

汉英对照

4

Selected Jokes
From Past
Chinese Dynasties

中国 **历 代 笑 话** 精选



SINOLINGUA

· 汉英对照 ·

中国历代笑话精选(四)

Selected Jokes From Past Chinese Dynasties (IV)

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出版者的话

生活离不开笑话，笑话也离不开生活。

数千年来，勤劳智慧的中国人民在创造了灿烂的古代文明的同时，给后人留下了又一笔丰厚的文化遗产——数以万计的历代笑话。它们或幽默，或讽刺，或诙谐，或辛辣；它们针砭流弊，讥讽陋习，启迪借鉴，弃恶扬善。它们植根于广阔的社会生活，因此枝叶繁茂，历久不衰。

今天我们从这些笑话中精选了数百篇，对文字内容进行了疏通修改，略加注释，配以插图，并附有英译文，辑为若干册，每册百篇左右，奉献给喜爱并希望了解中国历代笑话的中外读者，愿朋友们在笑声中多有收获。

Publisher's Note

Take jokes away from life and you take a good part of life away from man. Throughout China's history the industrious and ingenious Chinese people, while creating a brilliant ancient civilization, have left succeeding generations a rich cultural heritage of tens of thousands of jokes, spanning many different dynasties. The jokes are humorous, sarcastic, witty, and pointed. They unmask corrupt and evil practices, ridicule the ugly and ignorant, and are generally relieving as well as enlightening. Rooted in society at large, they flourish and will always be with us.

We have selected several hundred well-known jokes and added footnotes, illustrations and English translations. Each of the several volumes contains around a hundred jokes. The book is dedicated to international readers interested in China and its people. We hope these jokes from past Chinese dynasties will offer many amusing insights into the character of the Chinese people.

前 言

笑话,就是属于劳动人民口头创作,并依靠人民群众的口耳相传的艺术。我们在本集中收录的笑话,是从《孟子》、《韩非子》、《笑林》、《邯郸淳》、《启颜录》(侯白)、《谐谑录》(朱揆)、《事林广记》(陈元靓)等各类散文、笔记、丛谈中遴选出来的。大部分保持了原来笑话的面貌,对一少部分进行了必要的改写。这些笑话,既有对愚蠢无能、贪婪残暴、吝啬财迷、不学无术、虚伪狡诈、招摇撞骗、投机钻营者的讽刺和鞭挞;也有对劳动人民自身缺点的善意的讽刺和温和的规劝;还有以悖逆常理、违背生活逻辑的种种现象,造成幽默诙谐的特殊意境。因此,它们不仅富有娱乐性,使人在轻松愉快中,得到休息,引人回味,从而得到美的享受和艺术的陶冶。

Preface

Jokes are the spoken words of the common people. They are a form of art which is passed down orally. The jokes which appear in this book are selected from all kinds of prose, pen jottings and collected writings, such as *Mencius*, *Han Feizi*, *A Forest of Jokes* (by Handan Chun), *Records of Lighting-up Stories* (by Hou Bai), *Records of Jokes* (by Zhu Kui) and *A Whole Forest of Funny Events* (by Chen Yuanliang). Most of the jokes maintain their original style, while necessary revisions have been made to others. The jokes satirize and castigate the incompetent, the greedy, the cruel, the stingy, the mean, the ignorant, the hypocritical, the deceitful and the cunning. They also mock mildly and criticize kindly the shortcomings of the common people. Sometimes they make one laugh by telling of events which run counter to the logical and rational rules of life, and thus create a humorous atmosphere. Therefore, this book is both entertaining and enables one to appreciate the beauty of the art of relaxation and pleasure.

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