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## 喻世明言

STORIES OLD AND NEW

IV

大中华文库

汉英对照

LIBRARY OF CHINESE CLASSICS

Chinese-English

# 喻世明言

## Stories Old and New

### IV



[明] 冯梦龙 编著

杨曙辉 杨韵琴 英译

*Compiled by Feng Menglong*

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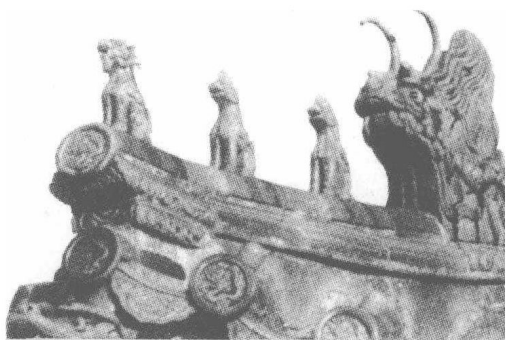
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## 第三十二卷

### 游酆都胡母迪吟诗

自古机深祸亦深，休贪富贵昧良心。

檐前滴水毫无错，报应昭昭自古今。

话说宋朝第一个奸臣，姓秦名桧，字会之，江宁人氏。生来有一异相，脚面连指，长一尺四寸。在太学时，都唤他做“长脚秀才”。后来登科及第。靖康年间，累官至御史中丞。其时金兵陷汴，徽、钦二帝北迁。秦桧亦陷在虏中，与金酋挾懒郎君相善，对挾懒说道：“若放我南归，愿为金邦细作。侥幸一朝得志，必当主持和议，使南朝割地称臣，以报大金之恩。”挾懒奏知金主，金主教四太子兀术与他私立了约誓，然后纵之南还。

秦桧同妻王氏，航海奔至临安行在，只说道：“杀了金家监守之人，私逃归宋。”高宗皇帝信以为真，因而访问他北朝之事。秦桧盛称金家兵强将勇，非南朝所能抵敌。高宗果然惧怯，求其良策。秦桧奏道：“自石晋臣事夷敌，中原至今丧气，一时不能振作。靖康之变，



## Story 32

### Humu Di Intones Poems and Visits the Netherworld

*Vice has never failed to come home to roost;  
Do nothing evil to gain wealth and fame.  
Just as sure as water drips from the eaves,  
Retribution never misses the mark.*

It is said that the most treacherous court minister of the Song dynasty was Qin Hui [1090–1155],<sup>1</sup> courtesy name Huizhi, a native of Jiangning. He was born with a peculiarity: his feet measured one foot four inches from heel to toe. He was therefore nicknamed the Long-Foot Scholar when he was a student in the National University. Later, he passed the imperial examinations and rose to the post of vice-censor in chief in the reign period of Jingkang [1126], when the capital fell under attack by the Jurchen [Jin] army and the two emperors, Huizong and Qinzong, were carried off to the north. Qin Hui, too, found himself stranded among the Jurchens. He cultivated a friendship with Wanyan Chang,<sup>2</sup> a Jurchen tribal chief, and said to him, "If you let me go back to the south, I'll be willing to spy for the Jurchen state. If, by any luck, I rise to power, I will certainly initiate peace negotiations out of my gratitude for the great Jurchen state, and have the Southern Song dynasty cede territory and subjugate itself to the Jurchen state." Wanyan Chang reported accordingly to the Jurchen ruler, who instructed his fourth son, Wuzhu [Wanyan Zongbi, d.1148], to enter into a secret pact with Qin Hui. Qin Hui was then released to the south.

Qin Hui and his wife, Wang-shi, journeyed south by sea. On arriving at Lin'an, the capital of the Southern Song dynasty, they claimed that they had gotten away by killing their Jurchen prison wardens. Emperor Gaozong believed their story and asked Qin Hui about the situation in the north. Qin Hui extolled in glowing terms the prowess of the Jurchen troops and claimed that the Southern Song dynasty was no match for them. Not surprisingly, Emperor Gaozong took fright and asked Qin Hui for a good plan. Qin Hui said, "Since the house of Shi of the Later Jin dynasty sub-





宗社几绝，此殆天意，非独人力也。今行在草创，人心惶惶，而诸将皆握重兵在外，倘一人有变，陛下大事去矣。〔眉批〕伏杀岳飞案。为今之计，莫若息兵讲和，以南北分界，各不侵犯。罢诸将之兵权，陛下高枕而享富贵，生民不致涂炭，岂不美哉！”高宗道：“朕欲讲和，只恐金人不肯。”秦桧道：“臣在虏中，颇为金酋所信服。陛下若以此事专委之臣，臣自有道理，保为陛下成此和议，可必万全不失。”高宗大喜，即拜秦桧为尚书仆射，未几，遂为左丞相。桧乃专主和议，用勾龙如渊为御史中丞，凡朝臣谏沮和议者，上疏击去之。〔眉批〕好得力人。赵鼎、张浚、胡铨、晏敦复、刘大中、尹焞、王居正、吴师古、张九成、喻樗等，皆被贬逐。

其时岳飞累败金兵，杀得兀术四太子奔走无路。兀术情急了，遣心腹王进，蜡丸内藏着书信，送与秦桧。书中写道：“既要讲和，如何边将却又用兵？此乃丞相之不信也。必须杀了岳飞，和议可成。”秦



mitted itself to Liao, the central plains have been on the decline and there is little chance of revitalization in a short period of time. That the empire was nearly wiped out in the Jingkang crisis was more the will of heaven than the work of humans. Your Majesty just started the southern dynasty, with the populace still apprehensive and the generals away from court, in command of massive forces. Should any one of them betray you, the game will be as good as lost. (*A foreshadowing of the murder of Yue Fei.*) The best course of action for now is to hold back the troops and make peace. Draw a demarcation line separating north and south so that both sides will not invade each other. Remove military power from the generals, and Your Majesty can sit back and enjoy your riches in ease, while the people of the empire will be free from misery and suffering. Wouldn't that be most desirable?"

The emperor replied, "I do wish to make peace. My only fear is that the Jurchens will not agree."

"When I was among the Jurchens," said Qin Hui, "I came to be respected by the Jurchen chieftains. If Your Majesty entrusts me with the mission, I will find a way to guarantee success of the peace talks. Nothing will go wrong."

Overjoyed, the emperor then and there conferred upon Qin Hui the title of vice-director of the Department of State Affairs. Promoted soon thereafter to the post of deputy prime minister, Qin Hui took on the sole responsibility for peace talks and appointed Goulong Ruyuan as his vice-censor in chief. All court ministers who advised against the peace talks were removed from their posts at Qin Hui's insistence. (*How efficient!*) Among those demoted and banished were Zhao Ding, Zhang Jun, Hu Quan, Yan Dunfu, Liu Dazhong, Yin Tun, Wang Juzheng, Wu Shigu, Zhang Jiucheng, and Yu Chu.

In the meantime, Yue Fei [1103–42] was putting the Jurchen forces to rout in battle after battle. Wuzhu, the fourth son of the Jurchen ruler, was driven into such desperation that he sent his trusted subordinate Wang Jin to Qin Hui with a note stuffed into a wax ball. On the note was written, "If there is a will for peace, why all this show of force at the border? The prime minister is insincere. Nothing less than the death of Yue Fei will make the peace talks a success." Thereupon, Qin Hui had Wang Jin take

桧写了回书，许以杀飞为信，打发王进去讠。一日发十二道金牌，召岳飞班师。军中皆愤怒，河南父老百姓，无不痛哭。飞既还，罢为万寿观使。秦桧必欲置飞于死地，与心腹张俊商议，访得飞部下统制王俊与副都统制张宪有隙。将厚赏诱致王俊，教他妄告张宪谋据襄阳，还飞兵权。王俊依言出首，桧将张宪执付大理狱，矫诏遣使召岳飞父子，与张宪对理。御史中丞何铸，鞫审无实，将冤情白知秦桧。桧大怒，罢去何铸不用，改命万俟卨。那万俟卨素与岳飞有隙，遂将无作有，构成其狱，说岳飞、岳云父子，与部将张宪、王贵通谋造反。大理寺卿薛仁辅等讼飞之冤；判宗正寺士儻，请以家属百口，保飞不反；枢密使韩世忠愤愤不平，亲诣桧府争论，俱各罢斥。

狱既成，秦桧独坐于东窗之下，踌躇此事：“欲待不杀岳飞，恐他阻挠和议，失信金邦，后来朝廷觉悟，罪归于我；欲待杀之，奈众人公论有碍。”心中委决不下。[眉批]桧此时良心未尽，若得贤妻，其祸可解。其妻长舌夫人王氏适至，问道：“相公有何事迟疑？”秦桧将此事



back a letter of reply promising that he would kill Yue Fei as a token of his good faith.

In the course of a single day, he issued twelve golden plaques ordering Yue Fei to withdraw his forces from the front, much to the indignation of all the soldiers. There was not a dry eye among the villagers, old and young, in the Henan region. Yue Fei duly returned, only to be demoted to the position of supervisor of Longevity Temple. Bent upon the total destruction of Yue Fei, Qin Hui took counsel with his trusted man Zhang Jun and found out that Wang Jun, commander in chief under Yue Fei, had a grudge against vice-supreme commandant Zhang Xian, whereupon they heavily bribed Wang Jun into falsely accusing Zhang Xian of conspiring to seize the town of Xiangyang in order to restore military power to Yue Fei. Wang Jun did as he was told to do. Qin Hui threw Zhang Xian into prison and, with a counterfeit imperial decree, summoned Yue Fei and his son to confront Zhang Xian. Vice-censor in chief He Zhu, who was in charge of the trial, found the accused innocent of the charges and informed Qin Hui accordingly. Qin Hui flew into a rage and replaced He Zhu with Moqi Xie [1083–1157]. Now this Moqi Xie, having long harbored ill feelings toward Yue Fei, fabricated a case against him and his son and sent them to prison on charges of planning a rebellion with his subordinates Zhang Xian and Wang Gui. Xue Renfu, director of the Court of Judicial Review, and others appealed on Yue Fei's behalf. Zhao Shiniao, director of the Office of Imperial Clan Affairs, vouched for Yue Fei's loyalty by pledging the lives of a hundred members of his clan. The military affairs commissioner, Han Shizhong, indignant at the injustice, made a personal call to Qin Hui's residence to challenge him. But all who spoke up were either reprimanded or deposed.

With Yue Fei now in prison, Qin Hui sat alone by the east window and pondered over the matter: "If Yue Fei is spared his life, he might obstruct the peace talks, and I'll lose credibility in the eyes of the Jurchens. Should the emperor come to his senses, the blame will be upon me. But, to kill Yue Fei would be to risk public outcry." And so he debated with himself, unable to come to a decision. (*Qin Hui still has a trace of goodness in him at this time. If he had had a virtuous wife, the evil deed might not have been done.*) His wife, Wang-shi the tongue-wagger, happened to



与之商议。王氏向袖中，摸出黄柑一只，双手劈开，将一半奉与丈夫，说道：“此柑一劈两开，有何难决？岂不闻古语云擒虎易，纵虎难乎？”只因这句话，提醒了秦桧，其意遂决。将片纸写几个密字封固，送大理寺狱官。是晚，就狱中缢死了岳飞。其子岳云与张宪、王贵，皆押赴市曹处斩。

金人闻飞之死，无不置酒相贺。从此和议遂定。以淮水中流，及唐、邓二州为界：北朝为大邦，称伯父；南朝为小邦，称侄。秦桧加封太师魏国公，又改封益国公，赐第于望仙桥，壮丽比于皇居。其子秦熺，十六岁上状元及第，除授翰林学士，专领史馆，[眉批]心腹为御史，可以钳当时之口实；子孙为史官，足以乱后世之是非，桧算无遗策矣。孰知阎老簿上，载得分晓乎？熺生子名埙，襁褓中便注下翰林之职；熺女方生，即封崇国夫人。一时权势，古今无比。

且说崇国夫人六七岁时，爱弄一个狮猫。一日偶然走失，责令临安府府尹立限挨访。府尹曹泳差人遍访，数日间，拿到狮猫数百，带累猫主吃苦使钱，不可尽述。押送到相府，检验都非。乃图形千百



walk up to him and ask, "What is it that you are undecided about?" When Qin Hui took her counsel, she produced a mandarin orange from her sleeve and split it apart. She handed one half to her husband. "What is so difficult about splitting this orange in half? Haven't you heard the ancient proverb 'It is easier to capture the tiger than to release it'?" It was these remarks that made up Qin Hui's mind. Thereupon, he sent to the prison warden a sealed letter containing a note with several characters on it. And thus it was that Yue Fei was hanged in his prison cell that very night. His son Yue Yun was taken under guard, along with Zhang Xian and Wang Gui, to the marketplace for execution.

As news of Yue Fei's death reached the Jurchens, there was not a person among them who did not celebrate with wine. Peace was established, with the middle course of the Huai River and Tang and Deng Prefectures as the border. The Jurchen dynasty in the north, being the bigger country, claimed to be the "uncle", whereas the Southern Song dynasty, smaller in territory, was the "nephew". Qin Hui was granted the titles of grand preceptor and duke of Wei, later changed to duke of Yiguo, and was given a mansion near Wangxian Bridge, a mansion not any less grandiose than the imperial palace itself. His son Qin Xi received the honor of *zhuangyuan* at the age of sixteen, later to be promoted to the position of Hanlin academician in charge of the Institute of Historiography. (*With a trusted subordinate as the imperial censor, he makes sure that all criticisms against him in his lifetime are under control. With his offspring as historians, he makes sure that records after his death will be in his favor. He leaves nothing unplanned for. But how is one to know what Yama's books say?*)<sup>3</sup> Qin Xi's son Xun was assigned in his infancy a position in the Hanlin Academy. At the moment of her birth, Qin Xi's daughter was granted the title Lady Chongguo. The family's power and influence had no match in all history.

When Lady Chongguo was six or seven years old, she had a pet cat. One day, the cat disappeared. The prefect of Lin'an was ordered to find it before a deadline. Cao Yong, the prefect, dispatched runners everywhere and they brought back hundreds of cats. Cases where owners found themselves accused and had to buy themselves out of trouble were too numerous to be mentioned here. Yet, as none of the cats sent under



幅，张挂茶坊酒肆，官给赏钱一千贯。此时闹动了临安府，乱了一月有馀，那猫儿竟无踪影。相府遣官督责，曹泳心慌，乃将黄金铸成金猫，重赂奶娘，送与崇国夫人，方才罢手。[眉批] 七岁女儿便贪贿，信有种哉！只这一节，桧贼之威权，大概可知。

晚年，谋篡大位，为朝中诸旧臣未尽，心怀疑忌。欲兴大狱，诬陷赵鼎、张浚、胡铨等五十三家，谋反大逆。吏写奏牍已成，只待秦桧署名进御。[眉批] 危哉！是日，桧适游西湖，正饮酒间，忽见一人披发而至，视之，乃岳飞也。厉声说道：“汝残害忠良，殃民误国，吾已诉闻上帝，来取汝命。”桧大惊，问左右，都说不见。桧因此得病归府。次日，吏将奏牍送览。众人扶桧坐于格天阁下，桧索笔署名，手颤不止，落墨污坏了奏牍。立刻教重换来，又复污坏，究竟写不得一字。长舌妻王夫人在屏后摇手道：“勿劳太师。”须臾，桧仆于几上，扶进内室，已昏愤了，一语不能发，遂死。此乃五十三家不该遭在桧



guard to the prime minister's mansion was found to be the right one, thousands of drawings of the cat were posted in teahouses and wineshops, with the prefectural reward set at one thousand strings of cash. The uproar throughout Lin'an lasted for over a month, but the cat was still nowhere to be seen. Under pressure from an official sent by the prime minister to see that the job was done, a frightened Cao Yong had a cat cast of gold and sent it, through heavily bribed waiting women, to Lady Chongguo. Only then was the case laid to rest. (*Even his seven-year-old daughter loves bribery. It is indeed something that runs in the family.*) This incident alone is enough to demonstrate the extent of the traitor Qin Hui's formidable power.

Later in his life, he began to have designs on the throne but feared those court ministers who had survived his purges. In an attempt to send all of them to prison, he accused Zhao Ding, Zhang Jun, Hu Quan, and fifty others of rebellion. His secretary wrote the memorial to the emperor. That very day when the memorial was ready for his signature, Qin Hui went on an outing to West Lake. (*These men's lives are now hanging by a thread.*) In the midst of the drinking, there came into view a man with disheveled hair. A closer look revealed him to be none other than Yue Fei, who said, his voice loud and harsh, "I am instructed by the Lord on High to take your life as punishment for your destruction of the loyal and the virtuous and for bringing calamity to the empire and the people."

Agape with astonishment, Qin Hui turned to the people around him, but none of them had seen anything. Then and there, he fell ill and returned to his residence. The following day, when his secretary presented him with the memorial for his signature, his attendants helped him sit down in Getian Pavilion. When he tried to sign his name with a brush-pen, his hand started trembling and the memorial was all smeared with ink blots. Another copy was promptly brought to him, but the same thing happened, so that not even one character could be attempted. His wife, Lady Wang the tongue-wagger, shook her hand from her position behind the screen, saying, "Don't make him too tired!" The next moment, Qin Hui fell forward upon the tea table. By the time he was brought into his bedchamber, he was already unconscious and unable to utter a single



贼手中，亦见天理昭然也。有诗为证：

忠简流亡武穆诛，又将善类肆阴谋。

格天阁下名难署，始信忠良有嘿扶。

桧死不多时，秦熈亦死。长舌王夫人设醮追荐，方士伏坛奏章，见秦熈在阴府荷铁枷而立。方士问：“太师何在？”秦熈答道：“在酆都。”方士径至酆都，见秦桧、万俟卨、王俊披发垢面，各荷铁枷，众鬼卒持巨梃，驱之而行，其状甚苦。桧向方士说道：“烦君传语夫人，东窗事发矣。”方士不知何语，述与王氏知道。王氏心下明白，吃了一惊。果然是人间私语，天闻若雷；暗室亏心，神目如电。因这一惊，王氏亦得病而死。未几，秦桧亦死。不勾数年，秦氏遂衰。后因朝廷开浚运河，畚土堆积府门。有人从望仙桥行走，看见丞相府前，纵横堆着乱土，题诗一首于墙上，诗曰：

格天阁在人何在？偃月堂深恨亦深。

不向洛阳图白发，却于酆都贮黄金。

笑谈便解兴罗织，咫尺那知有照临？