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千字文

—Thousand Character Primer—

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目 录

女娲补天	4
薛烛相剑	8
仓颉造字	12
武王伐纣奴隶倒戈	16
罗敷女的故事	20
程门立雪	24
匡衡凿壁取光的故事	28
苏武牧羊	32
屈原的高尚品德	36
班固兄妹写汉书	40
举案齐眉	44
曹植与《七步诗》	48

CONTENTS

Nü Wa Mended the Sky / 5
Xue Zhu Appreciated the Swords / 9
Cang Jie Invented Words / 13
King Wu Attacked King Zhou and Slaves Turned to Support King Wu / 17
The Story of a Woman Named Luo Fu / 21
Standing in the Snow in front of the Cheng Yi's House / 25
Kuang Heng Dug a Hole in the Wall for the Light from the Neighbor / 29
Su Wu in Xiongnu as a Shepherd / 33
Qu Yuan's Moral Qualities / 37
Ban Gu and his younger Sister Wrote the Book of Han together / 41
Raising the low Table to the Height of the Eyebrows / 45
Cao Zhi and his seven-step Poem / 49

重学轻财	52	Value Knowledge instead of Wealth / 53
洛阳纸贵	56	Paper in Luoyang was expensive / 57
东京与西京	60	East Capital and West Capital / 61
钟繇掘墓偷艺	64	Zhong You Dug the Grave for Stealing the Book / 65
张仪与“连横”	68	Zhang Yi and his Policy of Lianheng / 69
姜太公钓鱼	72	Jiang Taigong Went Fishing / 73
唇亡齿寒	76	If the Lips are Gone, the Teeth will be Cold / 77
孟姜女哭长城	80	Meng Jiangnü was Crying on the Great Wall / 81
中国古代的税收	84	Taxes System in the ancient China / 85
负荆请罪	88	Apologized with the Twigs on the Back / 89
陶渊明不为五斗 米折腰	92	Tao Yuanming didn't Make a Bow for the Salary / 93
花儿知晴雨	96	The Flower Knows the Weather / 97
王充与《论衡》	100	Wang Chong and his Works of Lunheng / 101
杜康酿酒	104	Du Kang Made Wine / 105
商鞅变法	108	Shang Yang's Political Reform / 109
东施效颦	112	Dong Shi Imitated Xi Shi Frowning / 113
夸父逐日	116	Kua Fu Chasing the Sun / 117
千字文的故事	120	The Story of the Thousand Character Primer / 121

开中国蒙学经典教学英译之先河
在快乐的故事中学习英语
首次使英语学习闪耀着民族文化的光芒

资深少儿英语教师倾力翻译
加拿大籍资深英语专家 Jayne Rutledge 女士严格审校

这是一部伴随过无数中国人成长、能够影响读者一生的蒙学经典

tiān	dì	xuán	huáng	yǔ	zhòu	hóng	huāng
天	地	玄 ^①	黄 ^②	宇	宙	洪	荒 ^③
。							
rì	yuè	yíng	zè	chén	sù	liè	zhāng
日	月	盈	昃 ^④	辰	宿	列	张
。							
hán	lái	shǔ	wǎng	qiū	shōu	dōng	cáng
寒	来	暑	往	秋	收	冬	藏
。							
rùn	yú	chéng	sui	lǜ	lǚ	tiáo	yáng
闰	余 ^⑤	成	岁	律	吕 ^⑥	调 ^⑦	阳 ^⑧
。							

【译文】

开天辟地的初期，天空是黑色的，大地是黄色的。远古时代，茫茫宇宙是混沌的一片。

日出日落、月缺月圆，循环往复，很有规律。星辰布满无际的天空。

春、夏、秋、冬一年四季就是这样不断地变化。秋天收获粮食，冬天储存粮食。

把每年多余的时间加在一起成为闰年，古人用六律和六吕来核实月份，掌握气候和季节的变化。

【注释】

①玄：黑色。

②黄：黄色。

③洪荒：指世界未形成之前混沌的状态。

④昃：太阳西斜。

⑤闰余：农历纪年的时间与地球公转一周时间的差值。

⑥律吕：这里指测量气候变化的仪器。

⑦调：测量。

⑧阳：天气的变化。

At the beginning of the Sky separating from the Earth, the sky was blue and the earth was yellow. In ancient time, the sky and earth mixed together.

The sun and moon move in circles^①. Their changes are regular. The sky is full of glittering^② stars.

The four seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter are changing continually. We harvest in autumn and store up in winter.

Ancient people added up the surplus^③ of each year together and called it the leap year. They used Liulü to calculate the month and know the change of the weather and seasons.

Notes

① move in circles:循环往复

② glitter:闪烁。stars glittering in the sky 闪烁在空中的星星

③ surplus:多余。

例: They cut out the surplus words. 他把多余的单词删掉。

女娲(wā)补天

传说在很久以前,水神共工和火神祝融为争夺天下发生了一场恶战,共工惨败。他非常生气,一头撞向不周山,把山下一根撑天的柱子撞断了,结果西北角的天塌了,漏出一个大窟窿,引发了洪水,火灾不断、野兽肆虐,人类濒临灭绝。

女娲见到人类遭此横(hèng)祸,痛心不已。她下决心要把天补好,她把许多五色的石子运到火山口,用大火把这些石子烧成石浆,补好天上的窟窿。

地震、山洪、火灾随之平息了,人类又重新过上安居乐业的日子。女娲成为人们心中仁慈、勤劳、智慧、勇敢的女神。



Nü Wa Mended the Sky

Long long ago, the water god Gong Gong fought with the fire god Zhu Rong, and Gong Gong was beaten in the fierce war. Gong Gong was very angry, and he knocked his head against Buzhou Mountain. At the foot of the mountain one pillar supporting the sky was broken. A great hole appeared in the northwest of the sky. Floods poured out^① of the earth. Disastrous fires burned again and again. Wild beasts harmed people. The people were threatened^② with dying out.

Looking at all of this Nü Wa felt bad. She thought she must mend the sky. She carried many rocks of five colors to a volcano^③. She melted the rocks to mend the hole in the sky.

Then the earthquakes^④, mountain torrents^⑤ and fires stopped. The people lived a peaceful and happy life again. Nü Wa became a goddess of kindness, diligence^⑥, intelligence and bravery in the people's heart.

Notes

- ① pour out: 涌出。

例: Many students poured out of football ground. 许多学生从足球场涌出。

- ② threatened: 威胁

- ③ volcano: 火山

- ④ earthquakes: 地震

- ⑤ torrents: 急流, 洪流

- ⑥ diligence: 勤奋

Questions

1. Who mended the sky?

Nü Wa mended the sky.

2. What did Nüwa use for mending the hole of the sky?

She used many rocks of five colors to mend the hole of the sky

yún téng zhì yǔ lù jié wéi shuāng
云 腾 致 雨 ， 露 结 为 霜 。

jīn shēng lì shuǐ ① yù chū kūn gāng ②
金 生 丽 水 ① ， 玉 出 昆 冈 ② 。

jiàn hào jù què ③ zhū chēng yè guāng ④
剑 号 巨 阙 ③ ， 珠 称 夜 光 ④ 。

guǒ zhēn lǐ nài ⑤ cài zhòng jiè jiāng ⑥
果 珍 李 柰 ⑤ ， 菜 重 芥 姜 ⑥ 。

【译文】

云气升到空中，遇冷空气就形成雨水，而雾水碰上寒夜，可以凝结成霜。

金沙江底盛产黄金，昆仑山里盛产美玉。

天下最锋利的宝剑叫“巨阙”，最珍贵的宝珠是“夜明珠”。

水果中的珍品是李子和花红，蔬菜中最好的菜是芥菜和生姜。

【注释】

①丽水：即金沙江。

②昆冈：即昆仑山。

③巨阙：越王勾践的宝剑，十分锋利。

④夜光：又名夜明珠。

⑤柰：一种水果，即花红。

⑥芥姜：芥菜和生姜。

Clouds will turn into^① rainfall if they meet the cold air in the sky.
Dew following the fog will form frost on cold nights.

Gold abounds in^② the Jinsha River; Jade abounds in the Kunlun Mountain.

The sharpest sword in the world is called Juke. The worthiest pearl is the black pearl^③.

Plums^④ and crab^⑤ apples are the most treasured fruits. Leaf mustard^⑥ and ginger^⑦ are the best vegetables.

Notes

- ① turn into:变为, 化为
- ② abound in/with:盛产
- ③ pearl:珍珠
- ④ plums:李子
- ⑤ crab:山楂
- ⑥ mustard:芥菜, 芥末
- ⑦ ginger:姜, 生姜

薛烛^①相剑

春秋时期，越王勾践酷爱刀剑。一次，他邀请当时天下第一的相剑大师薛烛前来赏剑。

勾践先命人取来两把宝剑：毫曹和巨阙(què)。哪知，薛烛走马观花地看了一遍，随便地说了一句：“这两把剑都有缺点，不能算宝剑。”勾践颇感意外，命人再抬一把宝剑。薛烛问道：“大王拿来的是什么剑啊？”勾践说道：“纯均。”只见薛烛从座位上仰面摔倒，好大一会儿才突然惊醒。他从侍者手中接过宝剑，小心翼翼地敲了几敲之后方才将剑从鞘^②中缓缓拔出。只见一团光华绽放而出，宛如出水的芙蓉雍容而清冽(liè)，剑柄上的雕饰如星宿运行闪出深邃(suì)的光芒。薛烛高声说道：“好剑，真是无价之宝啊！”

【注释】

①相(xiàng)：察看，仔细看。

②鞘(qiào)：装刀剑的套子。



Xue Zhu Appreciated the Swords

In the Spring and Autumn Period, the King of Yue State, Gou Jian, was very interested in knives and swords. Once upon a time, he invited Xue Zhu to appreciate the sword. Xue Zhu was the most famous person at that time in the field of ^① appreciating swords.

Gou Jian ordered his servant to bring two double-edged swords of Haocao and Juque. However, Xue Zhu saw them with hurried glance and said casually: "The two swords both have short comings so they can not be genuine double-edged swords." Gou Jian was surprised. He ordered his servant to bring another double-edged sword. Xue Zhu asked: "What is it?" Gou Jian said: "The sword of Chunjun." Xue Zhu heard this and fell from his seat. In a short while, he woke up, and he seized ^② the double-edged sword from the servant's hands. He knocked it carefully. Then he pulled the sword out from the scabbard ^③ slowly. The light of the sword appeared. It was so beautiful, like a lotus ^④ flower above the water. Decoration ^⑤ on the sword gave off a brilliant light. Xue Zhu said loudly: "Good sword. It really is a priceless treasure!"

Notes

① in the field of: 在某领域, 在某方面。

例: He has got a lot of achievements in the field of mathematics. 他在数学方面取得了许多成绩。

② seized: 抓住, 逮住, 夺取

③ scabbard: 鞘

④ lotus: 莲花, 荷花

⑤ decoration: 装饰, 装饰品

Questions

1. What did Gou Jian like?

He liked knife and sword.

2. Who did Gou Jian invite for appreciating the sword?

He invited Xue Zhu for appreciating the sword.

hǎi	xián	hé	dàn	,	lín	qián	yǔ	xiáng
海	咸	河	淡	,	鳞	潜	羽	翔
lóng	shī	huǒ	dì	,	niǎo	guān	rén	huáng
龙	师 ^①	火	帝 ^②	,	鸟	官 ^③	人	皇 ^④
shǐ	zhì	wén	zì	,	nǎi	fú	yī	shang
始 ^⑤	制	文	字	,	乃	服	衣	裳
tuī	wèi	ràng	guó	,	yǒu	yú	táo	táng
推	位	让	国	,	有	虞 ^⑥	陶	唐 ^⑦

【译文】

海水是咸的，河水是淡的；鱼儿在水里游动，鸟儿在空中飞翔。

龙师伏羲(xī)氏，神农氏火皇，鸟官少昊(hào)氏，还有天皇、地皇和人皇，他们都是古时候非常有名的人物。

传说黄帝的史官仓颉(jié)发明了文字；黄帝的妻子嫫(léi)祖教人养蚕取丝，人们才穿上了衣服。

为了国家的兴盛，尧和舜把自己的王位让给了贤德之人。

【注释】

①龙师：即伏羲氏。

②火帝：即神农氏。

③鸟官：即少昊氏，因少昊氏用鸟给百官命名。

④人皇：传说中三皇之一，即天皇、地皇、人皇。

⑤始：开始。

⑥虞：这里指舜。

⑦陶唐：这里指尧。

Water in the sea tastes bitter and salty. Water in the river tastes salt-free. Fish swim in the water. Birds fly in the air.

Longshi is Fu Xishi. Shen Nongshi is called fire emperor. Shao Haoshi is called Niaoguan. There was the Emperor of the Sky, the Emperor of the Earth and the Emperor of the Men. All of them were very famous in ancient times.

It was said that^① words were invented by Cang Jie. He was an official who recorded histories authorized^② by Emperor Huangdi. The wife of Emperor Huangdi, Leizu, taught people to raise silkworms^③ for silk^④. From then on people had clothes.

In order to develop the country, both Yao and Shun gave up their positions^⑤ to more qualified people.

Notes

① It was said that:据说,传说

② authorized:批准

③ silkworms:蚕,桑蚕,家蚕

④ silk:丝绸

⑤ gave up one's position:让位。

例: He gave up his position to the able man. 他让位给能人。

仓颉造字

相传仓颉是黄帝手下的一名史官，他的任务是记录每天发生的事情。那时没有文字、纸和笔，该如何记载呢？

一天，他去参加集体狩(shòu)猎，走到一个三岔路口，看到几个老人为走哪条路而争辩起来。一个老人坚持要往东，说有羊；一个老人要往北，说前面不远可以追到鹿；一个老人偏要往西，说有两只老虎。原来他们都是看着地上野兽的脚印才认定的。仓颉受到启发：一个脚印能代表一种野兽，我为什么不用不同的符号来表示不同的东西呢？他高兴地拔腿奔回家，开始创造各种符号来表示事物。由于没有笔和纸，仓颉只能将造出的字刻在山洞石壁上，同时他还把自己创造的字教给别人。

中华民族从此有了自己的文字。

