

LECTIONS FROM
GLISH STORIES

英文故事精選

BY TAO, M. P.

陶 湄 波 編

上海春明書店印行
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編 者 的 話

——這是一冊中外故事的選集，一共七十篇，按照文字的深淺，依次排列。內容着重於文章的結構和趣味，以便讀者在閱讀時，易於瞭解而增加學習興趣和效能。

讀者在閱讀時，除了困難的成語外，非到萬不得已時，最好不看譯文。如讀完一篇後，能把它譯成中文，與本書的譯文相互比較，則閱讀興趣，自然當可加強。翻譯不是一件容易的事，如本書中的“The love of the mother” “The moonlight Sonata” 以及 “The Ambition Acorn” 等，編者在閱讀時，不但感到文句美麗，且也為故事中洋溢的感情所激動，但一經譯成中文，自覺不免遜色。至於那些常用的成語，本書也一一加以註譯和說明，讀者更應仔細吟味，直到能如意運用為止。

本書因在教務匆忙中編成，錯誤之處，在所不免，尚祈讀者予以指正，以便於再版時更正。

湄波，3, 19, 1948, 於杭州西子湖畔。

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1. THE MISER

A miser¹ had a lump of gold², which he buried in the ground, coming to the spot every day to look at it.

Finding one day that it was stolen, he began to tear his hair³, and loudly lament.

A neighbor, seeing him, said, "Prey do not grieve so, bury a stone in the hole, and fancy it is the gold. It will serve you just as well, for when the gold was there you made no use of it."

解釋：1. 守財奴。2. a lump of gold 一塊金子。3. tear his hair 撕髮(苦悶時所作的一種狀態)。

守 財 奴

守財奴，有一塊金子，他把金子埋在地中。每天走去看看。

一天，他發現他的金子被竊了，他開始扭着頭髮長嘆。

有一個鄰人見了他說：“請別這樣悲傷，埋一塊石子在這個洞裏把它當作金子。這與你是一樣的，因為金子放在地下也是無用。”

2. THE FILIAL BOY WANG HSIANG

After the death of his mother Wang Hsiang¹ was very sad. His stepmother² did not love him and often spoke ill³ of him to his father, so that his father ceased to love him.

One cold day, Wang Hsiang's stepmother was ill. She wanted fresh fish and told him to get it. At that time the river was frozen over, and it was impossible to catch any fish. So Wang Hsiang began to lie on the ice. When the ice broke with the warmth, two carps⁴ were seen springing up.⁵ Wang Hsiang carried them home.

解釋：1. 王祥。2. 後母 3. speak ill 說壞話。4. 鯉魚 5. spring up 跳上來。

孝子王祥

王祥死了母親以後，非常悲傷。他的後母不愛他，並時常在父親面前講他的壞話，因此父親也不愛他。

有一個冷天，王祥的後母病了。她要吃鮮魚，叫王祥去取。那時河水冰凍了，無法捉魚。王祥便臥在冰上，冰受了熱，裂開了，兩條

鯉魚跳了上來。王祥便捉了魚回家。

3. THE AX AND THE TREES

Once upon a time a man came to a forest to ask the trees if they would give him some wood to make a handle for his ax.

The trees thought this was very little to ask, and they gave him a good piece of hard wood. But as soon as the man had fitted the handle to his ax, he went to work to chop down¹ all the best trees in the forest.

As they fell groaning² and crashing³ to the ground, they said mournfully⁴ one to another⁵, 'We suffer for our own foolishness.'

解釋：1. chop down 斫倒。2. groaning 呻吟聲。3. crashing 樹木倒地之聲音。4. mournfully 悲傷地。5. one another 互相、二人以上)

斧 與 樹

以前有一個人走到樹林裏去，問他們願否給他一些木材以作斧柄之用。

那些樹想，這是一個極小的請求，他們就給了他一根很好的木

材，但是此人把斧柄裝好以後，就把森林裏所有的好樹都斫倒了。

當他們砰然倒在地上呻吟的時候，他們互相悲傷的說：“我們的受苦，全是由自己愚蠢造成的”。

4. THE FOX AND THE TIGER

A tiger had caught a fox.

The fox said: “You dare not eat me. God has made me the king of beasts. If you do not believe me, you have only to walk after me, to find out that no beast dare see me without fleeing.”

The tiger agreed, and so walked with the fox.

Every beast ran away at the sight of them. The tiger did not know that the beasts were afraid of¹ himself, but thought that they feared² the fox.

解釋：1. afraid of 怕（是形容詞，與 fear 用法不同）。

2. fear 怕（是動詞）。

狐狸與老虎

一隻老虎抓住了一隻狐狸。

狐狸說：“你不敢吃我，老天使我做百獸之王。假使你不相信，你只要跟着我走，就可發現沒有一種野獸見了我，敢不逃避的。

老虎同意了，便和狐狸一同走着。

每種野獸見了他們，便逃走了。老虎不知道百獸是在怕他，卻反以爲百獸是怕狐狸。

5. THE ASS IN THE LION'S SKIN

An ass once put on¹ a lion's skin. It did not fit him very well, but he found that in it he could frighten all the timid, foolish little animals; so he amused himself by chasing them about.

By and by² he met a fox, and tried to frighten him by roaring³.

"My dear donkey,"⁴ said the wise fox, "you are braying⁵, and not roaring. I might, perhaps, have been frightened by your looks, if you had not tried to roar; but I know your voice too well to mistake you for a lion".

解釋：1. put on 穿上 2. by and by 即刻 3. 吼 4. 驢

5. 驢鳴聲

穿獅皮的驢子

有一次，一隻驢子穿上一張獅皮。這並不很合身，但是他發現穿了獅皮可以驚嚇一切膽小愚蠢的小動物；所以他對嚇走其他小

動物而很感興趣。

不久，他碰到了一隻狐狸，他想以吼聲來驚嚇他。

“我親的驢子”，聰明的狐狸說，“你在鳴不是在吼。你不叫，也許我會被你的外貌所驚嚇；但是你的聲音我知道得太清楚了，我不會以為你是一隻獅子的”。

contradictions

6. SELF-CONTRADICTIONS

Once there was a seller of spears¹ and shields². He usually kept on³ saying: “My spears are so sharp that they can pierce any kind of shields in the world.”

About his shields, he said: “My shields are the hardest ones that have ever been seen before. No spear in the world can pierce them.”

One day a bystander asked him: “Should I try to pierce your shields with one of your spears or defend myself from your spears with one of your shields, then what would happen?”

The seller could not answer at all.

解釋：1. 矛（武器名） 2. 盾 3. keep on 連續

自相矛盾

從前有一個賣矛和盾的人 他常常說道：“我的矛頂銳利了。牠

們可以殺破世間任何那一種盾呢。”

對於他的盾，他說：“我的盾是世間最堅實的盾，這種盾從來罕有，世界上沒有一枝矛可以殺破牠們的。”

有一天，一個旁觀的人問他道：“倘使我試將你的矛來刺你的盾，或者將你的盾來擋你的矛，那麼結果如何？”

賣矛盾的人一句話也答覆不出來。

7. I ONLY SAW RICE

Once upon a time, there lived in Chi Kuo¹, a poor man. He thought to himself “If I could rob all the rice in the rice-shop, I should not be poor any more.”²

One day, in the early morning, he scurried into³ the rice-shop to rob rice.

The policemen seized him and thus scolded him. “How can you dare to run such a risk⁴ as to rob rice in a street full of people?”

The poor man said, “When I was robbing, I only saw rice and never saw single soul.”

解釋：1. Chi Kuo 齊國（戰國時） 2. any more 再 3. 闖

入 4. to run such a risk 冒險

我只看見米

以前齊國有一個窮人。他想到：“假使我把米店裏所有的米都搶來，我將不再窮了。”

一天早晨，他闖入一家米店搶米。

警察捉住他並責問他道：“你怎樣敢冒險在這樣多人的街上搶米呢？”

這個可憐的人說道，“當我搶劫的時候，我只看見米，一個人也不會看見的。”

8. A CLEVER BOY

Many many years ago in a village, there was a huge jar full of water standing in front of¹ a house. By the side of this a number of children were playing.

Presently one of the children climbed to the top of the jar and looked in. Suddenly he slipped and fell inside.

What was to be done? How could they save the child from drowning? Nobody had any idea what to do. Then a clever child brought a large stone and threw it at the jar. This broke the jar; the water rushed out² and the child was saved.

解釋：1. in front of 前 2. rushed out 流出

一個聰明的孩子

很多年前，在一個鄉村裏，在一座房子的前面，放着一隻很大的水缸，裏面盛滿着水。水缸旁邊，有一大羣孩子在遊戲。

一個孩子爬到水缸上面向下張望。突然他失足跌進水缸了！

怎麼辦呢？他們如何將孩子從將溺死中救出來呢？沒有人想得出辦法來救他。一個聰明的孩子，拿了一塊大石頭，向水缸擊去。石頭打破了水缸，水從缸中流到外面，跌落在水缸裏的孩子也就得救了。

9. SUFFERING FOR NAMES.

Once there was an old man who had two sons. The elder son was named Beat and the younger was named Robber.

One day, the old man sent his younger son to buy something. When the young men walked out, the old man remembered there was something else that he had forgotten to tell. Therefore, following his younger son, the old man ran and cried: "Robber! Robber!"

Hearing his cries, the policemen¹ took the old man's

younger son to be² a robber and had him arrested³.

The old man was startled. Wishing his elder son to come and ask the policemen what was the matter⁴, he hastily cried aloud: "Beat! Beat!"

Hearing this the policemen beat the old man's younger son very severely.

解釋: 1. 警察 2. take……to be 以爲 3. 逮捕 4. what was the matter 什麼事情

爲名字而受苦

一個老人有二個兒子。大兒子名叫打，小兒子名叫強盜。

一天，老人叫他的小兒子到街上去買東西。他兒子出去了，以後他忽然想到忘記告訴他買另外一樣東西。因此，他跟着出去，在他的兒子後面追趕喊道：“強盜！強盜！”

警察聽到了他的喊聲，以爲他的兒子是強盜，就把他捉住了。

老人很驚訝。他想把他的大兒子叫來，叫他去問問警察，倒底是什麼事情。他連忙大聲喊道：“打！打！”

警察聽了他的聲音，就重重地打他的小兒子。

10. THE TRAVELLERS AND THE BEAR.

Two friends were travelling together, when they met

with a Bear. One of the travellers, without a thought of his companion, climbed up into a tree, and hid there. The other, seeing that he had no chance, single handed, against the Bear, threw himself on the ground and pretended to be dead.² As he thus lay, the Bear came up to his head muzzling and snuffing at his nose, and ears, and heart, but the man held his breath,³ and the beast supposing him to be dead,⁴ walked away. When the Bear was fairly out of sight, his companion came down out of the tree and asked, "What was it that the Bear whispered to you?" "Why," replied the other, "it was no great secret; he only bade⁵ me have a care how I kept company with those who, when they get into difficulty, leave their friends in the lurch."

解釋：1. without a thought of 不顧 2. pretended to be dead 裝死 3. held his breath 抑止呼吸 4. supposing him to be dead 以爲他死了 5. 吩咐

旅客和熊

有二個朋友正在一起旅行時，碰見了一隻熊。一個旅客不顧同伴，逕自爬上了樹躲避。另一個無法可逃，只有倒在地上裝死。熊走