



经典的回声

汉英对照

ECHO OF CLASSICS



(唐) 蒋防等著

颜惠庆 英译

中国古代短篇小说选

STORIES OF OLD CHINA

外文出版社

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出版前言

本社专事外文图书的编辑出版,几十年来用英文翻译出版了大量的中国文学作品和文化典籍,上自先秦,下迄现当代,力求全面而准确地反映中国文学及中国文化的基本面貌和灿烂成就。这些英译图书均取自相关领域著名的、权威的作品,英译则出自国内外译界名家。每本图书的编选、翻译过程均极其审慎严肃,精雕细琢,中文作品及相应的英译版本均堪称经典。

我们意识到,这些英译精品,不单有对外译介的意义,而且对国内英文学习者、爱好者及英译工作者,也是极有价值的读本。为此,我们对这些英译精品做了认真的遴选,编排成汉英对照的形式,陆续推出,以飨读者。

外文出版社

Publisher's Note

Foreign Languages Press is dedicated to the editing, translating and publishing of books in foreign languages. Over the past several decades it has published, in English, a great number of China's classics and records as well as literary works from the Qin down to modern times, in the aim to fully display the best part of the Chinese culture and its achievements. These books in the original are famous and authoritative in their respective fields, and their English translations are masterworks produced by notable translators both at home and abroad. Each book is carefully compiled and translated with minute precision. Consequently, the English versions as well as their Chinese originals may both be rated as classics.

It is generally considered that these English translations are not only significant for introducing China to the outside world but also useful reading materials for domestic English learners and translators. For this reason, we have carefully selected some of these books, and will publish them successively in Chinese-English bilingual form.

Foreign Languages Press

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中国古代短篇小说选

STORIES OF OLD CHINA

霍小玉传

蒋 防

大历中，陇西李生名益，年二十，以进士擢第。其明年，拔萃，俟试于天官。夏六月，至长安，舍于新昌里。生门族清华，少有才思，丽词嘉句，时谓无双；先达丈人，翕然推伏。每自矜风调，思得佳偶，博求名妓，久而未谐。

长安有媒鲍十一娘者，故薛驸马家青衣也；折券从良，十余年矣。性便辟，巧言语，豪家戚里，无不经过，追风挟策，推为渠帅。当受

THE HEARTLESS LOVER

Jiang Fang

During that period of the Tang Dynasty known as Da Li there lived in Gansu a young scholar by the name of Li Yi. He had barely reached twenty years of age when he obtained the much coveted doctorate in the imperial examinations, and the following summer in the sixth moon he arrived at Changan, the capital of the empire, for the civil service examination, taking lodgings in the Street of New Prosperity. Li Yi came from a renowned literary family. He was possessed of a brilliant intellect, and was particularly accomplished as a poet and essayist, unequalled in reputation by any other scholar of his time.

Highly pleased with himself and his literary attainments, he had only one regret, and that was his inability to find a congenial and accomplished girl after his own heart. He roved a great deal among the famous courtesans of the city, hoping to meet a sweetheart acceptable to his taste and worthy of his love, but a prolonged hunt resulted in nothing.

At this stage, there lived in Changan a well-known mistress of courtesans and matchmaker, Mrs. Bao, a former bondmaid in the house of one of the emperor's sons-in-law, who had bought her freedom and had been married for a dozen years or so. She was a crafty woman, clever of speech and acquainted with all the distinguished families of the city

生诚托厚赂，意颇德之。经数月，李方闲居舍之南亭。申未间，忽闻扣门甚急，云是鲍十一娘至。摄衣从之，迎问曰：“鲍卿今日何故忽然而来？”鲍笑曰：“苏姑子作好梦也未？有一仙人，谪在下界，不邀财货，但慕风流。如此色目。共十郎相当矣。”生闻之惊跃，神飞体轻，引鲍手且拜且谢曰：“一生作奴，死亦不惮。”因问其名居。鲍具说曰：“故霍王小女，字小玉，王甚爱之。母曰净持。净持，即王之宠婢也。王之初薨，诸弟兄以其出自贱庶，不甚收录。因分与资财，遣居于外，易姓为郑氏，人亦不知其王女。姿质秾艳，一生未见，高情逸态，事事

— in fact, the queen of her profession. Entrusted by Mr. Li with the task of finding for him a lady friend and loaded with valuable presents from him, she tried her best to fulfil his yearning.

One late afternoon as the young scholar was whiling away his time in an arbour of the garden of his house, someone knocked impatiently at the gate. The janitor opened it and reported to him that the caller was Mrs. Bao. Li hurriedly went forward and received her.

"How is it, Madame, that you are here?" he asked.

"Your fondest dream has come true," she said. "A goddess has been banished to this sorry earth: she seeks no wealth but only love and romance. Such beauty and sentiment fulfil all your requirements."

"I am willing to be her slave all my life," cried the young scholar, dancing with delight and seizing Mrs. Bao's hands to show his gratefulness. He asked for her name and address.

"She is Miss Jade, the youngest daughter of the late Prince Huo," she explained. "Her mother, by the name of Purity, was a favourite bondmaid and, later, concubine of His Highness, and when he died, his legitimate heirs considered the girl as born of a woman of humble status and refused to recognize her. The mother was given some money and sent away. She changed her name to Zheng, thus concealing her and the girl's antecedents. She is the most beautiful young woman I have ever laid my eyes on, noble in her sentiments and artistic in her temperament — in short, superior in every way. She possesses numerous accomplish-

过人,音乐诗书,无不通解。昨遣某求一好儿郎格调相称者。某具说十郎。他亦知有李十郎名字,非常欢惬。住在胜业坊古寺曲,甫上车门宅是也。已与他作期约。明日午时,但至曲头觅桂子,即得矣。”

鲍既去,生便备行计。遂令僮秋鸿,于从兄京兆参军尚公处假青骊驹,黄金勒。其夕,生浣衣沐浴,修饰容仪,喜跃交并,通夕不寐。迟明,巾帻,引镜自照,惟惧不谐也。徘徊之间,至于亭午。遂命驾疾驱,直抵胜业。至约之所,果见青衣立候,迎问曰:“莫是李十郎否?”即下马,令牵入屋底,急急锁门。见鲍果从内出来,遥笑曰:“何等儿郎,造次入此?”生调诮未毕,引入中门。庭间有四樱桃树;西北

ments, being a poet as well as a musician, and is intellectually highly qualified. I have been commissioned by her mother yesterday to find a suitable mate for her, and I immediately mentioned your name. She had also heard of you as the famous romantic Master Li, the Tenth Favourite Son of the Li family, and was very much pleased with my suggestion. She lives in the house with wide portals to the south of the Old Temple in Sheng Yie Street. I have arranged a meeting for tomorrow noon: you can easily find the house, because a servant-maid will watch for your arrival."

After the departure of the caller, the young gallant made careful preparations for the coming interview. He sent his page to borrow from his cousin Shang, who was on the staff of the Metropolitan Garrison Headquarters, a coal-black pony equipped with a gold bit, and that night he bathed and completed his coiffure, being so exhilarated that he could not sleep a wink. As so as it was dawn he tried on his most becoming hat and gown, looking repeatedly in the mirror to see if all was in order and he was appearing at his best. He walked nervously about in the courtyard, waiting for the arrival of the hour of departure. Then he mounted his steed and galloped rapidly to the appointed spot.

A girl in black stood at the gate. "Are you Master Li the Tenth?" she queried, and led him inside the premises, locking the gate. Mrs. Bao was the first to appear.

"How dare you, stranger, invade these sacred precincts?" she chided him smilingly.

He was conducted to the second gate, where he saw before him a courtyard with four cherry trees, in the north-west corner of which hung a cage with a parrot therein.

悬一鹦鹉笼，见生入来，即语曰：“有人入来，急下帘者！”生本性雅淡，心犹疑惧，忽见鸟语，愕然不敢进。逡巡，鲍引净持下阶相迎，延入对坐。年可四十余，绰约多姿，谈笑甚媚。因谓生曰：“素闻十郎才调风流，今又见仪容雅秀，名下固无虚士。某有一女子，虽拙教训，颜色不致丑陋，得配君子，颇为相宜。频见鲍十一娘说意旨，今亦便令承奉箕帚。”生谢曰：“鄙拙庸愚，不意顾盼，倘垂采录，生死为荣。”遂命酒馔，即令小玉自堂东阁子中而出。生即拜迎。但觉一室之中，若琼林玉树，互相照耀，转盼精彩射人。既而遂坐母侧。母谓曰：“汝尝爱念

"Guest has come. Raise the curtain!" cackled the parrot.

By nature timid and retiring, and feeling somewhat nervous, Li was so taken by surprise when he heard the words of the parrot, that he dared not take a step further. The girl's mother now stepped down from the terrace to welcome him and invite him inside. She was just turned forty, still an attractive woman, and showed herself a charming talker.

"I have heard a great deal of your scholarly attainments and romantic personality," she declared cordially, "and now I perceive that you are also very handsome — indeed, you do not belie your reputation. My daughter, while not highly educated, is far from being a homely person, and would really make a suitable companion for you. Mrs. Bao has transmitted to me your proposal for my daughter's hand, and I am quite ready to order her to wait on you as her lord and master."

"I am an ignorant and mediocre person, unworthy of your kind notice," politely responded the young man, "and I feel highly honoured now and hereafter to receive such a kind welcome from you, Madame."

Drink and food was then brought to celebrate the occasion, and Miss Jade was summoned to meet the visitor. She entered from an adjoining chamber on the east side of the reception room. Master Li bowed profoundly to her. The two of them made an exceedingly handsome pair, like two matching pieces of beautiful art, diffusing radiance at each other and at the others in the room. She took a seat by the side of her mother.

The mother turned to the daughter: "You love to repeat the lines: