

海外少年儿童汉语读物
OVERSEAS CHINESE CHILDREN'S READERS

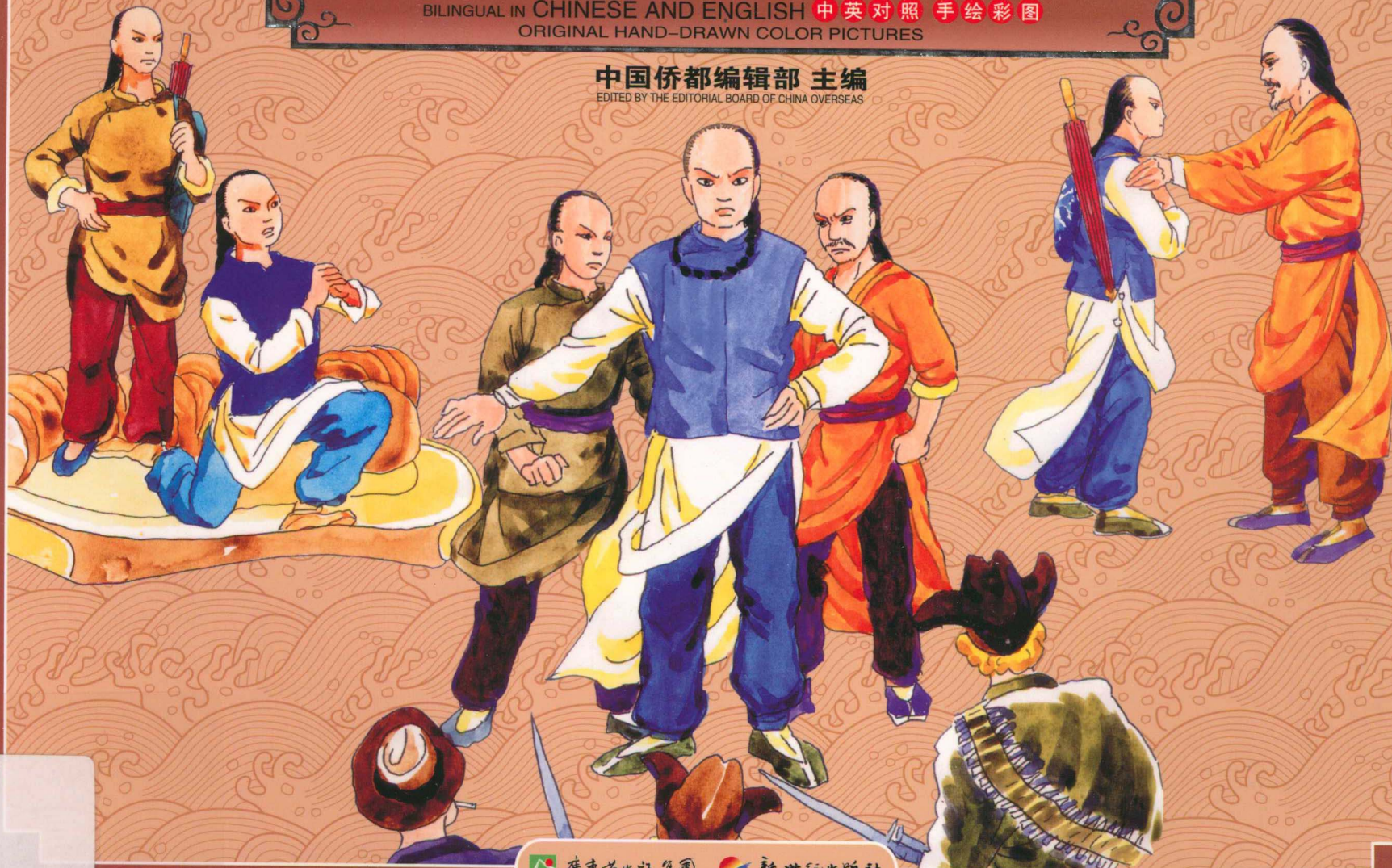


司徒美堂少年故事

THE STORY OF YOUNG SITU MEITANG

BILINGUAL IN CHINESE AND ENGLISH 中英对照 手绘彩图
ORIGINAL HAND-DRAWN COLOR PICTURES

中国侨都编辑部 主编
EDITED BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF CHINA OVERSEAS



广东省出版集团



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华人中心

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中西交汇 传承文明

As east and west interflow civilization is carried on

李 巍
Li Wei



“床前明月光，疑是地上霜。举头望明月，低头思故乡。”这首千古传唱的唐诗，是博大精深的中华民族传统文化源远流长的极佳象征，她是中华民族的灵魂。黑眼睛、黄皮肤的中华儿女，无论身处世界任何角落，中华文化永远是他们心中的根。

祖籍江门五邑的海外乡亲近400万人，遍布世界107个国家和地区。他们身居海外，心系故土，在接受西方文化熏陶的同时，依然对中华文化一往情深。他们也为中华文化融入世界和西方文化引入中国作出了巨大的贡献。

应众多海外乡亲的意愿，为便于海外华侨华人对中华文化的传承、对侨乡故土的认知，为促进中外多元文化的进一步交流，江门市外事侨务局会同江门市文化广电新闻出版局、江门市对外文化交流协会、中国侨都编辑部联合筹划这套系列丛书，定名为《海外少年儿童汉语读物》，该书采用中英文对照、图文并茂的方式，为海外华人提供适用的中华文化经典读物。

该丛书的出版，是中外文化交流的结晶，更是侨乡文化的成果。我衷心希望，中华文化在世界多元文化的融汇中不断发展，并祝《海外少年儿童汉语读物》系列丛书这棵幼苗沐浴着中西文化的雨露茁壮成长！

(李 巍：现任全国政协常委、江门市人民政府副市长)

“So bright a gleam on the foot of my bed—Could there have been a frost already? Lifting myself to look, I found that it was moonlight. Sinking back again, I thought suddenly of home.”

This Tang poem, which has been recited by generations after generations, bespeaking the long-reaching source of the expansive and profound traditional Chinese culture, is a sparkling reflection of the soul of the Chinese nation. All sons and daughters of the Chinese nation, with black eyes and yellow skin, no matter where on earth they are, always keep in their mind the consciousness of their roots of Chinese culture.

Nearly 4 million overseas Chinese trace their ancestry to the Jiangmen Wuyi area. Their residency spreads out to 107 countries and regions all over the world. Though they may live far away, there is always a tie that binds their heart to their homeland. While accepting western cultures, deep down they also feel an unalienable attachment for Chinese culture. They have made great contributions in introducing Chinese culture into the global world, as well as western cultures into China.

In response to the wishes of many compatriots living overseas, to provide a ready access for overseas Chinese to Chinese culture, to improve their knowledge of their ancestral land, and to promote the interflow between Chinese culture and foreign cultures in their variegated forms, a series of books are to be published under the cover title of “Overseas Chinese Children's Readers”. The series is sponsored by the Jiangmen Bureau for Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs, and co-edited and published by the Jiangmen Bureau for Culture, Broadcasting, Press and Publication, the Jiangmen Association for External Cultural Exchange, and the Editorial Board of *China Overseas*. The books will come out in original Chinese text coupled with English explanation, and will all be richly illustrated. It is hoped they will serve as suitable extracurricular reading for overseas Chinese.

The publication of the above-mentioned series is itself a product of the cultural exchange between Chinese and foreign cultures, as well as a fruit of culture that has been fructified from the homeland of overseas Chinese. I sincerely hope that the Chinese culture will continue to grow and develop amidst the merge of the pluralistic cultures of the world. I also hope that the newly sprouted series will grow up strong as it will continuously be nurtured by the rain and dew of Chinese as well as western cultures.

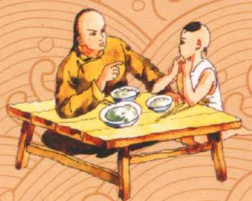


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天公送子
A HEAVEN-SENT SON





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公元1868年（清朝同治七年）4月13日，中午时分。

百足山顶，浓云密布，雷鸣电闪。顷刻，骤雨倾盆，滂沱大雨瓢泼似的落在潭江两岸，沃土、绿苗和村落农舍沐浴在一场喜雨之中。春风春雨给庄户人多少带来了希望，正在秧田闹耕的庄户人，纷纷安置好手中的农具和耕牛，回寮歇息。

潭江依然是呜呜咽咽地低吟着，从百足山脚流过，穿越侨乡古镇——广东开平县的赤坎。离镇四里地的濠堤洲中股乡牛路里村的一间狭窄而矮小的农舍里，在风呼、雨泼、雷鸣、电闪的交响乐中，传出一阵响亮的“呜哇——呜哇”的婴儿哭声。村中左邻右舍纷纷赶来道喜：

“吴婶，天公送子，有福有福，日后不用发愁啰！”

“荣叔，老五择个吉日良辰出世，将来呀，一定出人头地哩！”

“老五啊，火龙传种，必当大官呐！”

……

婴儿的哭声、邻里亲朋的祝贺，激动着婴儿父母之心，驱散了他们的满脸愁容，令他们心里乐滋滋的。

但是，在兵荒马乱的岁月里，多一张嘴，就像多挑一副重担，当父亲的司徒开荣想把老五送给别人，可做母亲的吴桂秀却舍不得心头肉，心想，既然是天公送子，就是讨吃要饭也得把老五拉扯大，是龙让他下海，是虎让他上山。

当父母的把希望寄托在儿子老五身上，望子成龙啊！

苦命的老五，虽然生于吉日良辰，可他投胎不走运，天公没有替他找个有“福气”的好爹妈，偏偏让他降生在穷苦人家。他童年是在苦水里泡大的，饥饿、凌辱折磨着他。天公赐给他的不是鲜花和美酒，却是荆棘和苦果。

这位火龙子孙老五，正是书中的主人公——司徒美堂。他的原名羨意，字基赞，小名又叫羨仔。



CHAPTER ONE

A HEAVEN-SENT SON



On the noon of April 13, 1863 (the seventh year of the Tongzhi reign period, Qing Dynasty), thick clouds overcast the Baizu Mountain, lightning flashed and thunder rolled. In an instant, heavy rain poured down on the banks of the Tanjiang River, moistening the fertile land and nourishing the green crop shoots. The villages and farmhouses were also basked in the welcome rain. The spring wind and rain brought hope to the toiling farmers who put down their tools, let loose their cattle, and went back home to rest.

The Tanjiang River,whimpering as usual, flowed by the foot of the Baizhu Mountain and threaded through the ancient town of Chikan, Kaiping. Two kilometers from the town, from a low and narrow farmhouse at Niululi Village, Zhong-gu Township, Jiaodizhou, came the sharp cries of a new-born baby amid the symphony of wind, rain, thunder and lightning. The neighbors all came to congratulate.

"Auntie Wu, it's a heaven-sent boy. It's a great blessing for you. You'll have no worry in the future." "Uncle Rong, your fifth child has chosen an auspicious day to come to the world. He will rise in the world."

“Ah, Number Five is a descendant of the Fire Dragon. He will rise to a prominent position.”

.....

The crying of the baby and the congratulations of neighbors and friends inspired the heart of the parents of the baby. The couple was basked in joy.

However, in a time of hunger and of the turmoil and chaos of war, one more mouth meant an extra burden. The father Situ Kairong wanted to give the child away, but the mother Wu Guixiu was loath to part with her heart's darling. Since the boy was sent by heaven, she would bring him up by any means, even by begging, she thought. If he was a dragon, she would send him down to the sea; if he was a tiger, she would send him up the mountain.

The couple pinned their dreams and aspirations on this fifth child and expected him to excel.

Number Five, though born on an auspicious day, was not destined to live in the lap of luxury; instead, he came to a family in misery and poverty. He grew up amidst hunger, humiliation and suffering. Heaven bestowed on him not fresh flowers or fine wine but thorns and bitter fruits.

This descendant of the Fire Dragon and the fifth child is the hero in this book—Situ Meitang—whose original name was Xianyi and whose style was Jizan. His fellow villagers affectionately called him Xianzai.





1874年，正是羨仔6岁那年，灾难无情地降落在他的头上——父亲司徒开荣经不住穷困的重压和疾病的折磨，过早离开了人世。可怜的母亲吴桂秀承担着沉重的家务，好不容易东拼西凑筹了些钱供羨仔上学。

羨仔聪明过人，加之勤奋好学，成绩十分优秀。但由于家境贫寒，又是孤儿寡母，衣着褴褛的他常常受到富家子弟的歧视和辱骂，有时甚至还要挨打。

在五邑侨乡民间，处处设有武馆，很多华侨出国前都要到武馆里去学两手功夫，以免流落在海外受洋人欺侮。羨仔为了防身，也经常跟着穷伙伴跑到村中碉楼武馆去观看拳师传授武艺。小羨仔很聪明，看过的东西过目不忘，回到家中勤学苦练，从小就学会了南拳。每当遇到别人欺负自己的时候，不管对手年纪多大，总要跟他拼搏一番，就是输了也要还击两拳才服气。小小年纪的他常常替受人欺侮的穷孩子打抱不平，尽管打不过人家，脸上经常被人打得青一块、紫一块，但是他从不畏缩，反倒是锻炼出了扶弱抗恶的侠义性格。村里穷苦出身的小朋友们都很喜欢他，每天上学都要跟着他结伴同行到学校。

有一回，在放学回家的路上，羨仔碰见两个年纪比他大的富家子弟，正在欺负他的同班女同学邓彩霞。小司徒二话没说，猛冲上去，三拳两脚跟倚强欺弱的阔少打了起来。那两个阔少被小司徒打得招架不住，扭头直往家里跑，小司徒紧追不舍，一直赶到一个阔少的家门口。两个阔少躲进屋里，放出恶狗来“迎战”小司徒。

恶狗“汪汪汪”向小司徒扑来，赤手空拳的他难于对付，腿上被狗咬了一口，疼痛难忍。此时，他急中生智，把狗引到大门外路旁，捡起地上的一根短木棒，转身朝那只紧追来的恶狗狠狠一击，恰巧击中狗头，那恶狗“汪”的一声倒在地上。

俗话说，“打狗欺主”。这回呀，小司徒可闯下了弥天大祸了！

听到狗的惨叫声，屋里急急忙忙走出来一个人。只见此人身穿长袍，套着短褂，头顶着一顶镶有蓝宝石的瓜皮帽，脑后拖着一根长辫子。原来，这家伙就是狗的主人。

狗主人恶狠狠地走到面前，从小司徒手中夺过棍棒，二话没说，就往小司徒身上横扫过去，三下两下把他撂倒在地上。当狗的主人再次举起棍棒，往小司徒的脑袋猛劈过去的一刹那，棍棒被人从后面一把拽住了。拽住棍棒的是一位路见不平、匆匆赶来制止暴行的中年人。中年男子好言相劝道：

“老兄啊！再打眼看孩子就没命啦！”

“一条狗命换一条人命，没有什么了不起！”阔佬吹着胡子瞪着眼，气鼓鼓地说。

那位中年人抱起躺在地上的小司徒往他家里送。母亲吴桂秀接过身受重伤的小司徒，凝神望着浑身上下伤痕累累的可怜的儿子，禁不住心如刀绞，泣不成声，串珠似的泪水滴在奄奄一息的小司徒脸上：

“羨仔，你要有个三长两短，妈该咋办呢？”





躺在母亲怀里的小司徒，在昏迷中听见母亲的哭泣，他无力地说：

“妈，我要报仇！”

母亲听着小司徒的话，心里更加难受，担心儿子日后招惹更大的横祸，只得劝说小小年纪的孩子：

“傻孩子，你怎么斗得过人家呢？”

说话间，那位中年人赶回家拿来一瓶跌打药酒和药丸，急忙给小司徒擦拭伤口，又把跌打药丸放在一个小碗里研碎，一口一口喂小司徒服下。临走时，中年人关心地叮嘱道：

“吴嫂，让孩子好好躺着休养，要采点草药煮水给他喝，改天我再给他按摩敷药。”母亲吴桂秀含着热泪说：“刘大哥，谢谢你了，要不是遇见你这个贵人，羨仔这条命也就没啦！”

“不必客气，先把小孩的伤养好再打算吧。”中年人说完便告辞了。

原来，羨仔母亲嘴里的这位“刘大哥”便是邻村的刘福。刘福年青时颇有点名气，是闻名远近的一位拳师。刘福的身世也很苦——他还不满一周岁时，父亲便出洋闯金山去了。可是，一去几十年从未有回音，至今下落不明。可怜的母亲把他拉扯大，日盼夜盼，盼刘福父亲的洋钱来接济他成家立业，真是望眼欲穿。

冬去春来，一年复一年，可怜的父亲仍杳无音讯，生死未卜。刘福的家境愈来愈困难，在家乡无法生活，只好跑到邻县新会一家作坊打工，靠低微的收入养活母亲。眼见他已经四十多岁了，依然是光棍一条。这次，因母亲病逝，回家奔丧，路过此地，恰遇小司徒被恶狗撕咬、恶人欺凌，急难中，刘福仗义出手，从棍棒下救出小司徒，又送上伤药医治，对母子俩可谓恩重如山。

十多天过去了，小司徒伤势好转，慢慢恢复了健康。母亲吴桂秀担心他又出事，加上眼下家境又越来越困难，于是跟刘福大哥商量，请求他把儿子带去帮工，一则可到外地混碗饭吃，二来可避免惹祸。再说，家境贫寒的小司徒因衣衫褴褛，念书时常遭富家子弟白眼和欺侮，也不愿再继续念下去了。

刘福答应了司徒母子的请求，同意料理完母亲的后事即带小司徒到新会县城做工。临行那一天，小司徒彬彬有礼地向刘福大叔三鞠躬，转过身又在母亲面前下跪辞行。刘福便领着不满11周岁的小司徒离开了开平家乡，离开了疼爱他的慈母，远走他乡去自谋生活。从此，小小年纪的司徒就要经受生活的重压，迈过社会的门槛，踏上人生的征途。





CHAPTER TWO

HITTING THE BULLIES AND THEIR DOG

In 1874, when Xianzai was six, a merciless misfortune befell him—his father Situ Kairong died from poverty and disease. His wretched mother Wu Guixiu had to bear the burden of supporting the family alone. She scraped together some money and sent Xianzai to school.

Xianzai was very intelligent and hard-working, so he was outstanding in his studies. But as his family was very poor and he was fatherless, the boy in rags was often subject to discrimination and abuse by kids from rich families, and was sometimes even beaten.

In the rural areas of Wuyi there used to be many martial arts schools. At the time, many people, before venturing overseas, would learn some kungfu lest they should be bullied by foreigners when they were abroad. For the sake of self-defense, Xianzai often went to the village martial arts school with some other children from poor families to observe the teachers instructing kung fu. He had a retentive memory and could remember all the tricks. When he got home, he would practice hard and then he mastered two sets of Nanquan (Southern Boxing) movements. Whenever he was bullied, no matter how much older his opponent was, he would fight with

him. Even if he was defeated, he would try to give the rival a few punches. Though he was very young, he would right wrongs or injustices when a poor child was bullied. As he was not as strong as bigger boys, he was often beaten black and blue, but he never flinched. As a result he had developed a strong sense of justice and would try his best to protect the weak against the strong. All the kids from poor families were fond of him and would go with him to school.

Once on the way home from school, he met two kids much older than him from rich families bullying his female fellow student called Deng Caixia. Without wasting words, he rushed up and began to hit the two bullies who, unable to withstand him, turned round and ran home. Little Situ Meitang pursued until he reached the home of one of them. The two bullies hid in the house and sent a dog out to fight him.

The dog pounced on him. Situ Meitang, barefisted, could not resist the dog. He was bitten in the leg and felt piercing pain. At this point, he had a brainwave. He led the dog to the side of the road where there was a thick stick. He picked it up and hit the head of the dog very hard. The dog lay down on



the ground, barking weakly.

A Chinese saying goes that one bullies the owner by beating his dog. This time Situ had made big trouble.

Hearing the screech of the dog, a man hurried out from the house. He wore a gown covered by a short-sleeve jacket and carried a long queue on his head. He was the owner of the dog.

The owner came to Situ Meitang looking very vicious. He grabbed the stick from him, and without wasting words, swung the stick to Situ Meitang. Situ Meitang fell to the ground after receiving a few strokes. When the man raised the stick and was about to deal another stroke on his head, the stick was caught by someone from behind. This man who put an end to the atrocity was a middle-aged chivalrous man. He reasoned with the owner of the dog:

"Big brother, if you don't stop, the boy will die." "A human life for a dog's life. It's nothing unusual." The dog owner said, huffing.

The middle-aged man picked up the boy from the ground and carried him home. Situ Meitang's mother took over the badly-injured boy and gazed at him with agony. She choked with sobs and tears fell to Situ Meitang's face like strings of beads.

"Xianzai," she sobbed, "if death takes you away, what will I do?"

The half-unconscious boy lying in his mother's

arms heard his mother's crying and said feebly: "Mother, I will revenge!"

Hearing the boy's words, the mother felt even worse as if her nerves were stricken by lightning. She feared his son would get into even greater trouble. She said to the boy:

"Silly child, how can you prevail over them?" While the mother and son were talking, the middle-aged man had fetched a bottle of medicinal wine and some pellets from his home and hurriedly applied the wine to the boy's wounds. Then he pounded the pellets to small pieces in a bowl and fed the boy. Before leaving, the middle-aged man exhorted the mother:

"Sister Wu, do not let the child out. Go and gather some herbs for his injuries and brew some soup for him. Some other day I will come to treat the boy."

With tearful eyes the mother said, "Big Brother Liu, thank you so much. If it had not been for you, the boy would have been no more."

"There is no need for you to stand on ceremony. Take care of the child and heal his wounds before you plan anything else." With these words, he departed. This Big Brother Liu was Liu Fu of the neighboring village. In his youth he was rather well-known in the neighborhood for his skills in kungfu. Liu was also of a miserable background. Before he reached one year



old, his father went overseas, never to be heard from again. His poor mother brought him up, forever expecting in vain the father to return and bring some money to relieve the stress of the family. As winter turned into spring year after year, there had been no news of the father, dead or alive. The family was falling into desperate straits and Liu Fu had to go to a workshop in the neighboring county Xinhui to earn a meager income to support his mother. He was now over forty and yet could not afford to take a wife. This time his mother died of illness and he came back to attend to her funeral. He happened to see little Situ Meitang torn by a dog and bullied by its owner. Out of a sense of justice, he saved the child from the scourge and treated his wounds. The mother and son owed a great debt of gratitude to him.

A dozen days had passed and little Situ Meitang's wounds had improved. The mother was afraid that he would make trouble again. Besides, the family was in increasing distress. So the mother consulted with Liu Fu and asked him to take her son out to work. By this way the boy could support himself and avoid making trouble. Moreover, the poor boy was unwilling to go to school because there he was despised by the kids from rich families for he was poor and in rags. Liu Fu granted the request of the mother and agreed to take him to Xinhui. The day before they left, the boy bowed to Uncle Liu Fu three times and then knelt down before his mother. Then Liu Fu and the boy scarcely eleven years old left their hometown and ventured out to make a living. Thereafter, the boy took upon himself the burden of life and embarked on the journey of life.





第三回



情同父子

公元1879年（清朝光绪五年），小司徒跟着刘福大叔离乡背井来到新会，在新会县城一家作坊当学徒。因他年纪还小，不能干重活，便做搓线工。小司徒虽然年纪不大，但是干起活来挺勤快，手脚麻利，肯卖力气，加上脑子又机灵，刘福大叔很喜欢他。白天，小司徒跟刘福大叔一起干活，晚上两人同睡在一间木屋里，一大一小朝夕相处，情同父子。夜间，两人躺在床上，刘福常常给小司徒讲故事，什么《三国演义》、《水浒传》、《西游记》、《杨门女将》、《说岳全传》等等，一个接着一个说个没完没了，一讲就是几个钟头，常常讲到夜深人静。有时候，刘福讲完故事后，便叫小司徒复述，小司徒记性好，聪明灵活，总是能完整地把故事从头到尾讲一遍，复述得有声有色。小司徒不仅爱听刘福讲故事，同时还喜欢读书，常常把刘福看过的《水浒传》、《三国演义》接下手就一股劲地看下去。他虽然似懂非懂，但也能明白一大半的意思。刘福看他勤奋好学，尽量满足他的要求，找书给他读，小司徒常常看书到深夜，有时候通宵达旦。

小司徒喜欢耍两下拳术，刘福看在眼里更加喜欢。空闲时，便指点小司徒练拳，教他几手南拳，什么“四门阵”、“梅花桩”、“双头棍”等等。小司徒好学，刘福肯教，有时两人相互对垒，小司徒进步很快。这些日子里，小司徒学到了很多东 西，懂得了不少人情世故。小司徒做工积攒下几个钱，托人捎回家孝敬母亲，有时刘福大叔也帮补一点。小司徒出了漏子，刘福袒护替他开脱，看见小司徒受人欺侮，刘福挺身相助，一大一小亲密无间，形影不离。

有一回，厂家老板找小司徒去拉料，寻了好大一会儿，没找着他。后来，在原料库房发现他，看见他躲在原料堆后面正聚精会神看小说。老板不声不响走过去，一把将他的书夺走，并狠狠地给了他一耳光，骂道：

“你这个调皮的孩子，拿我的工钱不做工，好呀！”

小司徒赶快拔腿就跑，跑到正在干活的刘福身边“求援”。厂家老板走到刘福跟前，指着小司徒的鼻子骂道：“哼，我不是出钱养你读书呀，你要是不想做工就滚！”

“王先生，下不为例。”刘福替小司徒解围说，“请你多多包涵，小孩不懂事，原谅他一次！”

王老板说：“不做工就不发工钱，想要吃饭就得老老实实做工！”

刘福吩咐他：“好了，快去拉料！”

小司徒央求道：“书还给我，就去了。”

刘福说：“听话！快点去。”

小司徒赶快找到小平车飞跑出去了。他走后，刘福向老板要回那本《水浒传》。

王老板说：“以后他再这样，我就要扣他的工钱。”

刘福说：“请王先生放心，以后，他不敢再偷懒了。”

老板眼睛瞪着刘福，“哼”了一声，把书扔给他，然后头也不回地走开了。

经过这件事以后，更坚定了小司徒读书的决心，往后只要有空闲他都不忘读书学习。

