

中英對照

THE SELECTION of CHINESE FOLK TALES

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國民間故事選輯

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港台書室

中英對照

*The Selected Copy of
Chinese Folk Tales*

中國民間故事選輯

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香港海鷗出版公司出版

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海鷗出版公司出版
香港軒尼詩道107—111號
協生大廈四樓

志豪印刷公司承印
地址：柴灣祥利街七號萬峯
工業大廈12樓A

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The Frog Rider

Once upon a time, there lived a poor couple on a far-away high mountain. They grew *chingko* and potatoes on an arid terrace on the mountain-side. They led a hard life.

They were growing old and gradually losing their strength; both longed for a child. They said to each other: "How wonderful it would be if we had a child. Then when we grow old we will have someone to plough our land, to do our allotted task for the *Chungpon** and to chop our firewood so that when we are very old, we two may rest our bent backs a little while sitting at our own *grora*."**

So they both prayed piously to the God of Mountains and Rivers. And soon the wife knew she was going to have a child. Seven months later, she gave birth. But she had a frog, with two big bulging eyes,

* A local district official, with magisterial powers, responsible for the collection of taxes and administration of civil affairs.

** Tibetan homes, both skin tents and stone houses, have a round fire pit in the middle of the floor; an iron grid is placed across it for cooking.

青 蛙 騎 手

從前，在一座遙遠的高山上，住着一對窮夫婦。他們在山旁荒瘦的土地上種了一點青稞和洋芋。他們過着貧困的生活。

他們漸漸地老了，氣力也一天不如一天；兩人都渴望有個孩子。他們兩人說：「如果我們有個孩子多好啊！老了也有人替我們種庄稼，替我們到頭人那裏去上差，替我們到山上去砍柴；這樣，當我兩個太老了做不得工，能彎着背在火塘旁邊安閒地坐一刻也好。」

於是，他們很虔誠的去向山神和河神祈禱。不久，他的妻子知道有孕了。七個月後，她生產了。但她產下

not a human baby.

The old man said: "What an astonishing thing! This is no baby, but a frog with two bulging eyes. Let us throw him out."

The wife did not have the heart to do such a thing, and replied: "God was not benevolent to us. He gave us a frog instead of a human baby. But anyway this frog was born to us, so don't let us throw him out. Frogs make their home in muddy pools. Put him in the one behind our house, and let him live there."

The old man picked up the Frog, but just as he was carrying him away, the Frog spoke: "Oh Father and Mother! Please don't put me into the pool. I was born to a human being, so let me grow up with human beings. When I grow up I will change the face of our land and change the life of the poor."

The old man was startled and exclaimed: "Wife, what queer happenings! He speaks like a human!"

"But what he said would be good," replied his wife. "It's high time things were changed for us poor people; we just can't go on like this. He cannot be an ordinary frog, if he can speak. Let him stay with us."

They were a kind-hearted couple and the Frog lived with them as though he were really their human

的只是一隻有着兩只大眼珠的青蛙，不是孩子。

老人說：「這多奇怪呀！他不是一個娃娃，只是一隻眼睛鼓鼓的青蛙。我們還是把他丟出去吧。」

妻子實在不忍這樣做，答道：「真神太不看顧我們了。他不給我們一個娃娃，却給一隻青蛙。可是這青蛙總是我們生的，不要把他丟了吧。青蛙住的地方是泥塘，把他放到我們屋後那個泥塘去，讓他在那裏活下去吧。」

老人捧起青蛙，可是正要把他拿到外面去時，青蛙說：「爸爸媽媽呀！請不要把我放到泥塘去吧。我是人生的，那麼讓我和人一起長大吧。等我長大時，我要使我們這裏的地變樣子，使我們這裏的窮人變樣子。」

老人吃了一驚說：「老婆子，真是怪事呵！他會跟人一樣說話！」

妻子說：「但他說的是好話呀！我們窮人變一變樣子也該是時候了；我們不能這樣活下去啦。他既然會說話，定不是隻平常的青蛙。就讓他和我們在一起吧。」

他們倆都是善心人，就把青蛙當作自己的孩子一

child.

Three years went by, when one day the Frog, who had seen how hard and industriously the two old people worked every day, said to the old woman: "Mother, make me a loaf of steamed bread with coarse flour, and put it in a bag for me tomorrow. I am going to the *Chungpon* who lives at the mouth of the valley in the castle with stone towers to ask for the hand of one of his daughters. He has three lovely daughters. I will marry the one who is kind-hearted and capable and bring her home to help you with your daily toil."

"My dear son, don't make such jokes," said the old woman. "As if anyone would give his daughter in marriage to such a small and ugly thing like you! A mere frog, who could be trampled on without a thought!"

"Make me the steamed bread, Mother," said the Frog. "He will consent."

The old woman finally agreed. "Very well, I'll make one for you," she said. "But supposing his household just pour ash on your head when they see you, as people do with monsters?"

"Nay, Mother," said the Frog. "They will not dare to do that."

So the old woman made a big steamed loaf with coarse flour the next morning and put it in a bag.

般，一起住下去了。

三年過去了。青蛙看見兩位老人每天都很勤懇的勞苦的工作着，就對婆子說：「媽媽，你明天用糙粉給我做一個饅饅，替我裝在口袋裏。我要到溝口那家有礪樓的頭人那裏去求親。他有三個可愛的女兒。我要去討一個好心腸和能幹的回來，幫你幹活。」

「我兒呀，你不要說笑話吧。」老婆子說，「有誰肯把女兒嫁給一個像你這又小又醜的東西呀！這麼一個青蛙，只有給人踩在腳下好了！」

青蛙說：「媽媽，你給我做那饅饅吧。他們會肯的。」

老婆子最後同意了。她說：「好吧，我給你做好了。可是我担心別人看見你，會說你是妖怪，要把灰撒在你頭上時怎麼辦呢？」

青蛙說：「不，媽媽，他們不敢那樣做的。」

於是第二天，老婆子用糙粉給他做了個大饅，裝在口袋裏。

The Frog hung the bag on his back, and hopped to the *Chungpon's* towered castle at the mouth of the valley.

When he got to the gate, the Frog called out, "Oh, *Chungpon, Chungpon*, open the door."

The *Chungpon* heard someone calling and sent his servant to see who was there.

The servant returned, a surprised look on his face. "How strange! It is nothing but a frog, Master, a very small frog, calling at the gate."

The *Chungpon's* steward said, in the voice of one who always knows what to do, "*Chungpon*, it must be a monster. Let us throw ash on him."

The *Chungpon* disagreed. "No, wait a bit. It may not be a monster," he said. "Frogs usually stay in water. Maybe this one comes on some mission from the Dragon King's palace. Sprinkle milk on him as you would do to a god, and then I will see him for myself."

His servants did as they were bid and gave the Frog a reception as if he were a god. They sprinkled milk on him and cast some into the air.

Then the *Chungpon* went himself to the gate and asked, "Froggy, do you come from the Dragon King's palace? What do you want?"

"I do not come from the Dragon King," an-

青蛙把口袋背在背上，跳着跳着跳到溝口頭人的碼頭處去。

他到了門外時，喊道：「喂，頭人，頭人，開門呀。」頭人聽見了外面有人喊，就叫僕人去看個究竟。

僕人回來時，臉上露出驚奇的顏色說：「這多奇怪呀！頭人，喊的只是隻青蛙，一隻很小的青蛙。」

頭人的管家露出有主張的樣子說：「頭人，他一定是個妖怪了。讓我們用灰撒在他頭上吧。」

頭人並不同意。他說：「不，等一陣，這不是妖怪。青蛙通常生長在水裏的。說不定龍宮派來做什麼的。你們像敬神一樣擠牛奶向他撒吧，撒過了我再去看他。」

僕人們便照頭人的吩咐做去，就用迎神的禮節來迎接青蛙。把擠出的牛奶向他和天空撒去。

之後，頭人走到門口問他說：「小青蛙，你是龍宮派來的嗎？你來做甚麼？」

青蛙說：「我不是龍宮派來的。我是爲自己來的，

swered the Frog. "I have come of my own accord, because your three daughters have all reached marriageable age and I want one for a wife. I come as a suitor. Please give your consent for me to marry one of them."

The *Chungpon* and his servants were all horrified, and the *Chungpon* said, "You are talking nonsense, Frog. You, so small and ugly! How can you be matched with my daughter? Why, many highly-placed *Chungpons* have asked for my daughters' hands and I refused them. Why, then, should I give a daughter of mine to a frog? You are being absurd."

"Oho! That means you don't agree, then," said the Frog. "Very well. If you don't give your consent, I'll laugh."

The *Chungpon* was furious when he heard this. "Frog, you are crazy. If you want to laugh, go ahead."

So the Frog began to laugh. The noise of his laughter was ten times, even a hundred times, louder than a pondful of frogs at night. When he laughed the earth quivered. The high towers of the *Chungpon's* castle shook as though they would collapse. Cracks appeared in the walls. Pebbles and dust danced in the air, and the sky and sun were darkened. The *Chungpon's* family and servants ran

因爲你的三個女兒，都到了出嫁的時候了，我要討一個做妻子。我是來求親的。你答應給我一個做妻子吧。」

頭人和他的僕人們聽了大吃一驚，頭人說：「青蛙，你不要開玩笑吧。你自己多麼小，多麼醜！你怎能配我的女兒？很多有地位的頭人來求過親，我都沒有答應呢。我怎麼能把女兒許配給一隻青蛙？你不要妄想吧。」

青蛙說：「啊，這是說你不肯了。那很好，要是你不答應的話，我就要笑了。」

頭人聽了，便生氣說：「青蛙，不要說廢話了。你要是想笑，那就笑吧。」

果然青蛙就笑起來了。他的笑聲比夜間泥塘里成羣的蛙聲還响亮十倍百倍。當他笑的時候，地立刻震動起來。頭人的高大碉樓，也震動得像要倒塌一樣。四周的牆壁都裂了口，石塊和沙塵到處飛揚，把天空和陽光都遮蔽得看不見了。頭人一家人和他的僕人，都在屋內飛

round and round in the great house, bumping into one another, not knowing what they were doing. Some even carried pieces of furniture over their heads as if that would ward off the calamity.

In desperation, the *Chungpon* put his head out of a window and besought the Frog: "Please do not laugh any more, Froggy, otherwise we shall all be killed. I'll tell my eldest daughter to go with you and be your wife."

The Frog stopped his laughter. Gradually the earth ceased to quiver and the house became stable again.

It was fear which forced the *Chungpon* to give his eldest daughter to the Frog. He ordered his servants to bring out two horses: one for her to ride, and the other to carry her dowry.

The eldest daughter was very unwilling to be married to a frog. She spied two millstones under the eaves as she mounted the horse and secretly took the upper millstone and concealed it in her breast.

The Frog hopped ahead to lead the way and the eldest daughter followed on horseback. All the time she urged her horse to go faster, hoping she would catch up with the Frog and kill him with her horse's hoofs. But the Frog hopped now to the left and now to the right, so that she could not do this. In the end she got so impatient that once when she was

跑，你推我擁，不知如何是好。有的還把家具頂在頭上保護着自己，活像大難來了。

最後，頭人只得從窗子裏伸出頭來向青蛙求情說：「小青蛙，請不要再笑了，否則我們活不成了，讓我喊我的大女兒來，跟你去做妻子吧。」

青蛙停止了他的笑聲。地慢慢地停止了震動，房子也定下來了。

頭人驚得沒有辦法，只好將大女兒給了青蛙。他又叫人牽出兩匹馬來：一匹給女兒騎，另一匹載她的嫁妝。

大女兒心裏很不願意嫁給一隻青蛙。當她上馬時，她看見屋簷下有一付石手磨，她悄悄地把那石手磨的上半扇取來藏在懷裏。

青蛙在前面跳着帶路，大女兒騎馬跟着青蛙走。她不斷地催那馬兒走快些，想叫馬從青蛙的身上跑過，用馬蹄去踏死他。可是青蛙一會兒跳左，一會兒跳右，總是踏不着。最後，她再忍不住了，當馬走近青蛙時，她

very close to the Frog she snatched the millstone out of her breast, threw it at the leaping Frog, and turned to gallop back home.

She had hardly gone any distance when the Frog called out to her, "Stop, Maiden! I have something to say to you." She turned her head and saw the Frog who she hoped had been crushed. He had escaped through the hole in the middle of the millstone.

She was startled and pulled her horse up short. The Frog said to her: "We are not destined for each other. Go home, since that is what you want." And he took the horse's bridle, and led her back home.

When they arrived at her father's castle, the Frog said to the *Chungpon*, "We are not suited to each other, so I have brought her back. Give me another one of your daughters, who may be destined for me."

"What a conceited frog you are—you do not know your place!" cried the *Chungpon* in a fury. "Since you bring my daughter back, I'll not give you another. What, should I, a *Chungpon*, let you pick and choose among my daughters?" He was trembling with rage.

"I suppose you mean you don't agree, then," said the Frog. "Very well, if you don't agree I'll cry."

The *Chungpon* thought to himself that it wouldn't matter if he did cry. It wouldn't be as dangerous