

A MUSEUM OF
CHINESE CLASSIC STORIES

大中华经典故事博物馆

七夕乞巧

中英对照



明天出版社



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汉族

汉族是中国各民族中人口最多的民族,约93670万人,遍布全国,主要聚居在黄河、长江、珠江三大流域和松辽平原。语言属汉藏语系,通用汉语、汉文。

汉族有近四千年有文字可考的历史和丰富的文化遗产,传统悠久,风俗独特。

汉族民间传统节日丰富多彩。主要有春节、元宵节、清明节、端午节、乞巧节、中秋节、重阳节、冬至、腊八节、小年等。其中最受人们重视的是春节,其间习俗有贴春联、挂年画、燃放鞭炮、拜年、耍龙灯、舞狮子、踩高跷、逛花市、赏冰灯等。春节,象征着团结、兴旺,寄托着新的一年希望。

THE HAN NATIONALITY

The Han nationality, with a population of about 936.7 million, is the majority nationality in China. Distributed throughout the country, it is most concentrated in the valleys of the Yellow River, Yangts River, Pearl River and the Liao Song Plain. The Chinese language belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family.

The Han nationality has a rich cultural heritage, distinctive customs and a recorded history of 4000 years.

There are many colourful traditional festivals of the Han nationality. The most significant are the Spring Festival, the Lantern Festival, the Clear and Bright Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival, the Double Seventh Festival (when according to legend Cowherd and Girl Weaver meet in Heaven), the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Double Ninth Festival, the Winter Solstice Festival, the Eighth Day of the Twelfth Lunar Month Festival and the Kitchen God's Day. Among these, the most important festival is the Spring Festival (the Chinese New Year). According to folk customs, during the Spring Festival, people usually paste couplets on their door panels, put up posters of the Spring Festival, set off firecrackers, pay calls on each other, and engage in such activities as, play dragon lanterns, perform lion dances, walk on stilts, go to flower markets and watch ice lanterns. The Spring Festival symbolizes unity, prosperity and hope for the coming year.

REJOICING IN THE LANTERN FESTIVAL

董乃德 / 编文
李学明 / 绘画
傅大伟 / 翻译



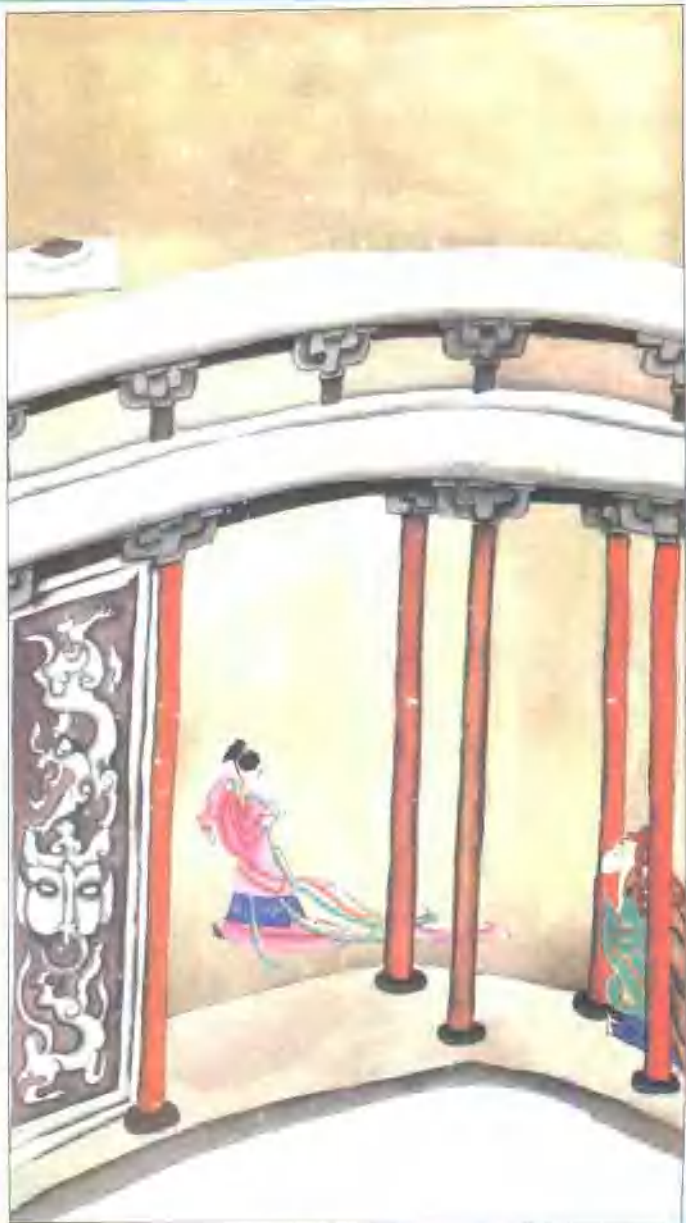


(1) 相传，汉武帝时，宫中有位谋臣，名叫东方朔。他是智多谋，深得武帝赏识。一年腊月，连降几天大雪，武帝心中闷闷不乐。

According to legend, during the reign of Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty, there was a counsellor in the royal court, named Dong Fang Shuo. He was greatly appreciated by the Emperor. One day during the twelfth lunar month, Emperor Wudi was quite unhappy for it had been snowing continuously for some days.

(2) 东方朔来到御花园，为武帝折梅解闷。走进御花园，他忽然发现一宫女泪流满面，向御井扑去，便赶忙上前拦阻。

In order to divert the Emperor, Dong Fang Shuo went out into the imperial garden to pluck a plum blossom for him. On entering the imperial garden, he suddenly saw a maid, with tears rolling down from her face, run to a well. He hurriedly went up and stopped her.





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(3) 宫女名叫元宵，家在长安西北一山村，自逃入宫中，三年未得见父母和小妹的面，痛不欲生，想投井一死。

The maid was called Yuan Xiao. Her home was in a mountain village to the northwest of Chang An city. Because she had not seen her parents and sister for three years since entering the palace, she was so grieved that she wanted to commit suicide by throwing herself into the well.



(4) 东方朔听了元宵的哭诉，同情地安慰了她一番，并答应一定想办法让她一家团聚。元宵破涕为笑。

On hearing Yuan Xiao's tearful complaint, Dong Fang Shuo said a few words of sympathy and promised to think of a way for her to be reunited with her family. Then, the maid smiled through her tears.



(5) 翌日，东方朔离开长安城，来到元宵家中，对元宵父母和小妹作了一番安排。

The next day, Dong Fang Shuo went to Yuan Xiao's home. He told her parents and sister of his idea.



(6) 返回长安, 东方朔手摇卦铃, 在大街上卖起卦来。人们知他识天文, 通阴阳, 纷纷向他求卦问卜。

Returning to Chang An city, Dong Fang Shuo offered to tell fortunes by ringing a bell in the streets. His business was brisk for he was known to be expert in the stars and the *Book of Changes*.



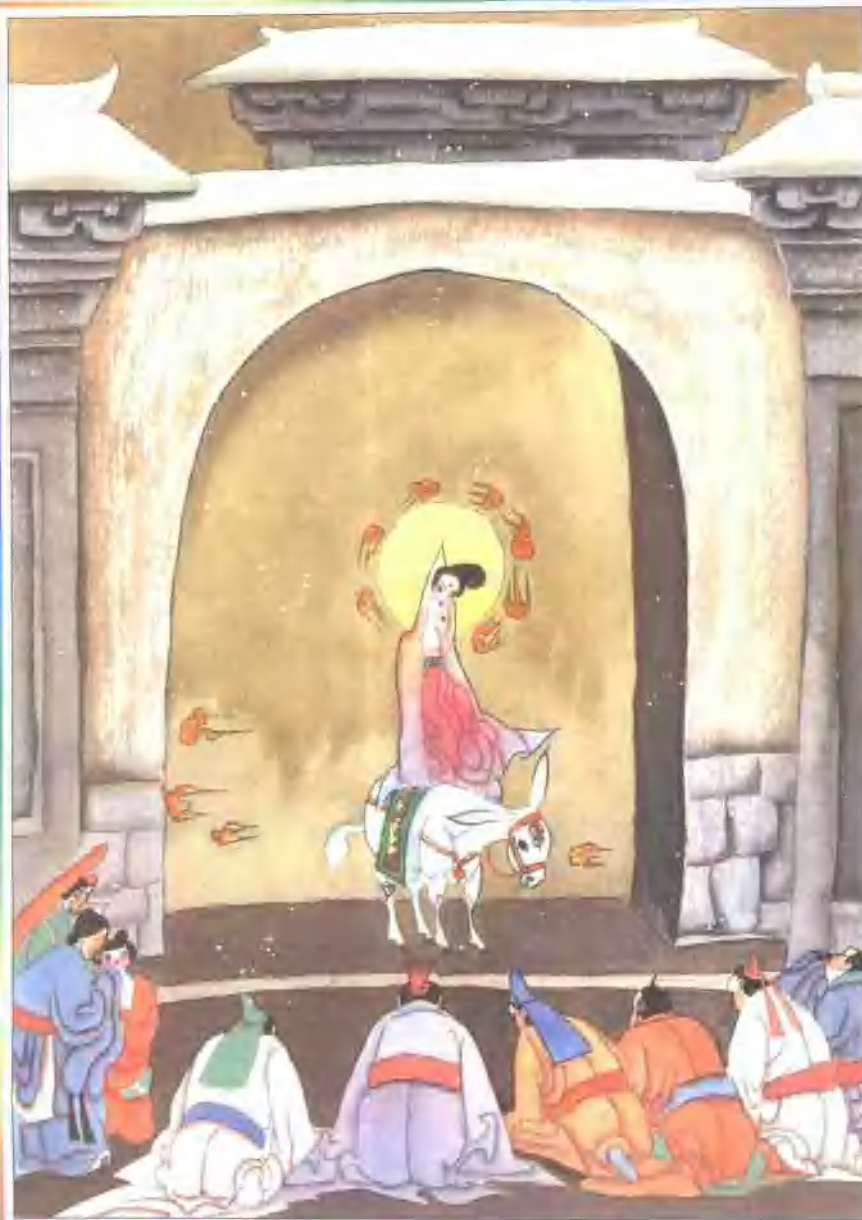
(7) 说也奇怪，所问所求，卦条籤语都是一句话：“正月十五火焚身。”人们大惊失色，急问解脱办法。

It seemed rather strange that all the fortunes he gave to his customers were the same, "You will be burned to death on the 16th day of the first lunar month." All the customers were frightened out of their wits on hearing this and anxiously asked for a method to save themselves.



(8) 东方朔故作玄虚地说：“正月十三未时，将有一红衣女子骑一头银驴自西北方进城，她就是火烧长安的火神，你们求她宽恕吧！”

Dong Fang Shuo mysteriously said, "A maid in red clothes riding on a white donkey will come into the city from the northwest at Wei hour (between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.) on the 13th day of the first lunar month. She is the Fire Goddess coming to burn Chang An city. You had better ask her for forgiveness!"



(9) 正月十三未时，西北方果然来了一位骑白驴的红衣女子。迎候在城门外的人们，一齐跪倒在地，苦苦哀求。

At the time Dong Fang Shuo had predicted, a maid really did come from the northwest. All the people waiting outside the city gate knelt down and piteously begged her to forgive them.

(10) 红衣女子冷冷说道：“小神奉玉帝旨意，十五日火烧长安，届时玉帝将在南天门察看，小神岂敢违抗天命呢！”

The maid said without emotion, "I have received the Heavenly Emperor's order to burn Chang An city on the 16th day of the first lunar month. The Heavenly Emperor will watch from the South Heaven Gate. I dare not violate His order!"





(11) 老人们叩头苦求,红衣女子说:“念你们一片苦心,那就让人间帝王想办法解脱吧!”说罢抛下一张谶语,扬长而去。

But a few old men still pitiously begged her to save the city. "Considering your sincere desire," the maid said, "I will tell you that you should ask the Emperor of this world to think of a method to avoid this disaster!" Throwing down a silk message, she swiftly rode away.