

· 英语简易读物 ·

Oriental Stories

东方故事



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ORIENTAL STORIES

东方故事

G. Levitina
[苏联] M. Shereshevskaya 改写

北京外国语学院英语系
课外阅读教材小组 选注

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本书简介

这个简写本是苏联中学七年级学生学习英语的课外读物，1959年由列宁格勒国家教育书籍出版社印行，收入中国故事五篇，印度故事三篇，日本、土耳其故事各二篇。现加汉语注释和英汉对照词汇表排印出版，供初学英语者阅读。

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TALES FROM CHINA

Why Dog and Cat Are Enemies

Once upon a time¹ there was a man and his wife and they had a golden ring. It was a lucky ring. The people who owned it had always enough rice and fish and never went hungry.² But they did not know that it was a lucky ring. One day the landlord came to their house. He saw the ring and asked the man to sell it. The man sold the ring to the landlord for a small sum.³ But when the man and his wife gave the ring away,⁴ they became poor. Soon they had no rice and no fish in the house and went hungry.

They had a dog and a cat. The dog and the cat were great friends.⁵ When the ring was gone⁶ and there was no food in the house, they also went hungry. Then the two animals began to think how to help their master and bring the golden ring back to his house. At last the dog thought of a plan.⁷

1. once upon a time — 从前 (故事开头的用語, 特别是寓言、童話常以此开头).

2. went hungry — 挨餓.

3. a small sum — 很少的錢.

4. give ... away — 让出.

5. great friends — 非常好的朋友.

6. When the ring was gone — 在失去戒指以后.

7. thought of a plan — 想出了一个計劃.

"We must bring the golden ring back," he said to the cat.

"Yes," said the cat. "But how shall we get it? The landlord took it to his house and locked it up in a chest.¹ He never parts with the key² and the chest is made of³ hard oak."

"I know what to do," said the dog. "You must catch a mouse and the mouse must make a hole in the chest and take out the ring."

"But the mouse may not want to take out the ring? What shall we do then?" asked the cat.

"Then you must say that you will bite her to death,⁴ and she will do it," answered the dog.

The cat liked this plan. She caught a mouse and wanted to carry her to the landlord's house where the chest stood. The dog went with the cat. Soon they came to a broad river. The cat could not swim. So the dog took her on his back and swam across the river. Then the cat carried the mouse to the landlord's house where the chest stood.

The mouse made a hole in the chest, and

1. locked it up in a chest — 把它鎖在箱子里。

2. never parts with the key — 从来不离开这把钥匙。

3. is made of ... — 由...制成。

4. bite her to death — 把老鼠咬死 (指动物的代词一般用 'it', 这是一篇寓言, 动物都人格化了, 故用 'her').

took out the ring. The cat put the ring into her mouth and went back to the river where the dog was waiting for her. The dog took the cat on his back again and swam across the river. Then they started together for their home.¹ They wanted to bring the lucky ring to their master and mistress and make them happy again.

Soon they came to a long fence. The dog could not climb over the fence. So he went around it and lost much time. But the cat could climb over the fence and so she reached home long before the dog,² and brought the ring to her master and mistress.

Then her master said to his wife: "Our cat is a very good animal. She is clever and quick. We shall always give her enough fish and milk."

"Yes," said the wife, "we shall always take care of³ her."

But when the dog came home the man and his wife beat him and scolded him.

"You are a lazy animal," the master said. "Why did you not help our cat to bring the ring? Go out of the house⁴ and live in the yard."

1. Then they started together for their home. — 然后他們一起朝家里走去。

2. long before the dog — 比狗早得多。

3. take care of — 关心, 照顾。

4. go out of the house — 从屋里給我滾出去。

"Yes," said the wife, "you are very lazy indeed." And she gave him no fish and no soup.

And the cat sat by the fireplace, purred and did not say a word.¹ Then the dog grew angry with² the cat, because she was such a bad friend. He chased her and tried to catch her.

And from that day on³ cat and dog are enemies.

The Fox and the Tiger

Once a fox met a tiger. The tiger opened his mouth, full of sharp long teeth, and said to the fox:

"Why are you walking in my forest? What are you doing here? I shall have you for my breakfast."⁴

But the fox answered: "My dear sir, you must not think that you are the king of the animals. Of course, you are very strong and your teeth are very sharp but you are not so brave as I am.⁵ Let us walk together and see

1. did not say a word — 一句話也沒說。

2. grew angry with ... — 跟...生氣。

3. from that day on — 自从那一天以后。

4. I shall have you for my breakfast. — 我要把你当早点吃。

5. you are not so brave as I am — 你没有我那么勇敢。

whom the people are more afraid of.¹ I shall go in front of you and you will keep behind me.² The people will see me and run away because they are afraid of me. If what I say is not true³ you can have me for your breakfast."

The tiger agreed and so the fox and the tiger walked together to the nearest village. The fox went in front and the tiger kept behind.

When the people saw the tiger who was going behind the fox, they ran away because they were afraid of the tiger.

Then the fox said: "I was in front of you and you kept behind me. The people saw me but they did not see you. They ran away because they were afraid of me. I am the king of the animals. I shall have you for my breakfast."

The tiger looked at the fox and ran away.

The Two Brothers

Once upon a time there were two brothers, who lived in the same house. The big brother had a wife, who was a very bad woman. She

1. see whom the people are more afraid of — 看人們更怕誰。

2. keep behind me — 跟在我後面。

3. if what I say is not true — 如果我說的不是事實的話。'What I say' 是主語。

did not like the little brother and decided to turn him out of the house.¹ The big brother listened and listened to his wife's words and one day he turned his brother out of the house. The little brother went into a small hut and lived there quite alone.

Then spring came and it was time² to work in the field and sow millet. The little brother had no grain and he asked his big brother to give him some millet. The big brother ordered his wife to give it to him. But she was a very bad woman. She took the grain, put it into a large pot and cooked it until it was done.³ But one single grain from the middle of the pot was not done. Then she gave the grain to the little fellow. He knew nothing about it and sowed his field with it.⁴

Then summer came and the grain did not grow. But one single grain from the middle of the pot was not done. So a single little grass came out of the earth.⁵

The little brother was a hard-working man. He got up very early and went to his field.

1. to turn him out of the house — 把他从家里赶出去。

2. it was time to (do something) — 到做...的时候了。

3. cooked it until it was done — 直到把它(种子)煮熟为止。

4. sowed his field with it — 把它播种在他的地里。

5. came out of the earth — 从地里长出来。

He watered the little grass all day long¹ and it grew very well, and became as large as a tree, and its ear was so large that its shade covered an acre of ground.

Then autumn came and the ear was ripe. The little brother took an axe and cut it down.² When the big ear was lying on the ground, a very big bird, the Pong,³ came down, took the ear in his beak and flew away.⁴ The little brother ran after him as far as the shore of the sea.⁵

Then the Pong turned his head to him and said, "You must not follow me. Why do you want this ear so much? Over the sea⁶ there is an island of gold and silver. I will carry you across the sea to that island. You will take as much gold and silver as you want⁷ and become very rich."

The younger brother said, "Then carry me across the sea, please." He climbed on the bird's back. The bird told him to close his

1. all day long — 一天到晚.

2. cut it down — 砍下来.

3. Pong [pɔŋ] n. — 大鵬鳥.

4. took the ear in his beak and flew away — 用嘴叼着穗飞走了.

5. as far as the shore of the sea — 直到海边.
'as far as' 意为 '远至', '到'.

6. over the sea — 在海的那边.

7. take as much gold and silver as you want — 你要拿多少金銀就拿多少.

eyes. So he did not see anything and only heard how the wind was blowing and the sea was roaring. At last the bird sat down on a rock. "Here we are!"¹ he said.

Then the younger brother opened his eyes and looked round him. He saw many white and yellow things. They were lying on the ground and shining brightly. He took some white things² and some yellow things³ and put them into his pockets.

"Have you enough?" asked the Pong.

"Yes, I have enough," answered the little brother.

"Very well," said the bird. "You are a good little fellow. Let's fly back to your field."

Then the little brother climbed on the bird's back and the Pong carried him back.

When the little brother came home, he bought himself a good piece of ground. He worked hard on it and lived happily.

The big brother was jealous of⁴ him and said to him, "Where did you steal the money?"

"I did not steal," answered the younger brother, and he told him the story about the Pong and the island of gold and silver. Then

1. Here we are! — 到了! (口語中常用)

2. white things — 指銀子。

3. yellow things — 指金子。

4. was jealous of ... — 妒忌。

the big brother went home and asked his wife for advice.¹

"It is very easy," said his wife. "I shall put the grain into a large pot and cook it until it is done. But one single grain I shall not cook. Then you will sow it and we shall see what happens."

No sooner said than done.² When summer came a single little grass came out of the earth and it had a single ear of millet. The grass grew very well and soon its ear was large and ripe.

When autumn came, the Pong came again, took the ear in his beak and flew away. The elder brother ran after him as far as the shore of the sea. Then the Pong turned his head to him and said the same words as before.³ And the big brother climbed on the bird's back and the bird carried him to the island of gold and silver. There the elder brother saw many pieces of gold and silver. They were lying on the ground and shining brightly. The largest pieces were like hills, the small pieces were like bricks, and the smallest pieces were like little stones. So the elder brother took as many pieces as possible.⁴

1. asked his wife for advice — 向他妻子求教。

2. No sooner said than done. — 說了就做。

3. said the same words as before — 又說跟以前說過的一样的話。

4. took as many pieces as possible — 尽可能多拿 (能拿多少块就拿多少块)。

"Have you enough?" asked the Pong.

"No, I have not enough," said the big brother. "I shall take some more pieces."¹

Some time passed.

"Now you have enough," said the Pong. "You cannot carry more."

"No," said the big brother. "Don't be in a hurry!² I must take some more pieces."

"The sun will rise soon," said the Pong, "and the sun is very hot here. It will burn you up."

"Wait a little,"³ said the elder brother, "I shall take some more pieces."

But that very moment⁴ the sun rose. It was very big, and very red, and very hot, and it burnt the big brother to ashes.⁵

The Story of the Tiger and the Man

Once upon a time there were two Tigers. They lived in a forest in Tibet⁶ and had a large family. They had three sons. When the Father Tiger grew old and weak he sent for⁷ his three sons and said to them:

1. take some more pieces — 还要拿几块.

2. don't be in a hurry — 别着急.

3. wait a little — 等一会儿.

4. that very moment — 就在那个时刻.

5. burnt ... to ashes — 把...烧成了灰.

6. Tibet [ti'bet] — 西藏.

7. sent for ... — 叫人把...找来.

"Oh, my children, listen to me attentively. The Tiger is the Master of the jungle¹. He walks about at his will² and hunts all the other animals. All animals are afraid of him. But there is one animal who is not afraid of him. That animal is Man. He is very clever and very dangerous. You must never try to hunt or kill Man."

The three young Tigers listened to the words of their father and promised to follow his advice.³

And then the old Tiger turned on his back and died.

A year passed. The two elder brothers hunted in the forest all year long.⁴ They hunted the Hare and the Fox, the Wolf and the Boar and many other animals who live in the forest. But they never hunted Man. When they saw Man or heard Man they ran away as quickly as they could.⁵

But the younger brother did not want to follow his Father's advice. He grew big and strong. He walked about at his will in the forest and hunted all the animals, and all the animals were afraid of him. One day he said:

1. the Master of the jungle — 丛林之主.

2. at his will — 随意的, 爱怎么样就怎么样.

3. follow his advice — 遵照他的嘱咐行事.

4. all year long — 一年到头.

5. ran away as quickly as they could — 尽可能地迅速跑开.

"What is Man? Is he strong? Is he big? Has he claws and long teeth as I have?¹ My elder brothers say he is neither strong nor big. He has no claws and his teeth are short. I can hunt and kill the Wolf. I can hunt and kill the Boar. Of course, I can hunt and kill Man too. So I shall find him and kill him and have him for my breakfast."

So he decided to leave the forest and go to the open country² where Man lived.

When his mother and his elder brothers learned what he was going to do, they said to him:

"Your father was a wise Tiger. He was a brave hunter. He knew life. You must follow his advice. You must never try to hunt or kill Man."

"Why," said the young Tiger. "I want to hunt Man. So I shall go and kill him and have him for my breakfast. And that's all."³

So he walked out of the forest and went to the open country. He walked and walked and at last he met an old Ox. There were many scars on his back.

The young Tiger looked at the strange animal with surprise. Then he went up to him and said:

-
1. as I have — 像我一样 (像我所有的一样).
 2. go to the open country — 到空曠的地方去.
 3. that's all — 就这样(表示已下决心按他想的去做).