

Chinese Classic
Cultural Stories Series



中国传说故事

Stories of Chinese Legends

顾希佳 编著
黄茹樱 叶艳萍 译
常新萍 英文审校

白蛇传
The Legend of White Snake



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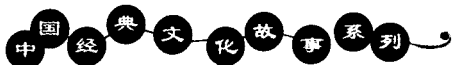




《白蛇传》这个故事，大概已经讲了八百多年啦。老人们都说，这事是发生在南宋年间的。那时候，从峨眉山过来了一条白蛇，变成一个漂漂亮亮的女子，叫作白娘子。她爱上了西湖边上的一个药店伙计许仙。本来他们是蛮好的一对恩爱夫妻，偏偏金山寺有个和尚法海出来作梗，硬要拆散他们，中间弄出许多事情，枝枝蔓蔓，很是曲折。西湖边上不是有座雷峰塔么？据说后来白娘子就被压在雷峰塔下面，真叫作孽！不过，俗话说“善有善报，恶有恶报”，后来他们这对患难夫妻终于还是团圆了。倒是那个可恶的法海，走投无路，躲进蟹壳不敢出来，成了可怜的“蟹和尚”。

The story of *The Legend of White Snake* has been told for over eight hundred years. It's said by the old that the story happened during the Southern Song Dynasty (A.D. 1127-1279). A white snake came from the Emei Mountain and transformed into a beautiful lady named Madam White. She fell in love with an assistant in a pharmacy named Xu Xian. Originally, they were a loving couple. Yet, a Buddhist monk from the Golden Mountain Temple named Fa Hai tried all he could to tear them apart. There was a pagoda named Thunder Peak Pagoda by the West Lake. Later, Fa Hai imprisoned Madam White under the pagoda. Fortunately, like the Chinese saying that "good will be rewarded with good, while evil with evil", the couple got reunited at last. Moreover, the evil monk Fa Hai had to hide himself in a crab shell out of scare,

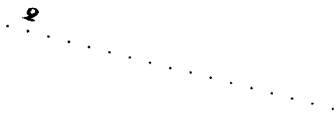




becoming a poor “crab monk”.

今天我们就来听听这个动人的故事吧。

Now, let's see what had happened in this moving story.



一、白蛇出世

Chapter 1 The Birth of White Snake

这话还要从白蛇出世说起。

The story should begin from the birth of White Snake.

白娘子怎么会是条白蛇的呢？说来话长。当初有个张天师，他的法术高强，很有些本领，方圆百里的人遇上了妖魔鬼怪，都要请他去帮助降伏。人们说张天师捉鬼，那是十拿九稳的，小菜一碟。所以他一直很忙，长年累月总是在外面捉鬼。

Why was Madam White a white snake? The story goes like this. There was once a man named Zhang Tianshi, who had great supernatural powers. In his neighborhood, when people came across any demons or monsters, they would ask him for help. Zhang Tianshi was so famous for his art to subdue ghosts that he was busy hunting ghosts outside all the year round.

有一次，他抽空回家休息，他娘就跟他唠叨起来了：

One day, when he was home, his mother talked to him.

“儿啊，你总是在外面替别人帮忙，脚不踮地的，怎么就不



顾顾家里的事呢？”

“Son, you are always busy outside helping others. You should spend some time taking care of our family, shouldn't you?”

“娘，家里有什么事？您老人家尽管说，我一定去做。”

“Mum, what do you want me to do for our family? Say it and I'll do it.”

“喏，你妹妹也老大不小的了。前几天有人来提亲，这人家是好是坏，合适不合适，总得你这个当哥哥的来操心了不是？”

“Your younger sister is old enough to get married. The other day, someone came to propose a marriage alliance. It should be your duty to spend some time checking it out whether that young man is suitable for your sister.”

“那当然，那当然。”张天师连忙一口答应。原来张天师的父亲去世得早，家中只有一个老娘，还有一个妹子，相依为命。如今要给妹子找个婆家，这事自然得由他这个当哥哥的来操心了。再一细问，原来就在离他们家不远的山脚下，住着个小伙子，家里三间瓦房，独身一人，日子过得蛮舒服的，要啥有啥，人家看上了张天师的妹子，托人来做媒。这里女家是答应还是不答应，总也得有个回复吧。

“Sure! Sure!” Zhang Tianshi promised immediately. Their



father had died long before, leaving two children and their mother. Now that Zhang Tianshi's sister had reached the age of marriage, he, as her elder brother, should show concern about it. Then he asked his mother about the groom-to-be in detail. The young man lived at the foot of the mountain not far from their house. He had a three-room tile house and lived a quite well-off life on his own. He wanted to marry Zhang Tianshi's sister, so he asked someone to propose a marriage alliance for him. Now he was waiting for their reply, whether they agreed or not.

张天师想，这事好办。第二天起了个大早，就去相亲。到那里一看，果然是三间瓦房，清清爽爽的，房后还养着一头牛，蛮像个殷实的庄稼汉。那小伙子眉清目秀的，长得也挺结实。张天师和他攀谈了几句，就觉得这个小伙子蛮老实，很是中意，也不多说，就回来了。

The next morning, Zhang Tianshi got up very early and went to check the young man out in person. He did have the three-room tile house. What's more, he raised an ox behind the house. He seemed to be a well-off farmer. Besides, the young man looked handsome and strong. Zhang Tianshi talked to him for a few words and found the young man quite upright and just to his liking. But he decided not to say much in detail and went back home.





回到家里，跟娘一商量，两个人想得差不多，就算是答应了。接下来的事好办，有媒婆在那里穿针引线，先是定亲，做亲，到后来就吹吹打打，把张天师的妹子用花轿接了过去。

When he arrived home, Zhang Tianshi talked it over with his mother. They both agreed to the marriage. The following was easy to handle. A woman matchmaker was sent for and the marriage was settled. Then the wedding ceremony was held. Zhang Tianshi's sister was taken to the young man's house in a bridal sedan chair.

哪里知道事情不是那么简单。第三天，新娘子回门，张天师的娘就觉得有些不对劲了。怎么回事？女儿在家里吃得雪白粉嫩，鲜花似的一朵，到夫家才三天，怎么就变得脸黄肌瘦，一脸苦相了呢？

Unexpectedly, three days after the wedding, when the bride was back home, Zhang Tianshi's mother felt that surely that something had gone wrong. Her daughter had been healthy and beautiful before the marriage. Why did she appear so pale and spiritless only three days after she lived with her husband?

娘心疼死了，先不说话，赶紧给女儿做饭吃。女儿却吃不下，只是低着头哭。娘问：“女儿啊，有什么事总好跟娘说的么，光哭有什么用？”

The mother felt so sorry for her daughter, but she said

nothing and hurried to cook a meal for her. Yet, the daughter didn't want to eat, just crying with her head down.

女儿一边哭，一边就说开了：

Still crying, the daughter began to talk.

“娘啊娘，哥哥替我做的这门亲事不对呀。哥哥是有名的张天师，专门捉妖怪的，怎么把自己的妹子嫁给了妖怪呢？”

“Mum, Brother hasn't made the right decision for me on this marriage. He is famous for subduing any demons and monsters. Why did he get me, his own sister, married to a monster?”

“什么？妖怪？”

“What? Monster?”

“是妖怪。那人好像是蛇，浑身冰凉冰凉的。夜里行房，把我缠得透不过气来。哥哥要是不救我，我就没命啦。”

“Yes, my husband is a monster, a snake, I doubted. Because his body felt so cold when I touched it. When having sex with him at night, I was so tightly wound that I couldn't even breathe. If Brother weren't to rescue me, I shall be dying.”

这一说，娘也吓坏了，赶紧去找张天师。一见面，先不说话，





劈头劈脑先是一顿打，打完了，这才气呼呼地说：“你这个哥哥怎么当的？怎么把自己的亲妹子嫁给了一条蛇？”

Hearing this, her mother was scared to death and hurried to Zhang Tianshi. She was so angry that before saying anything, she gave him a beating first. Then she said angrily, “How come you got your own sister married to a snake?”

啊！天底下竟会有这种事情？张天师也愣住了，赶紧找妹妹细细一问，果然是这么回事。哎呀呀！真是阴沟里翻了船，我这个张天师怎么连一条蛇也认不出来了呢？好了好了，多说也没有用，现在救妹妹要紧。张天师当即拿来一双红木筷子、一只梨花碗，交到妹妹手里。

How come such a thing could have happened? Zhang Tianshi was also shocked. After he had asked his sister for the details, he had to believe that such a thing did have happened. He blamed himself for being too self-confident to recognize the snake monster. However, he knew that what had happened could not be changed and blaming was useless. The important thing was to save his sister. Therefore, he gave his sister a pair of chopsticks made of rose wood and a bowl printed with pear blossoms.

张天师交代她说：“今天回去，你在这只梨花碗里放半碗水，筷子搁在碗上，放到你们的床底下去，别让他知道。夜里睡觉，

他要是不现原形，你尽管睡，别理他；他要是现了原形，你赶紧逃出房门，越快越好，记住了吗？”

Then, Zhang Tianshi told his sister, “After you go back to his home today, fill half the bowl with water, and place the chopsticks on the bowl. Put the bowl and the chopsticks under your bed but don’t let your husband know about it. When you sleep together at night, if he remains as a human, let it be; if he is transformed back into his original shape, run away from the house as quickly as you can. Understand?”

“记住了。”

“I see. I’ll do as you told.”

妹妹回到男家。这天半夜里，那小伙子果然又现了原形。妹妹刚跨出房门，就听得身后一声巨响，屋顶齐刷刷地塌了下来，把那条大蟒蛇压成了肉酱。

Then, Zhang Tianshi’s sister went back to her husband’s house. At midnight that day, as was expected, the young man was transformed back into a python. No sooner had she run out of the house than she heard a huge noise. The whole house collapsed, and the python was pressed into a pile of flesh.

妹妹又回到了娘家。张天师的娘天天给她吃肉，滋补身体，渐渐地就恢复了元气。不过张天师的妹妹和蛇行过房以后，就有



了身孕，十月怀胎，竟生下了一条小白蛇来。这条小白蛇就是后来的白娘子。说起来，她还是张天师的外甥女呢。

Zhang Tianshi's sister went back to live with her mother and her brother. The mother cooked meat for her every day, and she gradually regained her vigor. Nevertheless, because she had had sex with the snake, she found herself pregnant. Ten months later, she gave birth to a little white snake, which became Madam White later in our story. As a matter of fact, Madam White was Zhang Tianshi's niece.

张天师的娘一见，又犯了愁。这件事可千万不能张扬出去，要是让外人知道了，张天师这块招牌不就砸了吗？连自己的妹夫是人是蛇都分不清，以后谁还会来请他捉鬼呢？想到这里，张天师的娘咬一咬牙，弄来个小蒲包，把小白蛇一包，就悄悄地扔在了野地里。

Zhang Tianshi's mother was quite worried after her daughter gave birth to a snake. She thought this should remain as a secret; otherwise her son's reputation would be damaged. If people knew that he couldn't even tell whether his own brother-in-law was a human being or a snake, they wouldn't hire Zhang Tianshi to subdue ghosts any more. Thinking of this, she wrapped the little white snake in a bag and discarded it into a wild field.

说来也巧，这时候正好走过一个卖大饼油条的，叫许小二，看见那边一个小蒲包，过去打开一看，咦，一条小白蛇，筷子那么粗细，正在朝他点头呢。许小二想，我一个人过日子正在寂寞，把它带回去养着，倒也是蛮有趣的。于是他就把小白蛇带回了家，每天掰一点大饼油条来喂蛇，闲下来还自言自语地跟小白蛇聊聊天。小白蛇虽然不会说话，倒也是蛮乖的，从来不惹事，呆在许小二家里，一养养了三年，也不见它长大。

Coincidentally, a man named Xu Xiao'er, who earned his living by selling roast cakes and fried twisted dough sticks, walked by and saw the bag. He opened it and found inside the bag a little white snake, as thin as a chopstick. The little snake was nodding to him. Xu Xiao'er felt quite lonely living all by himself, so he decided to take the snake back home as company. Then he took it home and fed it with cakes and dough sticks every day. When he had time, he even talked to the snake. Though it couldn't speak, the snake behaved very well and never caused any trouble. Three years passed, but it remained as small as three years before.

到了第三年，出事了。有一天，许小二不在家，有个邻居老太太上门向他借东西，隔着篱笆朝里头一张望，可不得了，只见屋里有一条大白蛇，蛇身有笆斗那么粗，眼睛像铜铃，闪闪发亮，好家伙，老太太差一点晕了过去。她起初还有点不相信，又叫来左邻右舍，大伙儿一起再去张望，果然是一条大蛇。这可怎么了



得！大伙儿就去找许小二交涉，说你做事太没有分寸，怎么别的不养，偏偏去养一条吓人的蛇呢！

Then something happened during the third year. One day when Xu Xiao'er was out, an old lady living next door came to his house to borrow something. When she looked through the fence, she saw a big white snake inside the house. The snake was so thick, with its eyes shining like copper bells, that the old lady almost fainted with terror. It was so unbelievable that she asked a few neighbors to check together whether what she had seen was real. The huge snake proved to be true. Then all the neighbors went to Xu Xiao'er and scolded him for raising such a dangerous animal.

许小二不相信，说我只不过是养了一条小白蛇，逗着玩玩的，才筷子这么粗细，养了三年也不见它长大，你们怎么偏偏说是大蛇呢？不过大伙儿都说这蛇有笆斗那么粗，他倒也有些吃不准了。

Xu Xiao'er wouldn't believe it, saying, "The snake I have been raising is a very small one, as thin as a chopstick, like a pet. It hasn't grown any bigger in the past three years. Why do you all say that it is a huge snake?" However, now that everyone said so, he wasn't so sure of himself.

第二天许小二又照常出门去卖大饼油条。走不多远，多了个



心眼，又重新返回来，隔着篱笆朝里张望。这一望，他不禁倒吸了一口冷气，啊哟，果然是条大白蛇，吓死人了。

The next day, Xu Xiao'er went out to sell roast cakes and fried twisted bread as usual. Yet, to check in person whether his neighbors' words were true, he came back earlier by taking a shortcut. He looked into his house through the fence. He couldn't help taking a deep breath when he saw there was really a huge white snake inside his house. It was so frightening.

这天傍晚，许小二卖大饼油条回家，就对小白蛇说：“蛇呀蛇，你到我许家足足有三年了，大饼油条你也吃腻了吧。现在你大了，我养不起你了。你要是再不走，左邻右舍要赶我走了，我是没办法呀。你不要怪我，还是你走吧。你不管到哪里去修炼都可以，就是不要伤人，听懂了吗？”

In the evening that day, when Xu Xiao'er was back home again, he said to the little white snake, "Snake, you have lived with me for three full years. You must have been fed up with cakes and dough sticks. Now that you have grown up, I can't raise you any longer. If you stay on, all the neighbors will drive me away. I have no choices but let you go. Wherever you go to cultivate yourself for enlightenment, don't hurt any human beings. Do you understand?"

