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Some More Stories from The  
*Liao Chai Chih I*

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Some More Stories from The  
*Liao Chai Chih I*

TRANSLATED BY

JAMES N. Y. PAI



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# 世界文學全集

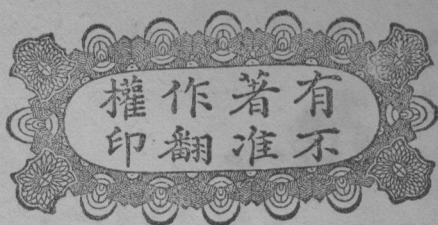
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# SOME MORE STORIES FROM THE *LIAO CHAI CHIH I*

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## 橘樹 THE WONDERFUL ORANGE-TREE

陝西劉公，爲興  
化令，有道士來獻  
盆樹，視之，則小  
橘細裁如指，攢弗  
受，劉有幼女，時  
六七歲，適值初  
度，道士云，此不  
足供大人清玩，聊  
祝女公子福壽耳，  
乃受之，女一見，

A Mr Liu, of Shensi, was the magistrate of Hsinghua. On one occasion a Taoist priest called to present him with a small potted tree, which, upon being examined, was found to be an orange-tree with a stem as slender as the finger. This, however, he declined to accept; whereupon, as it chanced to be the birthday of his young daughter, who was between six and seven years of age, the priest took occasion to address him, saying, "Surely this is unworthy to be an enjoyment to Your Excellency. But I present it merely to wish Your Excellency's daughter happiness and longevity." So Mr Liu accepted the tree; and his daughter, who took

不勝愛悅，寔諸閨  
闈，朝夕護之，唯  
恐傷。

劉任滿，橘盈把  
矣，是年初結實，  
簡裝將行，以橘重  
贅，謀棄去，女抱  
樹嬌啼，家人給之  
曰，暫去，且將復  
來，女信之，涕始  
止，又恐爲大力者  
負之而去，立視家

a great fancy to it at the first blush, forthwith had it placed in her boudoir, tending it most carefully morning and night for fear it should sustain an injury.

At the time when Mr Liu's term of office expired, the tree had grown as big round as the hand could grasp, and for the first time it bore fruit. Now, as they were getting ready to start for their native place with only light luggage, Mr Liu purposed to leave the burdensome tree behind them; whereupon his daughter, clasping the tree in her arms, began to weep in a soft tone, and did not cease from crying till her folks soothed her by saying that they would stay away from the place but temporarily, and that it would not be long before they would return. However, fearing lest the tree might be carried away by some influential person, she did not start off with her folks until she

人，移栽墀下，乃行。

女歸，受莊氏

聘，莊丙戌登進

士，釋褐爲興化

令，夫人大喜，竊

意十餘年，橘不復

存，及至，則樹已

十圍，實累累以千

計，問之故役，皆

云劉公去後，橘甚

茂而不實，此其初

結也，更奇之，莊

watched the servants transplant it in the courtyard.

When they got home, she was betrothed and married to a Mr Chuang, who took his Doctor's degree in the year Ping Shu, and who was later appointed to the post of magistrate at Hsing-hua. Though much delighted at her husband's appointment, Mrs Chuang thought within herself that, with the lapse of over ten years, the orange-tree might be no longer in existence. But, on arriving at their destination, she found that the tree had grown so big round that it would require ten persons to embrace it, and that its fruits were hanging in great profusion. From the old yamen-runners they learnt, much to their wonder, that after Mr Liu's departure, the tree's foliage and blossoms had been pretty luxuriant, but it had never borne a single fruit up to that moment. For three years during Mr Chuang's tenure of



任三年，繁實不改，第四年，悴憊無少華，夫人曰，君任此不久矣，至秋果解任。

異史氏曰，橘其有夙緣於女乎，何遇之巧也，其實也似感恩，其不華也似傷離，物猶如此，而況於人乎。

office, the fruits of the tree had been invariably exuberant. In the fourth year, however, the tree began to wither and was no longer in bloom. Thereupon Mrs Chuang said to her husband, "Perhaps it will not be long before your term of office expires."; and sure enough Mr Chuang was dismissed from his post in the autumn.

*The unofficial historian (i.e., the story-teller) begs to say: "Was it not preordained in a former state of existence that the orange tree and the girl should be brought together? For, if otherwise, they would not have met so opportunely. In its fruiting, it seemed as if the tree were grateful toward the girl. In its non-blooming, it seemed as though it were grieved at the prospect of parting. Even a plant is so sensible, how much more so shall a human being be!"*

## 小 髻 THE SMALL KNOT OF HAIR

長山居民某，暇  
居，輒有短客來，  
入與扳談，素不識  
其生平，頗注念，  
客曰，三數日，將  
便徙居比鄰矣。

過四五日，又  
曰，今已同里，且  
晚可以承教，問僑  
居何所，亦不詳  
告，但以手北指，  
自是日輒一來，時

At Ch'ang-shan there was a certain villager, who, when unoccupied, was often visited for a chat by a dwarfish guest. Being strangers to each other, the villager one day desired to know something about the antecedents etc. of his guest, when the latter put him off by telling him that he was about to move to his neighborhood in the next few days.

Some days afterwards, the guest reappeared and said to his friend, "Now that we are living in the same village, I hope I shall avail myself of your instructions morning and night." When asked where his residence was, he, however, did not tell his friend in detail, but only pointed his finger to the north. From that day he would come once daily, and not unfrequently

向人假器具，或吝  
不與，則自失之，  
羣疑其狐。

村北有古塚，陷  
不可測，意必居  
此，共操兵杖往，  
伏聽之，久無稍  
異，一更向盡，聞  
穴中戢戢然，似數  
十百人作耳語，衆  
寂不動，俄而尺許  
小人連遽而出，至  
不可數。

would he borrow utensils etc. from the villagers. If his request was not granted, the object of his request would invariably disappear of itself. Thereupon they all suspected him to be a fairy fox.

Now to the north of the village, there was an old grave with a fathomless cavity, in which they thought the dwarfish guest had taken up his abode. So, taking their swords and cudgels, the villagers forthwith went to the spot, and, prostrating themselves on the ground, listened for some time, but found nothing strange at all. Toward the end of the first watch, however, a hissing or sibilant sound, like that of tens or hundreds of people whispering together, was heard to proceed from the cavity; whereupon they all kept quiet and motionless, and by and by beheld innumerable little creatures, not much more than a foot in height, coming out of the cavity in an unbroken succession.

衆譟起，並擊  
之，杖杖皆火，瞬  
息四散，惟遺一小  
髻，如胡桃殼然，  
絆飾而金綫，嗅  
之，騷臭不可言。

Springing to their heels and raising a great clamor, the villagers proceeded to strike at these little creatures. At every blow of their cudgels, there was to be seen sparks shooting out in all directions; which, however, dispersed in the twinkling of an eye, leaving nothing behind but a small knot of hair, very much like the shell of a walnut, adorned with cotton gauze and gold threads. On smelling it, they found it was stinking beyond expression.

## 噴水 THE BUGBEAR THAT SPURTED WATER

萊陽宋玉叔先生，爲部曹時，所僦第，甚荒落，一夜，二婢奉太夫人宿廳上，聞院內撲撲有聲，如縫工之噴衣者，太夫人促婢起。

穴窗窺視，見一老嫗，短身駝背，白髮如帚，冠一髻，長二寸許，周院環走，竦急作鶴狀，行且噴，水出不窮。

When he was a member of one of the Six Boards at the capital, Mr Sung Yü-shu, of Laiyang, rented a mansion which was rather desolate. On one occasion, Mr Sung's mother with two slave girls passed the night in the main hall of the building, when she heard a sound like that made by tailors spurting water on clothes proceeding from the courtyard; whereupon she roused the two slave girls and urged them to get up.

Piercing a hole in the paper window, the girls peeped through and saw a short hump-backed old woman, with her silvery hair dressed in the shape of a broom and braided in a tress some two inches long at the top of her head, going round and round in the courtyard with a gait like that of a crane, and spurting out an endless stream of water while walking.



婢愕返白，太夫  
人亦驚起，兩婢扶  
窗下聚觀之，嫗忽  
逼窗，直噴櫺內，  
窗紙破裂，三人俱  
仆，而家人不知之  
也。

東曦既上，家人  
畢集，叩門不應，  
方駭，撬扉入，見  
一主二婢，駢死一  
室，一婢鬲下猶

Struck with astonishment, the girls reported what they had seen to their mistress, who, being likewise astonished to hear it, walked with the help of the two girls to the window and peeped through the hole with them; when, all of a sudden, the old woman in the courtyard approached the window and spurted water straight into the room through the lattice-work, breaking the window-paper and causing the trio to fall to the ground—all unknown to the other members of the family.

At sunrise, the servants of the house came to knock at the door, and, somewhat surprised at the fact that there was no reply from within, they pried the door open, when lo and behold! both the mistress and the two slave girls were lying dead side by side on the ground. One of the slave girls, however, still had some warmth in her body below the diaphragm, and,

溫，扶灌之，移時  
而醒，乃述所見。 after a first aid being rendered  
her by forcing some liquid medicine into her mouth, she came  
round in a little while, and  
related all that she had seen.

先生至，哀憤欲  
死，細窮沒處，掘  
深三尺餘，漸露白  
髮，又掘之，得一  
尸，如所見狀。 At this juncture, Mr Sung  
rushed in and was so grieved  
and indignant at the mishap  
that he would have made away  
with himself. Then they pro-  
ceeded to examine closely the  
spot where the bugbear had  
disappeared, and dug the ground  
some three feet deep, when some  
white hairs came to light and,  
by a further digging, a corpse  
was exposed, which was just  
like the bugbear we have de-  
scribed above.

面肥腫如生，令  
擊之，骨肉皆爛，  
皮內皆清水。 The corpse was somewhat  
plump and swollen, yet looked  
like a living being. When Mr  
Sung made his servants knock  
at it, they found that the bones  
and flesh of the corpse were all  
decayed, and that there was  
nothing but pure water in its  
skin.

王漁洋云，玉叔 (Here the commentator makes  
襁褓失恃，此事恐 the following remark:—"Seeing  
屬傳聞之誤。 when he was a mere baby in  
swaddling bands, the above  
story is probably an erroneous  
hearsay.")

## 僧術 MAGICAL ARTS OF A BUDDHIST PRIEST

黃生，故家子，  
才情頗贍，夙志高  
騫，村外蘭若，有  
居僧某，素與分  
深，既而僧雲遊，  
去十餘年復歸。

見黃，歎曰，謂  
君騰達久，今尙白  
紵耶，想福命固薄  
耳，請爲君賄冥中  
主者，能置十千  
否，答言不能，僧

A certain Mr Huang was a man of family, having great talents and high ambitions. He had been on very intimate terms with a certain Buddhist priest dwelling in a monastery outside the village. One day the priest set out to wander about various parts of the country, and did not return until after more than ten years.

When seeing Huang again, he heaved a sigh and said, "I thought you must have already risen to prominence. Aren't you still a mere graduate? Perhaps your allotted luck is inadequate to great achievements, so I will manage to bribe the ruler of the Infernal Regions for you. Can you afford to prepare ten thousand cash for the purpose?", to which Huang replied in the negative. "Then," re-