

汉英对照

1

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(一)

Selected Jokes from Past
Chinese Dynasties (I)

柳间亭 李焕武 编译
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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, 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 fond of China and interested in understanding the country better. We hope these jokes from past Chinese dynasties will offer many amusing insights into the character of the Chinese people.

前 言

笑话是以民间口头创作为主的一种文学形式。它短小精悍，生动活泼，深为人民群众喜闻乐见，历久不衰。

笑话以社会生活为背景，揭露了当时社会上存在的贪婪狡诈，阿谀奉承、迂腐愚昧等各种丑恶现象，也表现了人们的机巧和幽默。不管这些故事如何纷繁多变，但它们总是以笑为生命。往往一件趣事，一个片断，甚至一句警言妙语，通过夸张、想象，而令人情不自禁地捧腹发笑。人们在开心乐怀之余，增长知识，识别生活中的真与假、美与丑、善与恶。

编者从中国历代众多的笑话中，精选了102篇，采取汉英对照，图文并茂的形式，为学习汉语的国外朋友们提供有趣而又有益的读物。这些笑话也反映了中国人民的伦理观，将有助于增进中国人民与各国人民之间的相互了解和友谊。

限于编者水平，书中定有不当之处，盼专家学者和读者们不吝赐教。

编 者

1989.10

Preface

As a humorous form of folk literature among the people, jokes have always enjoyed wide popularity with their short organization and lively language.

Rooted deeply in Chinese societies, these jokes expose all kinds of ugly social phenomena such as greed and deceit, flattery and cruelty, and pedantry and ignorance. Meanwhile, jokes also reflect people's resourcefulness and humour. No matter how colourful or changeable, jokes always enliven with laughter. An intriguing episode or a witty remark can grip the imagination of the listener and through exaggeration can illicit a burst of laughter. In savouring humour, people enrich their knowledge of life and deepen their understanding of the true and the false, beauty and ugliness, and good and evil.

Over 100 jokes from among thousands from different dynasties were carefully chosen and com-

piled in this book. Illustrated and with English translations, this book should make interesting reading for the student of Chinese. In addition, these jokes offer an insight into the Chinese outlook on morality and ethics, which should prove helpful in the mutual understanding and promotion of friendship between the Chinese people and the people throughout the world.

Due to a limited staff and to time constraints, the compilers would like to apologize for any errors that may surface in the text. All criticism and suggestions on further improvement will be most welcome.

The compilers
October, 1989

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