

中英對照

THE SELECTION of CHINESE
FOLK TALES

1



中國民間故事選輯

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The Wooden Horse

One day, a carpenter^① and a blacksmith^② started to argue.

"I am more skilled than you!" said the carpenter.

"How can you say such a thing? I am a far better craftsman^③ than you!" said the blacksmith.

They argued on and on without reaching any conclusion. In the end they agreed to go and ask the King to decide the matter for them.

On seeing them, the King asked, "What have you come for?"

"I am a carpenter," said one, "and there's no other carpenter in the world who can make such ingenious things as I do. But this blacksmith claims to be a better craftsman than I."

"Everyone who sees my work is full of praise," said the other. "Yet he insists that I am not so skilled as he!"

And they begged in one voice, "Your Majesty, we ask you to judge between us. Please say which of us is the better craftsman."

木 馬

一日，一個木匠和一個鐵匠爭論起來。

「我的手藝比你好！」木匠說。

「你怎能如此說？我的手藝遠比你好呢！」鐵匠說。

他們沒結果的老是在爭論着。最後兩人同意去找國王，請國王給他們評判一下。

國王見到了他們，問道：「你們幹什麼來啦？」

「我是一個木匠，」木匠說，「我作出來的東西比全世界的木匠作的都要巧妙。可是這鐵匠說我不如他。」

鐵匠說：「我打出來的東西，任何一個人見了都誇獎，但是他硬說我不如他！」

兩人齊聲請求道：「請陛下給我們評判一下吧，到底是誰的手藝好。」

But the King also found himself in a quandary. “How are we to judge of such a matter? We have never even seen your work! Go back and make something, and bring it here in ten days from now.”

So the two went back, each to his own work. Ten days later they again appeared before the King. The blacksmith had brought a big fish of wrought iron.

“What use is that?” asked the King.

“This fish of mine can swim in the sea even when loaded with a hundred thousand bags of grain.”

The King could barely suppress his mirth. This stupid fellow is doomed to failure, he thought. So much iron and yet he claims it can swim? However, he called on his men to load it with a hundred thousand bags of grain and put it in the sea. “See if it will swim!” he said.

Strange to say, the fish swam adroitly and swiftly. Everyone was amazed and delighted. The King praised the blacksmith highly. “We will make you an official,” he said. And he thereupon appointed him the head of a street.

The carpenter had made a wooden horse. When the King saw it he looked disappointed. “Surely this is a toy for children?” he asked. “How can you think of comparing it with the fish?”

“Indeed, it is far superior to the fish!” answered

但是，國王也因此感到爲難：「這要我怎樣評判呀？你們作的東西我也沒看過！現在給你們十天期限，每人作一樣拿到這兒來。」

於是兩人回去後，各人去做各人的活兒。十天之後他們又都到了國王面前，鐵匠拿來的是一條鐵造的大魚。

國王問：「這有甚麼用呀？」

鐵匠說：「我這條鐵魚可裝十萬口袋糧食在大海上游動。」

國王聽了暗暗好笑。心想這傢伙一定失敗。這麼重的鐵放到水裏就沉下去，哪能游起來呢？叫人拿十萬口袋糧食裝在鐵魚裏吧，便吩咐說：「看它是否真的能游起來吧！」

說也奇怪，那鐵魚浮動得靈活，還快。使人看了又驚奇，又高興，國王不住地誇獎鐵匠說：「我給你個官作吧。」於是委派鐵匠當了街長。

木匠做了一匹木馬，國王一看，滿臉不高興地說：「這不是小孩子玩的玩意兒嗎？這怎和鐵魚比哪？」

木匠說：「它比鐵魚好得多呢！你不見上面有二十

the carpenter. "Do you see these twenty-six keys? Turn the first one and the horse will fly. Turn another and it will fly faster. When the twenty-sixth is turned, it will go faster than any bird. In fact, you can easily take a trip around the world on this horse."

As he was talking, the youngest son of the King happened to come by. The very mention of a horse that could fly aroused his curiosity. How wonderful it would be to fly up into the sky and see the world from there! He begged his father to let him try the horse.

"Certainly not!" said the King. "How can you know whether it will really fly? What if it falls down to earth?"

"Don't worry, it cannot fall," the carpenter hastened to assure him.

The young Prince continued to plead with his father. He was his father's favourite son, and the King had never before refused him anything he had asked. Finally the King said, "Very well, you may try. But ride slowly, and don't turn any of the keys except the first."

The young Prince promised. He mounted the horse and turned the first key. The horse really flew. From on high, the Prince looked down upon the mountains and rivers, the trees, cities and people. Everything was far below him, and the higher,

六個螺絲嗎？你扭開第一個螺絲，木馬就能夠飛起來。再扭第二個螺絲，它就飛得更快。當二十六個螺絲都扭開後，它就要比什麼鳥都飛得快。而且，你騎上它可以周遊全世界呢。」

當他這麼說的時候，國王的小王子正在跟前。一聽說木馬能飛，就引起了他的好奇心。他想飛到天上去，從那裏望下來，那是多麼好呀！便向國王請求，讓他騎上這木馬試一試。

國王說：「這怎麼能行呢，你知道它真的能飛嗎？要是飛到天上，摔下來呢？」

木匠連忙保證他說：「不要緊，它決不會摔下來的。」

小王子繼續纏着國王，要他答應。平時他是最得寵的，不管要求什麼事，國王從沒有不答應的。最後國王說：「那麼，好吧，只許你騎上去試一試。但是要慢慢地飛，只許扭開第一個螺絲。」

小王子滿口答應了。他騎上了木馬，扭開了第一個螺絲。那木馬真的飛了起來。小王子往下一看，山峯呀，河流呀，樹木呀，城市呀，人羣呀，一切一切都在

he flew the further they all receded. He was tremendously exhilarated. One after another, he turned the rest of the keys. The horse flew faster and faster. In no time all the people, the trees and even the cities vanished from sight.

He had flown a long way when he began to feel hungry. Fortunately, he saw a city immediately below him. He tightened the keys. The wooden horse slowed down and landed safely. After having a good meal he put up at an inn. He was overjoyed by his journey, for in such a short time it had brought him to a new city, one that he had never seen before.

The next day he went sightseeing in the streets. A few turns brought him to a square where he saw a crowd of people standing there, gazing into the sky. "There must be something very strange up there," he thought. So walking across to where they stood, he also gazed upwards, only to find there was nothing to see.

"What are you all looking at?" he asked a man standing by him.

The man looked at him closely and then explained. "The King of our country has a daughter," he said. "She is so beautiful, it would be impossible to find any other girl in the world to match her. The King loves her to distraction and won't allow anyone else to set eyes on her. While she was living in his

他的下邊，他越飛得高，這一切就離開他越遠。他快樂極了。便接連不斷地把螺絲一個跟着一個扭開了。木馬越飛越快。一會兒，人看不見了，樹看不見了，城市也看不見了。

小王子飛了一段長的路程，肚子也開始餓了。幸運的，這時下面剛巧有個城市。他便一個個扭住螺絲，木馬慢了，漸漸地降落下來。吃了一頓豐富的晚飯後，他住在店裏。對於這個旅程，他感到非常之高興，一會兒的工夫就到了一個新的城市，自己從來沒有見過的城市。

第二天，小王子走到街上去遊玩。轉了幾道街，轉到一個廣場上，只見這裏有很多人都仰頭向天空看。他想到：「大概天空裏有什麼新奇的東西吧。」於是他也走到人羣那裏去，仰起頭看望，但什麼也沒看見。

他就向旁邊的人問道：「你們在看什麼哪？」

那人仔細打量了他一下，便解釋道：「我們的國王有個公主。她美麗極了，世界上再也找不到第二個女孩子可以和她相比。國王愛她愛得厲害，任何人都不許看

palace, he hardly knew a moment's peace. So he built a palace for her high in the sky. She lives there entirely on her own. Every day, when his duties are finished, the King goes to see her. He has been there for some time now and will soon come back. These people are waiting for him."

All this sounded extremely strange to the Prince. "How is it possible to build a palace in the sky?" he asked.

"It was built by a god. Only the King can go there."

The young Prince could not get this strange story out of his mind. That night, he mounted his wooden horse and rode up into the sky. Sure enough, there was a large palace there. Dismounting at the door, he walked in.

When the Princess saw someone enter, she thought it must be her father. On seeing her mistake, she decided the visitor was a god, for no human being could possibly have come. So she stood up to welcome him.

To the young Prince, she seemed as beautiful as a goddess, and he fell in love with her at first sight. "I should be the happiest man on earth if I could have a wife like her," he thought.

At the same time the Princess was casting admiring

她一眼。當她住在王宮裏時，他得不到一刻的寧靜，便在天上給她蓋了一所房子，讓公主一個人住在上面。國王每天辦完了公，就去看她。現在他已經去了那裏半天，大概不久他就要回來了。他們都是在這兒等他的。」

小王子覺得這一切都很奇怪，就問：「怎麼天空裏能夠蓋王宮？」

「這是神蓋的，只有國王一個人能上去。」

小王子暗暗記住這個奇怪的故事。那天晚上，他騎上他的木馬飛上天去。果然不錯，那裏有一座好大的王宮。他一直飛到門前，下了木馬，走進去。

公主一看來了人，起初還以為是他父親呢。但是一看不是，想這一定是個天神了，因為人無論如何來不了的。她便連忙起身迎接。

小王子見公主長得和天仙一樣，就愛上了她。心想：「如果我有像她那樣的妻子，那麼我便是世界上最快樂的人了。」

這時，公主也羨慕地望着這個年輕英俊的王子，心

glances at the young and handsome Prince. Love stirred in her heart. "Why should my father lock me up in a place like this where I cannot see anyone?" she complained to herself. "I also want someone to love me, to caress me."

Without knowing quite how it came about, they embraced each other.

At daybreak the young Prince flew back to the inn. Shortly afterwards the King went to the heavenly palace to see his daughter.

Now every time the King visited the Princess he used to weigh her, for he knew that once a woman had associated with a man, she would put on weight. That day, to his great surprise, he found the Princess was two catties heavier. His eyes flashed fire and his beard bristled with rage. "There is certainly some reason for this!" he thought. He returned at once to his palace to discover what it might be.

When they saw him so unhappy, his ministers came to ask what was the matter. He told them all about it. "Who could go up there except myself?" he said. "Please think of some way of catching this person."

"We have four knights," said the ministers. "Your Majesty can take them up and place them at the four corners of the palace. If the man tries again, he is sure to be captured."

也動了。她在心裏埋怨道：「爲什麼父親把我自己關在這樣一個見不到人的地方？我也需要人來愛撫呀。」

兩個人不知不覺地走到一起擁抱起來。

第二天破曉，小王子騎上他的木馬飛回店裏。不久之後，國王到天宮去看他的女兒。

國王每次到天宮處去時，都要稱稱她，因爲他知道女人一經接觸過男人後身體的重量就要增加。這天，國王驚奇極了，公主的重量增加了兩斤。國王瞪着兩眼，氣得鬍子都直起來了。國王心裏想：「這裏面一定有原因！」於是他立刻回到他的王宮，詢查事情的底細。

他的臣子看見國王這樣的不高興，便問他究竟是什麼一回事。國王把情形告訴了他們。他說：「除我以外，有誰還能夠上去呢？你們給我想個辦法把這人抓來。」

臣子說：「我們有四個武士，國王可派他們上去站在天宮的四方牆邊。如果那人再來，一定能將他捉住。」

The King thought this was a good idea. When night came, he escorted the four knights to the heavenly palace, and, giving each his place, told them to keep watch. When everything was properly arranged, he returned to earth.

Who could have guessed, however, that the knights were such heavy sleepers that they would stand and sleep at their posts? The young Prince spent the night there again. When the King weighed the Princess the next day, she was eight catties heavier than before. The King was speechless with anger.

By then the matter had become the talk of the town. The King was so ashamed that he refused to appear in public. He called in one of his ministers and asked for his advice. The minister suggested that he should smear the Princess' bed and chairs with wet paint. "Then tomorrow," he said, "we may search the city for the one who has paint on him. The wrongdoer will hardly be able to escape!"

The King accepted the suggestion. He put paint on the bed, the chairs and every piece of furniture. That night, the young Prince went there again. On his way back to the city, he found paint all over his clothes. He immediately took them off and threw them away. Although the clothes were studded with jewels, he did not regret them. For are not jewels of small consequence to one who is in love?

國王想這主意很好。晚上，他把這四個武士送到天宮去，指定了地方，叫他們監視着。一切都佈置好後，國王就回到地上來了。

有誰知道這些武士那樣的貪睡，他們站着站着就睡着了。小王子又在那裏過了一夜。第二天，國王去一稱，她又增加了八斤。國王氣得話都說不出來了。

這時全城都知道了公主的事。國王羞得沒臉見人。他便把一個臣子叫到宮中去，詢請他的主意。那臣子提議將公主的床和椅子都上了漆。「到明天，」他說，「搜查全城的人，看誰的身上有漆。那個做壞事的人便無法逃走了！」

國王接受了他的提議，把公主的床上，椅子上，一切用具上都上了漆。那天夜裏，小王子又到那裏去。回來的時候，他發覺衣服上滿是漆。他立即把衣服脫下，扔掉了。雖然，他的衣服盡是鑲着珠寶，他也沒有心疼。因為一個正在戀愛的人對於珠寶又有何重要。

There lived in the city a poor old man, who rose every morning before dawn to knock people up for morning prayers. That day, he was on his rounds when he saw something fall from the sky. Clothes of the finest quality! "It is certainly God who has sent me these," he thought. "Probably because I have been serving Him all my life." He took the clothes home.

In the evening the whole city went to the service in the temple. Among them was a man sent by the King. The old man had gladly put on the clothes given him by God, not knowing of the great misfortune that lay in store for him. Even as he was praying, he was arrested.

"How did your clothes get marked with paint?" demanded the King.

"They were like this when I picked them up in the street."

The King did not believe him. He sent him to prison, where he was convicted on a confession extracted from him by torture. He was then bound and sent to the square to be hanged.

This was no small event in the city. People had been wondering what sort of man the Princess' lover could be. When they saw this old man with the rope round his neck, they could not believe their eyes. The whole city was talking about the case and all thought the old man had been wronged.