

# THE STORY OF THE STONE

A CHINESE NOVEL BY  
CAO XUEQIN  
IN FIVE VOLUMES

\*

VOLUME 5  
'THE DREAMER WAKES'

EDITED BY  
GAO E

\*

TRANSLATED BY  
JOHN MINFORD

PENGUIN BOOKS

# THE STORY OF THE STONE

A CHINESE NOVEL BY  
CAO XUEQIN  
IN FIVE VOLUMES

\*

VOLUME 5

'THE DREAMER WAKES'

江苏工业学院图书馆  
藏书章

TRANSLATED BY

JOHN MINFORD

PENGUIN BOOKS

FOR EMMA, LUKE, DANIEL AND LAURA

PENGUIN BOOKS

Published by the Penguin Group

Penguin Books Ltd, 27 Wrights Lane, London W8 5TZ, England

Penguin Putnam Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014, USA

Penguin Books Australia Ltd, Ringwood, Victoria, Australia

Penguin Books Canada Ltd, 10 Alcorn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4V 3B2

Penguin Books (NZ) Ltd, Private Bag 102902, NSMC, Auckland, New Zealand

Penguin Books Ltd, Registered Offices: Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England

This translation first published 1986

8

Translation copyright © John Minford, 1986

All rights reserved

Printed in Great Britain by Antony Rowe Ltd, Chippenham, Wiltshire

Filmset in Monophoto Garamond

Except in the United States of America, this book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser

# CONTENTS

## NOTE ON SPELLING

## PREFACE

### CHAPTER 99

*Unscrupulous minions make use of their master's virtue  
to conceal a multitude of sins;  
and Jia Zheng is alarmed to read his nephew's name  
in the 'Peking Gazette'*

### CHAPTER 100

*Caltrop disturbs an elaborate seduction and inspires bitter  
resentment;  
Bao-yu learns of a distressing betrothal and laments an imminent  
departure*

### CHAPTER 101

*In Prospect Garden a moonlit apparition repeats an ancient  
warning;  
and at Scattered Flowers Convent the fortune-sticks provide  
a strange omen*

### CHAPTER 102

*Illness descends upon the Jia family in Ning-guo House;  
and charms and holy water are used to exorcize Prospect Garden*

### CHAPTER 103

*Jin-gui dies by her own hand, caught in a web of her own  
weaving;  
Yu-cun encounters an old friend in vain, blind to the higher  
truths of Zen*

## CHAPTER 104

*Drunken Dime at large again — a small fish whips up a mighty storm;  
our Besotted Hero in agony once more — a chance thrust quickens  
a numbed heart*

96

## CHAPTER 105

*The Embroidered Jackets raid Ning-guo House;  
and Censor Li impeaches the Prefect of Ping-an*

112

## CHAPTER 106

*Wang Xi-feng feels remorse for the consequences of her past  
misdeeds;  
and Grandmother Jia prays for the family's deliverance from  
further calamity*

126

## CHAPTER 107

*Impelled by family devotion, Grandmother Jia distributes her  
personal possessions;  
favoured with an Imperial dispensation, Jia Zheng receives his  
brother's hereditary rank*

140

## CHAPTER 108

*A birthday party held for Sister Allspice necessitates a false  
display of jollity;  
and ghostly weeping heard at the Naiad's House provokes  
a fresh outburst of grief*

156

## CHAPTER 109

*Fivey shares a vigil, and receives affection meant for another;  
Ying-chun pays her debt to fate, and returns to the Realm  
of Primordial Truth*

172

## CHAPTER 110

*Lady Jia ends her days, and returns to the land of shades;  
Wang Xi-feng exhausts her strength, and forfeits the family's  
esteem*

192

## CHAPTER 111

- A devoted maid renders a final service, and accompanies her mistress to the Great Void;  
a villainous slave takes his revenge, and betrays his masters into the hands of thieves* 207

## CHAPTER 112

- Adamantina discharges a karmic debt and receives a blow from the Hand of Providence;  
Aunt Zhao concludes a deadly feud and sets out on the road to the Nether World* 224

## CHAPTER 113

- Xi-feng repents of her former misdeeds, and entrusts her child to a village dame;  
Nightingale softens a long-standing animosity, and warms to her besotted master* 241

## CHAPTER 114

- Wang Xi-feng ends her life's illusion and returns to Jinling;  
Zhen Ying-jia receives the Emperor's favour and is summoned to the Palace* 256

## CHAPTER 115

- A private obsession revived confirms Xi-chun in an ancient vow;  
a physical likeness verified deprives Bao-yu of an imagined friend* 268

## CHAPTER 116

- Human destinies are revealed in a fairy realm, and the Stone is restored to its rightful owner;  
mortal remains are transported to their terrestrial home,  
and duty is discharged by a filial son* 284

## CHAPTER 117

*Two fair damsels conspire to save the jade, and forestall a flight  
from earthly bondage;  
an infamous rogue takes charge of the mansion, and assembles  
a gang of cronies*

301

## CHAPTER 118

*Provoked by a rankling antipathy, Uncle and Cousin plot the  
ruin of an innocent maid;  
alarmed by riddling utterances, Wife and Concubine remonstrate  
with their idiot master*

318

## CHAPTER 119

*Bao-yu becomes a Provincial Graduate and severs worldly ties;  
the House of Jia receives Imperial favour and renews ancestral  
glory*

385

## CHAPTER 120

*Zhen Shi-yin expounds the Nature of Passion and Illusion;  
and Jia Yu-cun concludes the Dream of Golden Days*

357

## CHARACTERS IN VOLUME 5

377

## GENEALOGICAL TABLES

384

# THE STORY OF THE STONE

A CHINESE NOVEL BY  
CAO XUEQIN  
IN FIVE VOLUMES

\*

VOLUME 5  
'THE DREAMER WAKES'

EDITED BY  
GAO E

\*

TRANSLATED BY  
JOHN MINFORD

PENGUIN BOOKS





FOR EMMA, LUKE, DANIEL AND LAURA

PENGUIN BOOKS

Published by the Penguin Group

Penguin Books Ltd, 27 Wrights Lane, London W8 5TZ, England

Penguin Putnam Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014, USA

Penguin Books Australia Ltd, Ringwood, Victoria, Australia

Penguin Books Canada Ltd, 10 Alcorn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4V 3B2

Penguin Books (NZ) Ltd, Private Bag 102902, NSMC, Auckland, New Zealand

Penguin Books Ltd, Registered Offices: Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England

This translation first published 1986

8

Translation copyright © John Minford, 1986

All rights reserved

Printed in Great Britain by Antony Rowe Ltd, Chippenham, Wiltshire

Filmset in Monophoto Garamond

Except in the United States of America, this book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser





## THE STORY OF THE STONE

Vol. 5

ADVISORY EDITOR: BETTY RADICE

CAO XUEQIN (?1715-63) was born into a family that for three generations held the office of Commissioner of Imperial Textiles in Nanking, a family so wealthy that they were able to entertain the Emperor Kangxi four times. But calamity overtook them and their property was confiscated. Cao Xueqin was living in poverty near Peking when he wrote his famous novel *The Story of the Stone* (also known as *The Dream of the Red Chamber*), of which this is the fifth volume. The first four volumes, *The Golden Days*, *The Crab-Flower Club*, *The Warning Voice* and *The Debt of Tears*, are also published in the Penguin Classics.

GAO E (?1740-1815) was a Chinese Bannerman of the Bordered Yellow Banner, who for the last twenty years of his life worked in the Grand Secretariat and the Censorate in Peking. In 1792 he and his friend Cheng Weiyuan published for the first time a complete version of *The Story of the Stone* in 120 chapters. Previously handwritten copies of the novel had circulated, which ended with the eightieth chapter. Cheng and Gao claimed that they edited the last forty chapters of their complete version from a fragmentary manuscript by the original author.

JOHN MINFORD was born in 1946. He studied Chinese at Oxford and at the Australian National University, taught in the People's Republic of China (1980-82), and then in Hong Kong, where he was until 1986 director of the Research Centre for Translation in the Chinese University, and editor of the journal *Renditions*. He is now Professor of Chinese at the University of Auckland, New Zealand.



## CONTENTS

### NOTE ON SPELLING

### PREFACE

### CHAPTER 99

*Unscrupulous minions make use of their master's virtue  
to conceal a multitude of sins;  
and Jia Zheng is alarmed to read his nephew's name  
in the 'Peking Gazette'*

### CHAPTER 100

*Caltrap disturbs an elaborate seduction and inspires bitter  
resentment;  
Bao-yu learns of a distressing betrothal and laments an imminent  
departure*

### CHAPTER 101

*In Prospect Garden a moonlit apparition repeats an ancient  
warning;  
and at Scattered Flowers Convent the fortune-sticks provide  
a strange omen*

### CHAPTER 102

*Illness descends upon the Jia family in Ning-guo House;  
and charms and holy water are used to exorcize Prospect Garden*

### CHAPTER 103

*Jin-gui dies by her own hand, caught in a web of her own  
weaving;  
Yu-cun encounters an old friend in vain, blind to the higher  
truths of Zen*

## CHAPTER 104

*Drunken Dime at large again — a small fish whips up a mighty storm;*

*our Besotted Hero in agony once more — a chance thrust quickens a numbed heart*

96

## CHAPTER 105

*The Embroidered Jackets raid Ning-guo House;  
and Censor Li impeaches the Prefect of Ping-an*

112

## CHAPTER 106

*Wang Xi-feng feels remorse for the consequences of her past misdeeds;*

*and Grandmother Jia prays for the family's deliverance from further calamity*

126

## CHAPTER 107

*Impelled by family devotion, Grandmother Jia distributes her personal possessions;*

*favoured with an Imperial dispensation, Jia Zheng receives his brother's hereditary rank*

140

## CHAPTER 108

*A birthday party held for Sister Allspice necessitates a false display of jollity;*

*and ghostly weeping heard at the Naiad's House provokes a fresh outburst of grief*

156

## CHAPTER 109

*Fivey shares a vigil, and receives affection meant for another;*

*Ying-chun pays her debt to fate, and returns to the Realm of Primordial Truth*

172

## CHAPTER 110

*Lady Jia ends her days, and returns to the land of shades;*

*Wang Xi-feng exhausts her strength, and forfeits the family's esteem*

192

## CHAPTER 111

- A devoted maid renders a final service, and accompanies her mistress to the Great Void;  
a villainous slave takes his revenge, and betrays his masters into the hands of thieves* 207

## CHAPTER 112

- Adamantina discharges a karmic debt and receives a blow from the Hand of Providence;  
Aunt Zhao concludes a deadly feud and sets out on the road to the Nether World* 224

## CHAPTER 113

- Xi-feng repents of her former misdeeds, and entrusts her child to a village dame;  
Nightingale softens a long-standing animosity, and warms to her besotted master* 241

## CHAPTER 114

- Wang Xi-feng ends her life's illusion and returns to Jinling;  
Zhen Ying-jia receives the Emperor's favour and is summoned to the Palace* 256

## CHAPTER 115

- A private obsession revived confirms Xi-chun in an ancient vow;  
a physical likeness verified deprives Bao-yu of an imagined friend* 268

## CHAPTER 116

- Human destinies are revealed in a fairy realm, and the Stone is restored to its rightful owner;  
mortal remains are transported to their terrestrial home,  
and duty is discharged by a filial son* 284



## CHAPTER 117

*Two fair damsels conspire to save the jade, and forestall a flight  
from earthly bondage;  
an infamous rogue takes charge of the mansion, and assembles  
a gang of cronies*

301

## CHAPTER 118

*Provoked by a rankling antipathy, Uncle and Cousin plot the  
ruin of an innocent maid;  
alarmed by riddling utterances, Wife and Concubine remonstrate  
with their idiot master*

318

## CHAPTER 119

*Bao-yu becomes a Provincial Graduate and severs worldly ties;  
the House of Jia receives Imperial favour and renews ancestral  
glory*

385

## CHAPTER 120

*Zhen Shi-yin expounds the Nature of Passion and Illusion;  
and Jia Yu-cun concludes the Dream of Golden Days*

357

## CHARACTERS IN VOLUME 5

377

## GENEALOGICAL TABLES

384