

中学生浅易英汉对照读物⑪

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Stories from Ancient China

中国古代故事集

外语教学与研究出版社

中学生浅易英语读物

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中国古代故事集



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潘筠 译注

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中学生浅易英语读物

为满足中学生学习英语、增长知识的要求，本社将陆续编辑出版“中学生浅易英语读物”若干种。在内容、文字与编排等方面，均努力适应青少年读者的需要和特点。除中学生外，中小学英语教师、初学英语者都可以阅读，或用作教学辅助材料。

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中国古代故事集

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内 容 简 介

《中国古代故事集》共收故事七篇。其中《牛郎织女》、《龙王的女儿》(即《柳毅传书》)、《仙果》(即《狼外婆》)、《白蛇传》、《孔雀公主》是广大读者所熟悉的。《白斑海龟》、《兰珍珠》的故事情节也很生动有趣。本书用八百五十个英语词撰写,浅易明白,篇幅短小,适合中学学生和初级英语自学者阅读。书后附有参考译文和词汇表,可以帮助读者理解原文。

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THE WEAVING MAID AND THE COW-HERD

Chen Li took care of cows: he was a *cow-herd*. Although Chen Li was only a poor cow-herd, he had a magic cow. He went everywhere with his cow, for he loved it very much.

One day he set out to look for a wife, letting the cow lead him from place to place. At last the cow took him to a beautiful river. There was a bridge over the river: the bridge was called the Bridge of the Seven Fair Maidens. The cow stopped behind some trees several feet away from the river. Chen Li saw seven beautiful girls laughing and playing in the water.

"These are the seven daughters of the Kitchen God," said the magic cow.

Chen Li was afraid when he heard this, because the Kitchen God was a very powerful god.

"Don't be afraid," the cow said. "The Kitchen God lets them live on the earth like real people."

Then Chen Li pointed to the youngest of the maidens.

"That maiden is the most beautiful of all," he said.
"Who is she?"

"She is the youngest of the seven daughters," said the cow. "She is called the *Weaving Maid*, because she makes the clothes of all the gods."

Chen Li said, "How can I make the *Weaving Maid* my wife?"

"I will tell you how you may make her your wife," said the cow. "I will tell you a plan."

Chen Li listened carefully. Then he went quietly to the river and stole the clothes of the *Weaving Maid*.

The poor girl came out of the river and looked for her clothes, but she could not find them. Then she saw Chen Li holding them and she cried out. Her sisters ran away at the sight of the young cow-herd.

The *Weaving Maid* went to the young cow-herd and asked for her clothes: "Please give me my clothes. I will cook and wash for you if you will give me back my clothes."

So the *Weaving Maid* became Chen Li's wife, and cooked and washed for him. Soon she began to love him very much.

Chen Li and the *Weaving Maid* lived happily together near the river where they first met. Chen Li worked hard in the fields, while the *Weaving Maid*

washed and cooked. Even the magic cow was very happy.

Perhaps they were too happy. The cow-herd let his cows go where they liked. The Weaving Maid no longer remembered about making clothes for the gods. They cared only for each other.

The Queen of *Heaven* lived up in the sky with the other gods.

After three years the Queen of Heaven became very angry, for there was no-one to make her any new clothes. She sent her servants to the earth. She said, "Order the Weaving Maid to go back to her work!"

The poor Weaving Maid wept sadly because she had to leave Chen Li. She said to her father, the Kitchen God, "Please let me live with Chen Li on earth." But the Kitchen God would not listen to her. Even the Queen of Heaven was sad to see such unhappiness.

At last the great Kitchen God said, "Chen Li and the Weaving Maid may meet once a year on the seventh day of the seventh moon. On all the other days of the year they must not meet. But they may see each other across the river where they first met."

So the Weaving Maid crossed the Bridge of Fair Maidens to meet Chen Li on one day in every year.

When Chen Li died, the Kitchen God let him live

in heaven with the other gods. But the Queen of Heaven did not wish to have old clothes again. So she drew a line across the sky.

The Weaving Maid and the cow-herd lived on two *stars* in the sky. The Queen of Heaven had a beautiful *pin* in her hair — a hair-pin. She took her hair-pin and drew a line of stars across the sky between the two stars where the Weaving Maid and the cow-herd lived.

Today, this line of stars is called the Milky Way, and there are two small stars on each side of it. The Weaving Maid and the cow-herd can always see each other across the Milky Way,



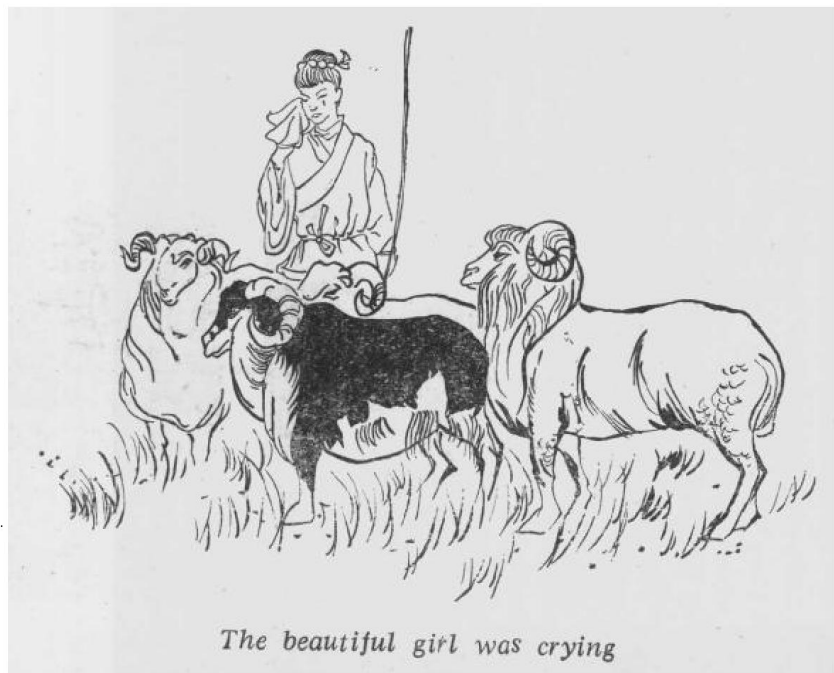
but they can meet only once every year. On the seventh night of the seventh moon, all the birds in the world fly high up in the sky and make a bridge of birds across the great Milky Way. The Weaving Maid runs over this bridge to meet Chen Li. If there are clouds in the sky on this night, the birds cannot make the bridge. Then the Weaving Maid and the cow-herd weep and their tears fall to the earth in the form of rain.

Anyone who sits under an old tree on this night can hear the sound of weeping as the Weaving Maid and Chen Li go back to their stars for another year.



THE DRAGON KING'S DAUGHTER

There was once a poor man called Liu Yee. He studied very hard. At last he went to the big city for his examinations, but he did not pass them. As he sadly walked back home, he saw a beautiful girl. The girl was watching her *sheep* on a small hill near the road. When he came nearer, Liu noticed that she was



The beautiful girl was crying

crying.

Liu asked her, "Why are you so sad?"

The girl answered, "I am the youngest daughter of the Dragon King of the Lake of Tung Ting. I was married to the Dragon King of the River Ching several years ago. His servants told untrue stories about me, and the king believed them. He beat me and made me look after his sheep."

Then Liu looked more carefully and saw that the sheep were not the same as other sheep.

"Those sheep are not like other sheep," he said. "What are they?"

"They are called rain sheep," answered the girl. "The Dragon King of the River uses these sheep to make rain."

Only dragons are able to cause rain in China; so Liu knew now that the girl really was the daughter of the Dragon King of the Lake.

"Please give this letter to my father," said the girl.

"But how can I find your father?" asked Liu

"On the north side of the Lake of Tung Ting there is an old tree. If you hit this tree three times, a soldier will come and lead you to my father."

Liu took the letter and set out on his journey again.

When he reached the north side of the Lake of

Tung Ting, he looked around and saw the old tree. He hit the tree three times; then a soldier came.

"Come with me," said the soldier; then he held out his arm. The lake was cut into two parts to form a road. The soldier led Liu down the road.

Liu went down and down. At the bottom of the lake was a beautiful palace. The top of the palace was made of gold, and there were jewels in all the walls. As Liu came nearer, the big doors opened and he found himself in a large hall. At the end of the hall he saw the Dragon King with many servants on both sides of him.

"The Dragon King wants to know why you are here," said one of the servants.

"I have brought a letter from his daughter," answered Liu.

"Give the letter to the king," ordered another servant.

"Can the Dragon King not speak?" asked Liu. He hoped that no-one would think that he was afraid.

"The great Dragon King does not wish to speak to men like you," said the servants. "He speaks only to other kings."

Liu gave the letter to the King and watched him carefully as he read it. He saw the king's face grow sad as he learnt of his daughter's unhappiness.

"Go to the River Ching as quickly as you can," he ordered his soldiers, "and set my daughter free."

Then the Dragon King turned to Liu. He said, "I thank you for bringing this letter. Rest here in the Palace before you begin your journey back to your home."

Just at sunset a loud noise awakened Liu. A servant called him to go to the Dragon King.

Liu went into the hall. There he saw the beautiful daughter of the Dragon King. As soon as she saw Liu, she ran up to him and thanked him. She asked her father to give Liu something.

The Dragon King thought for a long time before he spoke.

"You have helped us very much, young man. I shall give you something which is much better than money," he said. "My army has killed the bad Dragon King of the River Ching, so now you may marry my daughter."

Liu was very surprised when he heard these words. He did not wish to marry the daughter of any Dragon King. He looked at the girl.

"I shall be very happy to become your wife," she said.

Liu did not stay to hear any more. He turned and ran away.

A few years later Liu married a girl in his own town:

but the girl died soon after the marriage. Liu married again: his second wife also died. Liu was very unhappy. He wanted to have a child of his own, but he had none.

At last he married a third time. This time his wife did not die, but lived and gave him a son. Liu loved his wife very much, for she was beautiful and gentle and kind.

One day, when Liu was holding his small son in his arms, his wife spoke to him.

"I am so pleased that I have given you a son and that you are happy now," she said. "I wanted to find a way to pay you back for helping me."

"What do you mean?" said Liu.

She said softly, "Don't you know that I am the daughter of the Dragon King?"

THE FAIRY NUTS

Once upon a time a mother lived with her three children near a forest. The children were called Seng, Tou, and Po Ki. Seng was the eldest child and often looked after her younger sisters.

One day their mother said, "I am going to visit your grandmother; she lives on the other side of the forest. It is a long journey, so I shall not come back until tomorrow morning."

"Take care of your two sisters, Seng," she said before she left. "Stay in the house and don't let anyone come in."

"Bring back something nice for us, mother," cried Tou and Po Ki.

An old *wolf* saw the mother leave the house. When it grew dark, the wolf came to the door of the children's house. He made himself look like their grandmother.

"Who is it?" the children asked.

The wolf answered, "Open the door for your poor old grandmother."



"But our mother has gone to see you," said Seng.

"We missed each other on the way," said the wolf.

"Perhaps she went by another road."

Seng did not really believe the wolf.

"Grandmother, your voice does not sound the same," she said. But the other two children ran and opened the door.

The wolf quickly stepped inside the house and blew out the light so that the children could not see his face.

"Why did you blow out the light, grandmother?" asked Seng, as she pulled up a chair for her grandmother to sit on.

The wolf did not answer. Then he cried out with pain as he sat on his own tail.

The three children asked, "What's the matter, grand-