

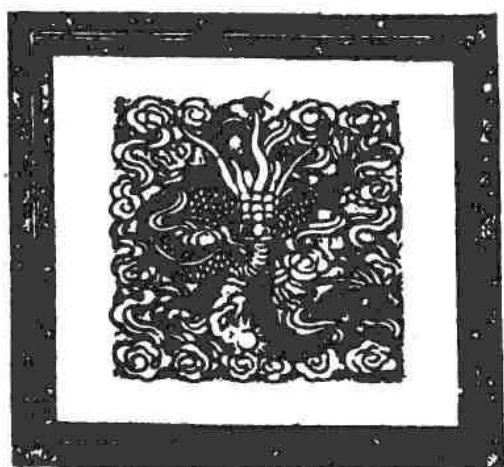
龙族的成语

STORIES
FROM

中英对照
CHINESE
ENGLISH

CHINESE PROVERBS





龍族的成語

STORIES FROM CHINESE PROVERBS



DOCTOR HOUSE

龍族的成語

Stories From Chinese Proverbs

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DOCTOR HOUSE

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一字千金

戰國時代，秦國大商人呂不韋扶助秦莊襄王登上王位後，他也當了丞相。莊襄王在位三年後去世，太子政（即後來的秦始皇）即位，時為公元前二四六年。秦王政封呂不韋為相國（和丞相相等，都是協助國王處理國事的大臣），並且尊稱他為仲父（即義父）。

在那時候，魏國有信陵君，楚國有春申君，趙國曾有平原君，齊國也曾有孟嘗君，這幾個公子都以能結交賢士、喜好賓客而為天下人所稱道。

呂不韋認為像秦這麼強大的國家，在禮賢下士這方面却比不上那幾個公子，恐怕會遭人恥笑，因此他也招致了一大批士人，最後竟達到食客三千人的地步。當時，各國諸侯所收養的能言善辯的士人，好像荀子和他的學生，他們都各自在著書立論，把自己的學說向世人傳佈。呂不韋為了使自己揚名，就命令他的食客，每個人都提起筆來，寫下各自的見聞、各自的看法，收集起來總共有將近二十萬字，分為三十多卷，定名為「呂氏春秋」。

呂不韋自認這本「呂氏春秋」的內容，包羅了天地萬物，統括了古今歷史。他把它公布在咸陽城的城門口，在上面懸掛了千金（合黃金一斤），邀請各國的諸侯，游士及賓客，凡是能夠替這本書增添或刪除一個字的，就奉贈千金。（史記原文：有能增損一字者，予千金。）

後人根據這個故事，引申得成語「一字千金」，形容文章寫得很好，價值很高。



One word is worth one thousand pieces of gold

Lu Bu-wei, a great trader of the State of Qin who lived in the period of the Warring States, became the prime minister after he had succeeded in assisting King Zhuang Xiang to the throne. Three years later, in the year 246 B.C., Zhuang Xiang passed away and was succeeded by his crown prince Zheng who later became the First Emperor of Qin. King Zheng also appointed him as prime minister and addressed him respectfully as his adopted father.

During that time, Xin Ling Jun of the State of Wei, Chun Shen Jun of the State of Chu, Ping Yuan Jun of the State of Zhao and Meng Chang Jun of the State of Qi were well known for their close association with and hospitality for scholars.

In the view of Lu Bu-wei, a great and strong state like Qin would become a laughing stock by lagging behind them in this respect. So he also retained a lot of scholars whose number eventually reached three thousand. At that time, eloquent and persuasive scholars who worked for the feudal lords of the various states (such as Xun Zi and his disciples) were engaged in philosophical writing and making their ideas known to the people. In order to make himself well known, Lu Bu-wei asked his scholar-retainers to write articles expounding their ideas and recording their experiences. Such articles came to nearly 200,000 words and were collected in more than thirty volumes known as Lu Shi Chun Qiu (The Spring and Autumn of the House of Lu).

Lu Bu-wei regarded the Lu Shi Chun Qiu as a book containing essays on a very wide range of subjects from all that was under heaven to the history of the distant and recent past. He displayed this book at the gate of the walled city of Xian Yang. Above this book were hung one thousand pieces of gold offered as a reward for anyone able to improve upon the book by adding or deleting one word. This saying is now used to describe the value of a well-written essay.

一箭雙雕

長孫晟是北周至隋朝時代的人，他的武藝超群，尤其精於箭術；對於行軍作戰，也很有謀略。當時北方突厥，是一個驍勇善戰的民族，時常南下侵略周隋二朝。長孫晟的一生，在抗拒和降伏突厥方面，有很大的功績。

北周宣帝時（公元五七九——五八一年），突厥的首領攝圖派人前來求婚，宣帝就封趙王招的女兒為千金公主，嫁給攝圖，周朝與攝圖之間，為了炫耀自己的勢力，競相選派勇敢的人充當使者。周朝就遣派長孫晟為正使，宇文神慶為副使，護送千金公主到突厥去。

周朝一同到突厥辦事的有幾十個人，可是攝圖只喜歡長孫晟一人，因此把他留在那兒一整年，時常和他一起去打獵。

有一天，他們到荒漠的郊野打獵時，見到天空有兩隻雕，正在爭奪一塊肉。它們互相追逐着、撲翅伸爪，樣子怪兇惡的。攝圖拿了兩隻箭給長孫晟，要他把雕射下來。

長孫晟拿了箭，騎着馬追上去，剛好兩隻雕互相抓在一起，長孫晟立刻彎弓搭箭，嗖的一聲，一箭貫穿了兩隻雕的喉嚨。



Killing two birds with one arrow

Chang-sun Sheng lived during the period from the Northern Zhou to the Sui Dynasty. He excelled in martial arts, particularly archery. He was also a good strategist and tactician. During that period, the Turks in the north, well-known for their bravery and fighting, often came down south to raid the territories of Zhou and Sui dynasties. In the resistance against and the subduing of the Turks, Chang-sun Sheng made great contributions with his military achievements.

During the reign of Emperor Xuan of the Northern Zhou Dynasty (579–581 A.D.), She Tu, the chieftain of the Turks, sent an envoy to ask for a Chinese girl to be married to him. Emperor Xuan appointed the daughter of Lord of Zhao as the Golden Princess for the proposed marriage. To show off their respective strength, the Zhou court and She Tu mutually sent brave men as their envoys. In the case of the Zhou court, Chang-sun Sheng was sent as the envoy with Yu-wen Shen-qing as his deputy to escort the Golden Princess to the land of the Turks.

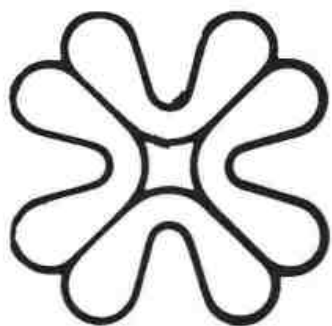
There were a few scores of others accompanying them on this mission but She Tu liked only Chang-sun Sheng and kept him there for one whole year during which he often went hunting with his guest.

One day, when they were on such a hunting trip in the wilderness, they came across two birds flying in the sky fighting for a piece of meat. They were chasing each other with their wings fluttering powerfully and their talons extended aggressively trying to get at each other. She Tu then gave Chang-sun Sheng two arrows and asked him to shoot down the two birds.

Having taken the arrows, Chang-sun Sheng went chasing the birds on his horse. At that time, the two birds happened to have caught hold of each other in a tussle. Chang-sun Sheng took a good aim at them with his bow and arrow. With a whish, the arrow went off and pierced through the throats of the two birds which came tumbling down.

攝圖看了大喜，命令子弟親信跟着長孫晟，希望從他那兒學到箭術。長孫晟也借着住在突厥的機會，暗中了解他們部落之間爭權奪利的關係，並觀察山川地勢。長孫晟回國後，由於熟悉突厥的情況，終於為抗拒敵人的侵略，立下大功。

成語「一箭雙雕」，就是來自長孫晟的故事。現在用來比喻做一件事，而可以得到雙重效果，和它相同意思的成語還有「一石二鳥」。



Upon seeing this, She Tu was extremely delighted and ordered his relatives and trusted men to learn archery from Chang-sun Sheng who also took the opportunity provided by his stay in the land of the Turks to make a secret study of the contentious relations amongst the Turkish tribes and the topography of the country. After his return to his homeland, Chang-sun Sheng achieved great success in fighting off the aggression by the Turks on the strength of his inside knowledge about them.

This saying of "killing two birds with one arrow" was derived from this story. It means the same as killing two birds with one stone.

一鼓作氣

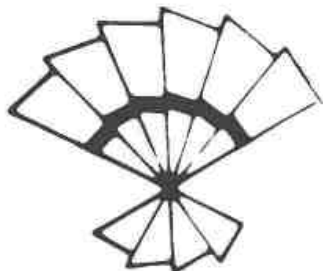
春秋時代，各國爭雄。齊國在公元前六八四年出兵攻打魯國。魯莊公和曹劌帶了部隊與齊對抗。

魯齊兩國的軍隊擺好陣勢，齊方的戰鼓冬冬的播響起來，齊軍排山倒海般衝向魯軍。魯莊公也想播響戰鼓，却被曹劌阻止了。這時，齊方又打了第二通戰鼓，齊軍又氣勢洶洶地進一步逼過來。魯莊公又想擊鼓，曹劌再次的阻止他動手。

齊方響起了第三通鼓，齊軍就快衝到魯軍的陣前了，魯國士兵這時個個像拉緊的弓弦上的箭那樣，只要一放手就會飛射出去。曹劌對魯莊公說：「請擊鼓吧！」

一聲鼓響過後，魯軍吼聲如雷，像狂風暴雨般席捲過去，齊軍抵擋不住這股猛烈的攻勢，立刻敗退了。

魯莊公決定立刻乘勝追擊。曹劌又加以反對，他先察看了齊軍戰車走過的軌跡，發現車跡錯亂；然後他又瞭望逃跑的齊軍，看到他們的旗幟歪斜不齊。曹劌確定齊軍是真的敗逃後，就請魯莊公下令追擊。魯軍終於取得決定性的勝利。



To rouse the spirit with one drum beat

During the Spring and Autumn period of China, the various states fought amongst themselves for supremacy. In the year 684 B.C., the State of Qi attacked the State of Lu. Duke Zhuang of Lu and Cao Gui led their soldiers to resist the Qi army.

Lu and Qi had taken up their respective positions, the war drum of the Qi side was beaten first and the stirring sound of the drum sent the Qi army charging in the direction of the Lu army. At this time, Duke Zhuang of Lu also wanted to have his drum beaten but was stopped by Cao Gui. The Qi side then beat the second round of the drum and the Qi soldiers came charging nearer. Duke Lu was about to beat the drum when he was again stopped by Cao Gui.

At the third round of the drum, the Qi soldiers were fast approaching the position of the Lu army of which the soldiers had been so aroused that they were like arrows on stretched bow strings ready to shoot off upon release. It was at that time that Cao Gui asked Duke Zhuang to beat the drum.

Upon hearing the drum, the Lu army roared into action, sweeping across the field like thunderous storm. The Qi army was unable to withstand such a powerful onslaught and was beaten into immediate retreat.

Duke Zhuang decided to give chase immediately but was advised against this course of action by Cao Gui who preferred to take a look first at the ruts left by the the Qi chariots. He noticed that the ruts were in a state of utter disorder. When he looked at the Qi soldiers he saw them running off in retreat with their flags in complete disarray. Having so satisfied himself that the enemy soldiers were really running away in defeat, Cao Gui then advised Duke Zhuang to order the pursuit of the enemy soldiers. In the end, the Lu army won the decisive victory.