新排列好,刚撒上狗灰,国王就苏醒过来,发现自己比以前更年轻,精力更充沛了。

"我的恩人,叫我如何报答你呢?"国王高声说道,"愿意接受我一半的财产吗?"

"不!"园丁的儿子拒绝了。

"那,把我的女儿嫁给你吧!"

"不。"

"拿走我一半王国吧!"

"不。把那个可以使人得到任何东西的青铜戒送给我吧!"

"啊哟,那可是我最珍爱的宝贝;不过,既然你救了我的命,它应该属于你!"国王把青铜戒给了他。

园丁的儿子回去和老妇人说了再见,然后对青铜戒说道:

"为我准备一条豪华的大船,好让我继续我的旅行。用黄金堆砌船体,白银雕凿桅杆,锦缎绣织船帆,我的船员要由十二名有着高贵容貌和国王般打扮的年

①hand n. 婚约

②set great store by 非常珍视

③hull n. 船体,外壳

④mast n. 桅杆

⑤sail n. 帆

⑥brocade n. 锦缎

kings. St. Nicholas will be at the helm^①. As to the cargo, let it be diamonds, rubies^②, emeralds^③, and carbuncles. ^④"

And immediately a ship appeared upon the sea which resembled in every particular the description given by the gardener's son, and stepping on board, he continued his journey. Presently he arrived at a great town and established himself in a wonderful palace. After several days he met his rival, the minister's son, who had spent all his money and was reduced to the disagreeable employment of a carrier of dust and rubbish. The gardener's son said to him:

"What is your name, what is your family, and from what country do you come?"

"I am the son of the prime minister of a great nation, and yet see what a degrading occupation I am reduced to."

"Listen to me; though I don't know anything more about you, I am willing to help you. I will give you a ship to take you back to your own country upon one condition."

"Whatever it may be, I accept it willingly."

"Follow me to my palace."

The minister's son followed the rich stranger, whom he had not recognized. When they reached the palace the gardener's son

轻人组成。我的舵手是圣尼古拉斯。至于货物嘛,就装上各种钻石、玉器和红绿宝石好了!"

突然之间,一艘与描述一模一样的大船出现在海面上,园丁的儿子又开始了他的旅行。很快,他来到一座大城市,住进了一幢金碧辉煌的宫殿。几天后,他与他的对手不期而遇了,那位大臣的儿子,他花光了所有的金币,开始过起了令人生厌的垃圾搬运工的生活。园丁的儿子对他说:

"告诉我你的名字,谁是你的家人,你的家又在哪里?"

"我原本是大臣的儿子,我的祖国非常强大,可是你看我现在竟干起了这样卑贱的工作。"

"听我说!虽然我并不了解你更多的情况,但我还是决定帮助你,我会给你一条船,让它带你回到你的城市,只要你能答应我一个条件。"

"不管什么条件我都答应。"

"跟我来吧!"

大臣的儿子跟着这位富有的陌生人来到他的宫殿,却没有认出他是谁。园丁的儿子向他的奴

①helm n. 舵
n. 红玉,红宝石

②ruby n. 红宝石

③emerald n. 绿宝石,翡翠

④carbuncles

青铜戒

made a sign to his slaves, who completely undressed the new-comer.

"Make this ring hot," commanded the master, "and mark the man with it upon his back."

The slaves obeyed him.

"Now, young man," said the rich stranger, "I am going to give you a vessel^① which will take you back to your own country."

And, going out, he took the bronze ring and said:

"Bronze ring, obey thy^② master. Prepare me a ship of which the half-rotten timbers^③ shall be painted black, let the sails be in rags, and the sailors infirm and sickly. One shall have lost a leg, another an arm, the third shall be a hunchback^④, another lame or club-footed^⑤ or blind, and most of them shall be ugly and covered with scars^⑥. Go, and let my orders be executed."

The minister's son embarked in this old vessel, and, thanks to favourable winds, at length reached his own country. In spite of the pitiable condition in which he returned they received him joyfully.

"I am the first to come back," said he to the King, "now fulfil your promise, and give me the Princess in marriage."

So they at once began to prepare for the wedding festivities. As to the poor Princess, she was sorrowful and angry enough about it.

隶使了个眼色,奴隶们便一起上来,脱去了这位新来者的衣服。

"把这枚戒指烧红,在他的背上烙上烙印。"宫殿的主人吩咐道。

奴隶们遵从了他的命令。

"年轻人,现在我会给你一艘船,它会送你回到你的祖国。"

富有的陌生人说着走了出去,拿出他的青铜戒,说道:

"青铜戒,听从你主人的吩咐!准备一条烂木制成的船,涂上漆黑的颜色,挂上破烂的船帆,配上老弱病残的船员。让他们中第一个缺一条腿,第二个少一只胳膊,第三个是驼背,剩下的成员或跛足或畸形或瞎了眼,并且长相丑陋,布满伤疤。快!让我的命令得到执行。"

大臣的儿子上了这艘破旧的老船,乘着风终于回到了他的国家。虽然落到了如此地步,人们还是充满喜悦地欢迎他回来。

"我是第一个回来的,"他对国王说,"现在来兑现您的诺言,把公主嫁给我吧!"

于是,人们开始筹备结婚盛宴,只是可怜的公主对这一切是多么悲伤和气愤啊!

①vessel n. 船只

②thy pron. (古)thou 的所有格,你的

③timber n. 木材

④hunchback n. 驼背

⑤club-foot n. 畸形足

⑥scar n. 疤,伤痕

The next morning, at daybreak, a wonderful ship with every sail set came to anchor before the town. The King happened at that moment to be at the palace window.

"What strange ship is this," he cried, "that has golden hull, silver masts, and silken sails, and who are the young men like princes who man it? And do I not see St. Nicholas at the Helm? Go at once and invite the captain of the ship to come to the palace."

His servants obeyed him, and very soon in came an enchantingly handsome young prince, dressed in rich silk, ornamented with pearls and diamonds.

"Young man," said the King, "you are welcome, whoever you may be. Do me the favour to be my guest as long as you remain in my capital."

"Many thanks, sire," replied the captain, "I accept your offer."

"My daughter is about to married," said the King; "will you give her away?"

"I shall be charmed, sire."

Soon after came the Princess and her betrothed.

"Why, how is this?" cried the young captain; "would you marry this charming Princess to such a man as that?"

"But he is my prime minister's son!"

"What does that matter? I cannot give your daughter away. The man she is

第二天,黎明拂晓,一条配置齐全、令人惊叹的大船驶进了这个国家的港湾。那时,国王正巧从宫殿窗口眺望他的国家。

"多奇怪的船哟,"他惊叹道,"黄金堆砌的船体,白银雕凿的船桅,锦缎绣织的船帆,那些船员个个都像王子。噢,那掌舵的不正是圣尼古拉斯吗?快!马上去邀请船长来我的宫殿!"

仆人们遵从他的吩咐,不一会儿,进来一名英俊迷人的年轻王子,身穿缀满珍珠和宝石的丝绸衣裳。

"年轻人,无论你是谁,你都是如此受人欢迎。只要你身处我的都城就是我尊贵的客人。"

"万分感激,陛下,"船长回答,"谨遵您的意愿。"

"我的女儿将要成婚,您愿意亲自把她交到新郎的手中吗?"

"十分荣幸,陛下。"

不一会儿公主和她的未婚夫走了进来。

"怎么会这样?"年轻的船长高声说道,"难道,您真要把这样迷人的公主嫁给这种人?"

"他可是大臣的儿子啊!"

"这是怎么回事?我不能出卖您的女儿。这个她要许配的男

betrothed^① to is one of my servants. ”

“Your servant?”

“Without doubt. I met him in a distant town reduced to carrying away dust and rubbish from the houses. I had pity on him and engaged him as one of my servants. ”

“It is impossible!” cried the King.

“Do you wish me to prove what I say? This young man returned in a vessel which I fitted out for him, and unseaworthy^② ship with a black battered hull, and the sailors were infirm and crippled. ”

“It is quite true,” said the King.

“It is false,” cried the minister’s son. “I do not know this man!”

“Sire,” said the young captain, “order your daughter’s betrothed to be stripped, and see if the mark of my ring is not branded^③ upon his back. ”

The King was about to give this order, when the minister’s son, to save himself from such an indignity, admitted that the story was true.

“And now, sire,” said the young captain, “do not you recognize me?”

“I recognize you,” said the Princess; “you are the gardener’s son whom I have

人只是我的一个仆役。”

“您的仆役?”

“正是这样,我在一个遥远的城市里遇到他时,他沦为从人们房子中搬运出垃圾和脏物的清洁工。我可怜他并收留了他,让他成为我的仆役。”

“这是不可能的!”国王喊道。

“您愿意我来证明我所说的吗?这个年轻人乘着我为他装配的船只回到这里,船身漆黑破损,经不起风浪,船员个个老弱病残。”

“千真万确。”国王说。

“这是个误会,”大臣的儿子哀嚎道,“我从没有见过这个人!”

“陛下,让这位未婚夫脱下上衣看看他的背上是不是有我戒指的烙印。”

正当国王要下令这样做的时候,大臣的儿子为了免去这种羞辱,终于承认了这一切都是真的。

“陛下,现在您还没认出我来吗?”年轻的船长说。

“我可认识你呢!”公主说,“你是我永远心爱的园丁的儿

①betroth *vt.* 许配
打烙印

②unseaworthy *a.* 不耐风浪的,不适于航行的

③brand *vt.*