

中国经典文化故事系列
Chinese Classic Cultural Stories Series

Ashima

阿诗玛

杨德安 改编
潘智丹 英译
汪榕培 英文审校



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一、成 长

1. Growing up

很久以前，在云南大理有个叫阿着底的地方。这里的塘水清又亮，这里的树丛绿茸茸，这里居住着勤劳勇敢的撒尼人。

Once upon a time, there was a place called Azhedi in Dali of Yunnan Province. The pond water here was clean and clear; the trees and bushes here were lush and green; and the Sani people living here were valiant and industrious.

阿着底分上下两边。格路日明夫妻俩就住在上阿着底的竹园村。他们是老实巴交的庄稼人，住着三间草房，种着三亩山地，日子过得虽然清苦，但却像无风的池塘一样平静。

Azhedi was divided into the upper part and the lower part. Geluriming and his wife lived in the Bamboo Garden Village of Upper Azhedi. They were both honest and simple farmers, living in a three-room thatched cottage and working on three *mu* of hilly land. Though they were poor, their life was as peaceful as an undisturbed pond.

有一天，他们平静的生活骤然起了波澜。那天，天空闪出一朵花，天空处处现彩霞，格路日明的妻子十月怀胎，一朝分娩，



生下了一个漂亮的小姑娘。这可是天大的喜事啊，消息惊动了全村的人，全村的人都赶过来帮忙。有的帮小姑娘接生，有的帮小姑娘洗澡，有的帮小姑娘缝制新衣裳。格路曰明家的草房里充满了欢乐的笑声。

One day, great waves suddenly stirred up their peaceful life. On a day when a flower flashed in the sky where rosy clouds were glowing here and there, Geluriming's wife went into delivery after ten months' pregnancy, giving birth to a beautiful baby girl. What a joyous occasion it was! All the villagers hurried to their house to give a hand when they heard the news. Some helped with the delivery; others helped to bathe the little girl; and still others helped to sew new clothes for the little girl. The Gelurimings' thatched cottage was pervaded with happy laughter.

小姑娘满月那天，格路曰明请了九十九桌客，结果坐满了一百二十桌；客人带来了九十九坛酒，不够喝，得增加到一百二十坛；全村人杀了九十九头猪，不够吃，又增加到一百二十头；亲友预备了九十九盆面疙瘩饭，还是不够分，只能增加到一百二十盆。格路曰明家的草房里、院子里，洋溢着喜庆的气氛。

When the little girl was one month old, Geluriming invited ninety-nine tablefuls of guests, but it turned out that there were one hundred and twenty tables fully occupied. The guests brought over ninety-nine jugs of wine, which turned out to be



not enough and had to be increased to one hundred and twenty jugs. The whole village butchered ninety-nine pigs, which turned out to be not adequate and had to be increased to one hundred and twenty. The kith and kin prepared ninety-nine pots of dough-

ball meal, which turned out to be not sufficient and had to be increased to one hundred and twenty. A joyful mood permeated every corner, including Gelurimings' cottage and their courtyard.

在这欢乐喜庆的时候，格路日明夫妻俩真诚地向村中的老人请教：“我家的好囡该取什么名字呢？”

At such a joyous moment, Geluriming and his wife sincerely asked the elders in the village for advice, “What name should we choose for our little girl?”



村中的老人们经过一番琢磨推敲，异口同声说道：“小姑娘就叫阿诗玛，阿诗玛的名字像香草。”

After much pondering and weighing, the elders said in chorus, “The little girl should be named Ashima, for the name of Ashima sounds like vanilla.”

从此，阿诗玛这响亮的名字传遍四方。

From then on, the resounding name of Ashima traveled far and wide.

阿诗玛长到三个月就会笑，笑声就像知了叫一样，清脆响亮。

When Ashima was three months old, she could laugh like a cicada, loud and clear.

阿诗玛长到五个月就会爬，爬得就像耙齿耙地一样，活泼可爱。

When Ashima was five months old, she could crawl like a rake leveling the ground, lovely and lively.

阿诗玛长到七个月就会跑，跑得就像麻绳团在滚动一样，机巧灵活。

When Ashima was seven months old, she could run like a ball of hemp strings rolling on the ground, adroit and nimble.

阿诗玛长到六七岁的时候，就会坐在门槛上，帮着妈妈绕麻线。

When Ashima was six or seven years old, she could sit on the doorsill and help her mother twine linen-threads.

阿诗玛长到八九岁的时候，就会把网兜背在背上，拿着镰刀去挖苦菜。

When Ashima was eight or nine years old, she could carry a netted bag on her back and take a sickle to dig for bitter wild herbs.

阿诗玛长到十岁的时候，就会拿着镰刀，挂着皮条，穿着草鞋，到田埂上去割青草。

When Ashima was ten years old, she could take a sickle, put on a leather strap and wear straw sandals to go to the field ridge to cut green grass.

阿诗玛长到十二岁的时候，就能到池塘挑水，就能在锅灶前烧饭炒菜。

When Ashima was twelve years old, she could carry water from the pond and cook meals in the kitchen stove.

阿诗玛长到十四岁的时候，手中拿着棍子，头上戴着笠帽，身上披着蓑衣，和小伙伴们一起放羊。





When Ashima was fourteen years old, she could take a stick in her hand, wear a straw hat on her head and throw a straw mantle around her shoulders to graze the sheep with her little pals.

阿诗玛长到十五岁的时候，妈妈就教她绣花织麻。

When Ashima was fifteen years old, her mother taught her to do embroidering and linen weaving.

阿诗玛长到十六岁的时候，爸爸就带她到田头。爸爸扛锄头，阿诗玛背粪筐，爸爸犁地在前头走，阿诗玛紧跟在后面撒粪播种。

When Ashima was sixteen years old, her father took her to the fields. Her father carried a hoe on his shoulder, while Ashima carried a manure basket on her back. Her father ploughed the fields walking ahead, while Ashima scattered dung and seeds walking behind.

阿诗玛心灵手巧，干啥像啥，干啥成啥，村里人个个都夸阿诗玛，说她绣出的花，鲜艳赛山茶；说她织出的麻，像棉布一样密扎；说她种出的荞谷，叶子嫩汪汪，就像飞蛾的翅膀。

Ashima was adroit with her hands. Whatever she did could be done; whatever she did could be done well. Everyone in the village praised her, saying that the flowers she embroidered were fresher and brighter than camellias, that the linen she

wove was as dense as cotton cloth, and that the buckwheat she planted could grow leaves as tender and fresh as the wings of moths.

格路日明夫妻俩看到自己的女儿如此聪明能干,心里那个甜呀,就像连喝了三大碗蜜糖一样。

When Geluriming and his wife saw that their daughter was so clever and capable, they swelled with pride in their hearts as if they had drunk three big bowls of honey.

不知不觉阿诗玛长到十七岁了,出落成一个水灵灵的大姑娘了,身材修长,体态丰盈,绣花包头头上戴,绣花腰围亮闪闪,光彩照人。走在路上,人人都会盯着她看,人人看她又都会看花眼。

In the twinkling of an eye, Ashima was seventeen years old and had grown





into a beautiful and bright young maiden. With a tall and well-rounded figure, she looked radiant, wearing an embroidered pouch on her head and an embroidered girdle around her waist. When she walked on the road, everyone would fix his eyes on her and be dazzled by her beauty.

长大了的阿诗玛,每天晚上都要揣上麻线团,带上竹片口弦,和伙伴们一起到公房,一边干活一边嬉闹。

Every night, the grown-up Ashima would tuck a ball of linen threads into her bosom, take a mouthorgan made of bamboo chips and go to the communal houses with her companions, working and rollicking at the same time.

撒尼人有个风俗,青年人在十二岁以后到结婚前都要到公房集中住宿。小姑娘住的叫女公房,小伙子住的叫男公房。每天晚上,四方方的公房中间烧上旺旺的火塘,青年男女围着火塘唱歌、吹笛,弹三弦、拉二胡,尽情欢乐。

The Sani people had a custom that young people over twelve years old were to be gathered together to stay in the communal houses before marriage. The house for girls was called "Female Communal House", and that for boys "Male Communal House". Fire would be burning briskly every night in a pit in the centre of the big square communal house, around which young people enjoyed themselves to the utmost, singing

and playing the flute, the *sanxian* lute and the *erhu* fiddle.

实际上，公房就是撒尼青年男女谈情说爱的场所。

As a matter of fact, the communal houses were the places where the young Sani people courted each other.

阿诗玛是公房的当然主角。她的歌声最响亮，织麻缝衣的手艺最高强，在伙伴们中间，她像石竹花一样清香。村里的青年小伙，都偷偷地把她暗恋，没事每天找她三遍，有事每天找她九遍，见到她又总会心跳脸红，跟她说上几句话或者对上几句歌，就更觉得是一种莫大的幸福。

Naturally, Ashima was the centre of attention in the communal houses. She could sing most loudly and clearly; she was most skilled at weaving linen and sewing clothes; she smelt as fresh and sweet as caryophyllale flowers among her companions. All the young people in the village were in secret love with her. They would call on her three times a day for no reason at all, and would visit her nine times a day if there was indeed something to do. Every time they saw her, their hearts would beat fast and their faces would blush. If they could have a few words or sing a dialogue song with her, they would take it as the greatest happiness.

格路日明夫妻看女儿已经长大成人，就对她的婚事上了心。





他们对阿诗玛说：“你喜欢和谁相好，爹妈不会打扰；你高兴和谁相爱，谁也不会阻碍。”

Seeing that their daughter had come to age, Geluriming and his wife began to care about her marriage. They said to Ashima, “Whomever you like, we won’t intervene; whomever you fall in love with, we won’t interfere.”

阿诗玛羞涩地咬着嘴唇，轻轻地说：“会开田的人我才中意，直心的人我才喜欢，会吹笛跳舞的人我才疼爱。阿爸阿妈，我心里自有主张。”

Ashima bit her lips shyly and said gently, “Only the man who can till the land would suit my taste; only the man who is open and frank would catch my fancy; only the man who can play the flute and dance would win my heart. Dad and Mom, I will decide for myself.”

其实，阿诗玛心里已经有了意中人，只是当着阿爸阿妈不好意思说出口。她的意中人就是同村的青年小伙叫阿黑。阿黑身材高大，面庞英俊，就像高山上的青松笔直挺拔。阿黑勇敢，从小爱骑光背马，不带鞍子双腿夹，拉弓如满月，箭起飞鸟落。阿黑能干，大风大雨他能上高山砍柴，他能在石子地上开荒，种出的玉米比别人家壮。他唱的山歌，远处的画眉听了也会飞来合唱。他吹起笛子，过路的马鹿听了就会停住脚步。村里的人都喜欢阿黑，称赞他是撒尼小伙子的榜样。

Actually, Ashima had found her ideal match but felt embarrassed to tell the truth in the presence of her father and mother. Her beloved man was a young man in the same village by the name of Ahei. Ahei was a well-built young man with a handsome face and with a figure as tall and straight as the pine tree on the high mountain. Ahei was brave: From his childhood he loved to ride unsaddled horses, capable of handling them with his legs; he could pull a bow to the full and shoot at flying birds without a miss. Ahei was able: He could climb up high mountains to cut firewood regardless of strong wind or heavy rain; he could reclaim the stony wasteland and grew better corns than those of other people. When he sang folk songs, the distant thrushes would fly over to join in the singing; when he played the flute, the red deer passing by would stay by to listen. Everyone in the village liked Ahei, praising him as an example for all the Sani young men.

阿诗玛喜欢阿黑,阿黑也喜欢阿诗玛。两个年轻人心心相印,经常在山坡下悄悄约会,彼此诉说绵绵的知心话。

Ashima was fond of Ahei, and Ahei was also fond of Ashima. The two young people had so much mutual affinity that they often had secret dates under the hill side, pouring out endless heartfelt thoughts and feelings to each other.





这年秋天，过了农历八月以后，阿着底这地方的草木渐渐枯萎，羊儿吃不到鲜嫩的青草就无法存活。阿黑和村里的几个青年小伙准备把全村的羊群集中赶到滇南气候较暖的地方去放牧，一直要到第二年三四月间青草回绿的时候才回家。

One autumn after the eighth month of the lunar calendar, grass and trees in Azhedi were gradually withering. The sheep would not survive if they had no fresh grass to feed on. Ahei and several young men of the village were ready to drive all the flocks of sheep in the village to the warmer places in Diannan to graze, and would not return home until the third or fourth month next year when the grass here turned green again.

阿黑临行那天，阿诗玛赶到村口送行。两人依依惜别，知心话说了几大箩。

On the day before Ahei's departure, Ashima hastened to the village entrance to see him off. They were so reluctant to part with each other that they poured out floods of thoughts and feelings.

阿诗玛替阿黑整整衣衫，叮嘱他在外面要注意身体，早日平安归来。

Ashima tidied up Ahei's clothes and urged him again and again to take good care of himself and to come back safe and

sound.

阿黑替阿诗玛理理头发，安慰她在家耐心等待，等他回来，他就和她结婚成亲。

Ahei fixed Ashima's hair and consoled her by asking her to wait patiently at home so that they would get married on his return.



两人终于分手了。阿黑已经走出好远，阿诗玛还站在山坡上向着远去的身影频频挥手，心中涌动着甜蜜的幸福感，因为阿黑回来，她就可以成为他的新娘了。

They parted with each other eventually. Even when Ahei had walked a long way off, Ashima was still standing on the mountain slope, waving again and again to the figure vanishing in the distance, with her heart swelling with a sweet happiness, for she would become Ahei's bride when he came back.

