

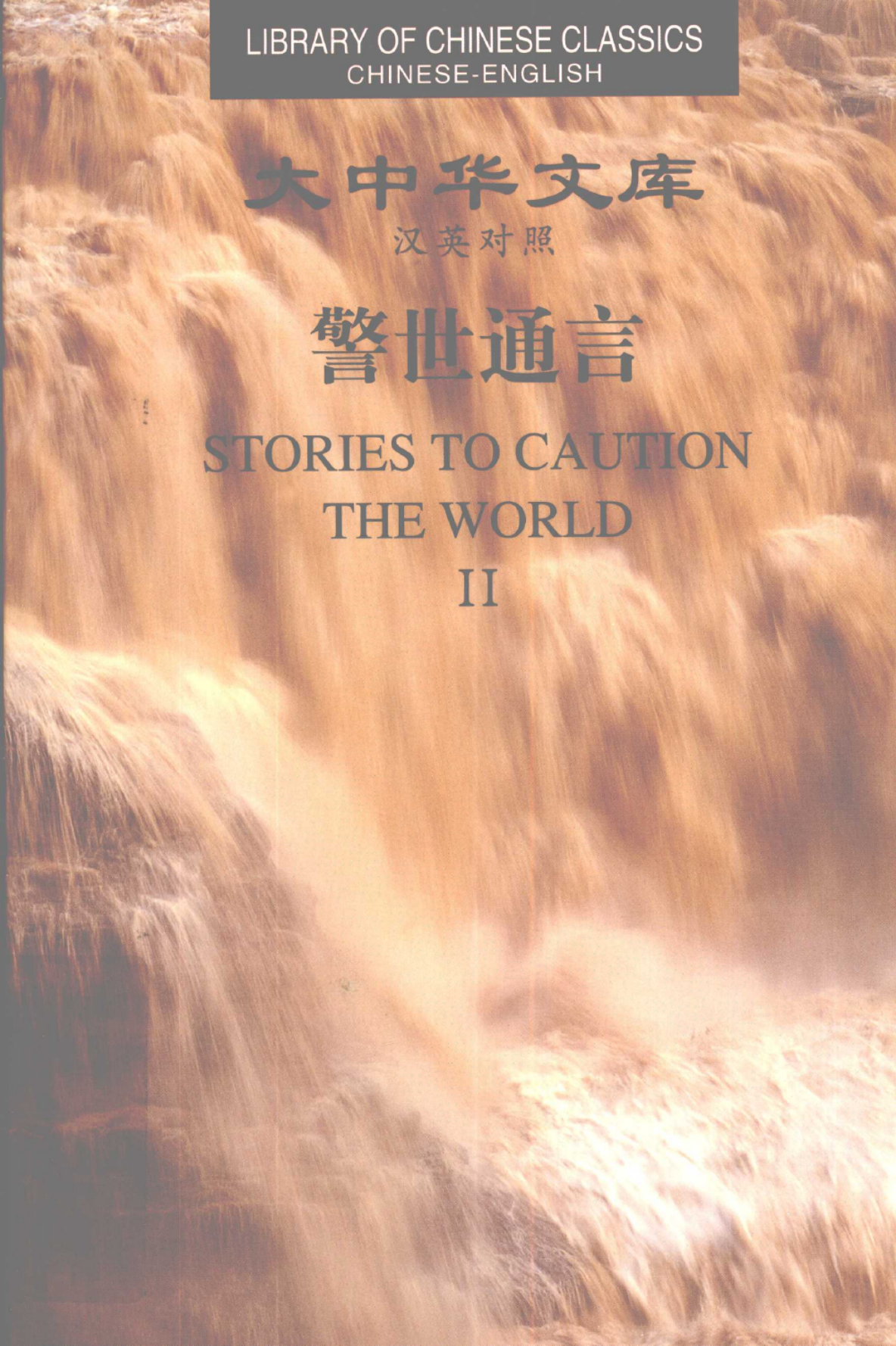
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警世通言

STORIES TO CAUTION
THE WORLD
II



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汉英对照

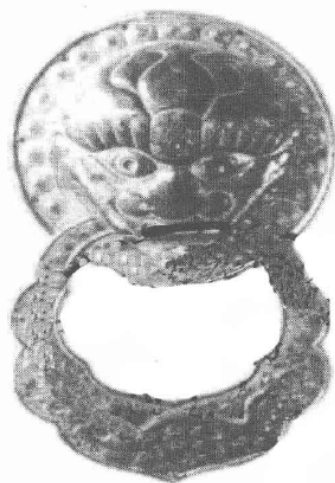
LIBRARY OF CHINESE CLASSICS

Chinese-English

警世通言

Stories to Caution the World

II



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第十二卷

范鳬儿双镜重圆

帘卷水西楼，一曲新腔唱打油。宿雨眠云年少梦，休讴，
且尽生前酒一瓯。明日又登舟，却指今宵是旧游。同是
他乡沦落客，休愁。月子弯弯照几州？

这首词末句乃借用吴歌成语，吴歌云：

月子弯弯照几州，几家欢乐几家愁，
几家夫妇同罗帐，几家飘散在他州。

此歌出自南宋建炎年间，述民间离乱之苦。只为宣和失政，奸佞专权，延至靖康，金虏凌城，掳了徽钦二帝北去。康王泥马渡江，弃了汴京，偏安一隅，改元建炎。其时东京一路百姓惧怕鞑虏，都跟随车驾南渡。又被虏骑追赶，兵火之际，东逃西躲，不知拆



Story 12

A Double Mirror Brings Loach Fan and His Wife Together Again

*Curtains are raised on West Water Tower
Midst singing of a new tune with doggerel lyrics.
About romantic nights and youthful dreams,
Sing no more!
Just finish the wine while you live and breathe!*

*Tomorrow when we board the boat again,
Tonight will be but a memory.
Fellow travelers stranded in distant land,
Grieve no more!
How far does the crescent moon shine?*

The last line of the above lyric poem is taken from a folk song popular in the Wu region. This is how the song goes:

*How far does the crescent moon shine?
It finds some households joyful, some in sorrow,
Some married couples sharing the same bed,
Some families scattered throughout the land.*

Originating in the Jianyan reign period [1127–31] during the Southern Song dynasty, the above song captures the miseries of families separated in those troubled times. Back in the Xuanhe reign period [1119–25], government affairs were at sixes and sevens with evil men in power. This situation lasted into the Jingkang reign period [1126–27], when the Jurchens ravaged the capital, captured Emperors Huizong and Qinzong, and carried them off to the north. After Prince Kang crossed the river on a clay horse, ¹he abandoned Bianjing [also called the Eastern Capital], ²contented himself with exercising control over only one part of the empire, and changed the reign title to Jianyan. At the time, residents of the Eastern Capital and surrounding areas, out of fear for the Jurchen troops, followed the emperor [Emperor Gaozong, formerly prince of Kang] in a massive migra-



散了几多骨肉。往往父子夫妻终身不复相见。其中又有几个散而复合的，民间把作新闻传说。正是：

剑气分还合，荷珠碎复圆。

万般皆是命，半点尽由天。

话说陈州有一人姓徐名信，自小学得一身好武艺，娶妻崔氏，颇有容色。家道丰裕，夫妻二人正好过活。却被金兵入寇，二帝北迁。徐信共崔氏商议，此地安身不牢，收拾细软家财，打做两个包裹，夫妻各背了一个，随着众百姓晓夜奔走。行至虞城，只听得背后喊声振天，只道鞑虏追来，却原来是南朝杀败的溃兵。只因武备久弛，军无纪律，教他杀贼，一个个胆寒心骇，不战自走；及至遇着平民，抢掳财帛子女，一般会扬威耀武。[眉批]此承平日久之通弊。徐信虽然有三分本事，那溃兵如山而至，寡不敌众，舍命奔走。但闻四野号哭之声，回头不见了崔氏。乱军中无处寻



tion to the south. Goodness knows how many families were torn apart amid the flames of war as they fled helter-skelter from the pursuing Jurchen cavalry! All too many fathers and sons, husbands and wives never saw each other again for the rest of their lives. But there were also a few cases in which separated families were reunited, and the stories went around from mouth to mouth. Truly,

The Fengcheng swords joined together again,³

The shattered dewdrops on lotus leaves merged anew.

Fate dictates everything under the sun;

Nothing is free of the will of Heaven.

The story goes that there lived in Chenzhou a man called Xu Xin, who had been learning martial arts from an early age. His wife Cui-shi was a woman quite fair to look upon. They had enough means to live a comfortable life. But then, the invading Jurchen troops came and carried the two emperors off to the north. Xu Xin and Cui-shi consulted each other and concluded that this was not a safe place for a permanent home, whereupon they packed up what valuables they could carry into two bundles, and, each carrying one bundle over a shoulder, they followed the crowd of refugees and pressed onward day and night.

When they reached Yucheng, they heard earthshaking cries behind them. They thought that the Jurchens had caught up with them, but as it turned out, the cries came from defeated Song troops in flight. The Song army had been lax for so long in its preparedness against war that the soldiers had thrown all discipline to the winds. When ordered to fight the enemy, they trembled with fear and took to their heels, one and all, without ever bothering to engage the enemy, but when they encountered civilians, they turned ferocious, committing robbery left and right and seizing children by force. (*This is what becomes of an army after prolonged years of peace.*)

Although reasonably skilled in martial arts, Xu Xin by himself stood no chance of prevailing against the swarming troops in flight, and so he ran for all he was worth. Surrounded by wails of grief, he turned back to look, but his wife was nowhere in sight. It being impossible to search amid all the chaos, there was nothing for it but to



觅，只得前行。行了数日，叹了口气，没奈何，只索罢了。行到睢阳，肚中饥渴，上一个村店，买些酒饭。原来离乱之时，店中也不比往昔，没有酒卖了。就是饭，也不过是粗粝之物，又怕众人抢夺，交了足钱，方才取出来与你充饥。徐信正在数钱，猛听得有妇女悲泣之声，事不关心，关心者乱。徐信且不数钱，急走出店来看，果见一妇人，单衣蓬首，露坐于地上。虽不是自己的老婆，年貌也相仿佛。徐信动了个恻隐之心，以己度人，道：“这妇人想也是遭难的。”不免上前问其来历。妇人诉道：“奴家乃郑州王氏，小字进奴。随夫避兵，不意中途奔散，奴孤身被乱军所掠。行了两日一夜，到于此地，两脚俱肿，寸步难移，贼徒剥取衣服，弃奴于此。衣单食缺，举目无亲，欲寻死路，故此悲泣耳。”徐信道：“我也在乱军中不见了妻子，正是同病相怜了。身边幸有盘缠，娘子不若权时在这店里住几日，将息贵体，等在下探问荆妻消耗，就便访取尊夫，不知娘子意下如何？”[眉批]说话中听。妇人收泪而谢道：“如此甚好。”徐信解开包裹，将几件衣服与妇人穿了，同他在店中吃了些饭食，借半间房子，做一块儿



push ahead. After walking for several days, he heaved a sigh of resignation and gave up all hope of finding her.

Hungry and thirsty when he came upon Suiyang, he stopped at a village inn to buy some food and wine. As it turned out, in this time of war, the inn was not what it had once been. There was no wine to be had, and what was offered in the way of food was nothing but some coarse stuff, served only after it was paid for, to forestall attempts to snatch it away.

Xu Xin was counting out the money when, all of a sudden, he heard a woman sobbing. As the saying goes, "Better not let things get to your heart. If they do, they'll give you no peace of mind." He stopped counting the money and rushed out of the inn for a look. There, he saw a woman, thinly clad, with disheveled hair, sitting on the ground outside. She was not his wife but was of about the same age and bore a physical resemblance to his wife as well. Xu Xin's compassion was aroused. In empathy, he thought, "This woman must have been through a lot, too." So he stepped forward and asked her who she was.

The woman replied, "My maiden name is Wang, my given name Jinnu. I am a native of Zhengzhou. I became separated from my husband when we were fleeing from the fighting, and then, all alone, I was seized by the soldiers and ended up here after walking for two days and a night. Because I couldn't move another step on account of my swollen feet, the scoundrels stripped me of my warmer clothes and dumped me here, cold and hungry, with no one to turn to for help. I'd be better off dead. That's why I'm crying."

"I lost my wife in the commotion. You and I are in the same boat, so to speak. Luckily, I still have some traveling money. You'd better stay a few days in this inn for a good rest. I'll go out to make inquiries as to my wife's whereabouts, and while I'm at it, I'll also ask about your husband. How does that sound to you?" (*Nice words.*)

The woman stopped crying and said thankfully, "That would be nice."

Xu Xin untied his bundle and took out a few pieces of clothing for the woman to wear. After they had something to eat, he rented



安顿。徐信殷殷勤勤，每日送茶送饭。妇人感其美意，料道寻夫访妻，也是难事，今日一鰥一寡，亦是天缘，热肉相凑，不容人不成就了。又过数日，妇人脚不痛了。徐信和他做了一对夫妻，上路直到建康。正值高宗天子南渡即位，改元建炎，出榜招军，徐信去充了个军校，就于建康城中居住。

日月如流，不觉是建炎三年。一日徐信同妻城外访亲回来，天色已晚，妇人口渴，徐信引到一个茶肆中吃茶。那肆中先有一个汉子坐下，见妇人入来，便立在一边偷看那妇人，目不转睛。妇人低眉下眼，那个在意，徐信甚以为怪。少顷，吃了茶，还了茶钱出门，那汉又远远相随。比及到家，那汉还站在门首，依依不去。徐信心头火起，问道：“什么人？如何窥觑人家的妇女！”那汉拱手谢罪道：“尊兄休怒，某有一言奉询。”徐信忿气尚未息，答应道：“有什么话就讲罢！”那汉道：“尊兄倘不见责，权借一步，某有实情告诉。若还嗔怪，某不敢言。”徐信果然相随，到一个僻静巷里。那汉临欲开口，又似有难言之状。徐信道：“我徐



half a wing for their lodging. Every day, with much attentiveness, he brought her tea and food, and she was very grateful for the kindness. The search for a lost spouse being most probably quite a hopeless undertaking, the two of them, one without a wife and the other without a husband, could hardly refrain from doing what human beings would do when two warm bodies are thus brought together by the will of heaven.

A few days later, since the woman's feet had stopped aching, they set out for Jiankang as husband and wife. This happened at a time when Emperor Gaozong's court, having moved south and assumed the reign title of Jianyan, was putting up notices recruiting men for the army. Xu Xin enlisted as a low-ranking officer and took up residence in the city of Jiankang.

The days and the months flew by. Before they knew it, it was the third year of the Jianyan reign period. One late afternoon, they were on their way back from visiting relatives outside the city when, his wife being thirsty, Xu Xin took her to a teahouse for some tea. A man who had been sitting in the teahouse rose at the sight of the woman entering and stood off to one side, his eyes furtively fixed on her. The woman, her eyes lowered, did not notice anything, but Xu Xin grew apprehensive. A few moments later, the tea finished, the couple paid the bill and departed, but the man followed them at a distance. When they reached home, the man stood still at the gate, reluctant to leave. Xu Xin flared up. "Who are you?" he snapped. "How can you steal glances at someone else's wife?"

Apologetically, the man said, his hands respectfully folded across his chest, "Please do not be angry, my honorable brother. I have a question for you."

His anger not yet subsided, Xu Xin said curtly, "Whatever you have to say, out with it!"

"If you don't mind, may I ask you to come out and talk? I have something to tell you, but if you're going to yell at me, I won't dare say a thing."

As the man requested, Xu Xin followed him to a secluded alley. The man was about to say something but held himself back, looking



信也是个慷慨丈夫，有话不妨尽言。”[眉批]不遇慷慨丈夫，枉对他尽言，自取慢耳。那汉方才敢问道：“适才妇人是谁？”徐信道：“是荆妻。”那汉道：“娶过几年了？”徐信道：“三年矣。”那汉道：“可是郑州人，姓王小字进奴么？”徐信大惊道：“足下何以知之？”那汉道：“此妇乃吾之妻也。因兵火失散，不意落于君手。”徐信闻言，甚跼蹐不安，将自己虞城失散，到睢阳村店遇见此妇始末，细细述了：“当时实是怜他孤身无倚，初不晓得是尊阍，如之奈何？”那汉道：“足下休疑，我已别娶浑家，旧日伉俪之盟，不必再题。但仓忙拆开，未及一言分别，倘得暂会一面，叙述悲苦，死亦无恨。”[眉批]可怜。徐信亦觉心中凄惨，说道：“大丈夫腹心相照，何处不可通情，明日在舍下相候。足下既然别娶，可携新阍同来，做个亲戚，庶于邻里耳目不碍。”那汉欢喜拜谢。临别，徐信问其姓名，那汉道：“吾乃郑州列俊卿是也。”是夜，徐信先对王进奴述其缘由。进奴思想前夫恩义，暗暗偷泪，一夜不曾合眼。到天明，盥漱方毕，列俊卿夫妇二人到了。徐信出门相



quite ill at ease. Xu Xin said, "I am an easygoing man. Feel free to say to me whatever you have to say." (*If he were to speak his mind to someone less easygoing, wouldn't he be bringing humiliation upon himself?*)

Only then did the man make so bold as to ask, "Who is the woman with you?"

"She's my wife. "

"How many years have you been married?"

"Three years. "

"Is she from Zhengzhou? Is she called Wang Jinnu?"

Xu Xin gave a start. "How did you know that?"

"She was my wife," said the man. "We were separated in the war. Who would have guessed that she would be with you!"

Feeling quite uneasy upon hearing these words, Xu Xin told the man everything about how he had lost his own wife at Yucheng and how he had met this woman at the inn in Suiyang. "At the time, I very much pitied her in her helplessness. I had no idea she was your wife. What's to be done now?"

"Don't worry," said the man. "I have remarried. My former marriage need not be mentioned again. But I didn't even get to say a word of good-bye to her in all that chaos. If I could see her for a moment and tell her what I've been through, I'll have no regrets when I die." (*How sad!*)

"Real men treat each other's with an open heart," said Xu Xin, also overcome by sadness. "There's nothing one real man can't do for another. Come to our house tomorrow. Since you have remarried, bring your new wife along. Let's claim some kinship, so that the neighbors won't think anything is amiss. "

The man happily bowed his thanks. Before they parted company, Xu Xin asked for his name. The man replied, "I am Lie Junqing of Zhengzhou. "

That night, Xu Xin told Wang Jinnu what had happened. Recalling her former husband's love, she shed many a surreptitious tear throughout a wakeful night.

After daybreak, they had hardly finished washing their faces and



迎，见了俊卿之妻，彼此惊骇，各各恸哭。原来俊卿之妻，却是徐信的浑家崔氏。自虞城失散，寻丈夫不着，却随个老嫗同至建康，解下随身簪珥，赁房居住。三个月后，丈夫并无消息。老嫗说他终身不了，与他为媒，嫁与列俊卿。谁知今日一双两对，恰恰相逢，真个天缘凑巧，彼此各认旧日夫妻，相抱而哭。当下徐信遂与列俊卿八拜为交，置酒相待。至晚，将妻子兑转，各还其旧。[眉批]事大奇。从此通家往来不绝，有诗为证：

夫换妻兮妻换夫，这场交易好糊涂。

相逢总是天公巧，一笑灯前认故吾。

此段话题做“交互姻缘”，乃建炎三年建康城中故事。同时又有一事，叫做“双镜重圆”。说来虽没有十分奇巧，论起夫义妇节，有关风化，到还胜似几倍。正是：

话须通俗方传远，语必关风始动人。

话说南宋建炎四年，关西一位官长，姓吕名忠翊，职授福州监税。此时七闽之地，尚然全盛。忠翊带领家眷赴任：一来福州