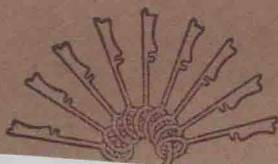


初中學生文庫

漢文註釋

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中華書局

# LITTLE THUMB

*With Notes in Chinese*

BY

DAU SZU YIN



# Little Thumb

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## CHAPTER I

### How Dame Frog Stole Little Thumb

Once upon a time, an old witch went to the house of a poor woman, and asked for<sup>1</sup> something to eat. The woman gave her some bread and milk. When she had eaten it, the witch took a seed out of her pocket,<sup>2</sup> and said, "I will give you this. Sow it<sup>3</sup> in a flower-pot, and see what will come of it."

The woman did as she was told,<sup>4</sup> and by the next day a tall flower had shot up. It looked just like<sup>5</sup> a tulip, but the leaves were shut, as if it were<sup>6</sup> still in bud.

"What a pretty flower!" said the woman, as she kissed the small red and yellow leaves.

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1. Asked for 乞求. 2. Took (a seed) out of her pocket 從彼袋中取出一花子. 3. Sow it 即 You sow it. 4. The woman did as she was told, 此婦依所受之諄囑行事. 5. Looked just like, 形狀恰似. 6. As if it were 幾似.

Just at that moment,<sup>1</sup> the flower flew open with a loud noise, showing in the middle of it a lovely little girl. She<sup>2</sup> was not half so big as my thumb, and so the woman called her "Little Thumb".

Her cradle was a pretty nut-shell; her bed was made of<sup>3</sup> blue violet-leaves; her quilt was a rose-leaf. At night she slept in her cradle,<sup>4</sup> but during the day she played upon the table.

Here the woman used to set<sup>5</sup> a plate filled with water, and having flowers all round the edge. A lily-leaf floated on the water, and on this Little Thumb used to sit, and row herself from one side of the plate to the other.<sup>6</sup> Oh! how pretty she looked, and how sweetly she sang!

One night, as she lay in<sup>7</sup> her nice little bed, a fat, yellow frog hopped in at the window, in which<sup>8</sup> there was a broken pane. The frog came and stood by her cradle, and looked at her.

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1. Just at that moment 適於彼時, 即指吻紅黃小葉之時. 2. She 指 girl. She was not half so big as my thumb 此女孩之大不及余之大指之半. 3. Made of 製之以. 4. Slept in her cradle 睡於彼之搖籃中. 5. Used to 習以爲常. 6. From one side... to the other 從此邊至彼邊. 7. Lay in 睡於. 8. Which 指 window.

“What a lovely wife she would make for my son!” said old Dame Frog. So saying, she took up the nut-shell in which Little Thumb lay, and hopped away with it, through the broken pane, down into the garden.

At the foot of the garden ran a stream with muddy banks, and it was here that the frog lived with her son. He, too, was all spotted with green and yellow, and all that he could say, when he saw the pretty maiden, was, “Croak! Croak!”

“Don’t make such a noise, or you may wake her,” said the old frog. “If you give her a fright, she may run away from us, for she is as light as swan’s down.

“We will take her out on the river, and set her on a water-lily leaf. She is so light that<sup>1</sup> it will bear her up quite well, and she cannot get away from it. While she is there, we will get ready<sup>2</sup> the house in the mud in which you are to live.”<sup>3</sup>

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1. So...that 如是之。一甚至。

2. Will get ready 將欲預備。

3. You are to live 汝將居住。

There were a great many water-lilies in the river, with broad, green leaves, which seemed to float upon the water. The old frog swam to a very large leaf a long way out, and placed upon it the nut-shell with Little Thumb in it.

## CHAPTER II

### **How Little Thumb Got Away from Dame Frog**

The poor little thing woke quite early next morning. When she saw where she was,<sup>1</sup> she began to cry, for there was water on every side of her, and she could not get to land.

The old frog sat down in the mud, and decked the house with rushes and yellow flowers, for she wanted it to look nice<sup>2</sup> when her son's wife came. After this was done, she and her fat son swam away to the lily-leaf where Little Thumb was, that they might fetch her pretty little bed, and so have everything ready before she herself came to the house.

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1. When she saw where she was=When she saw the place where she was 見其所在之處。 2. Look nice 美觀。

The old frog bowed<sup>1</sup> low to her, and said, "This is my son, whom I wish you to marry. You shall live in our pretty house down in the mud."

"Croak, croak," said the son, for that was all that he could say.

So they took the pretty little bed, and swam away with it. Little Thumb sat all alone on the green leaf and cried, for she did not wish to live with the yellow frog, nor to marry her ugly son.

The little fishes which swam about in the river had seen the frog, and had heard what she said, so they put their heads out of the water to look at<sup>2</sup> the little girl.

Finding her so pretty, they felt very sorry that she should have to go<sup>3</sup> down into the mud, and live with the frog. "No, that must never be!" they said. So they came round the green leaf on which she stood, and bit through the stalk, so that the leaf floated down the river, where the frog could not reach it.<sup>4</sup>

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1. Bowed: [注意] 應讀 (boud) 普. 2. Look at 注目; 看. 3. Have to go 必須去. 4. Could not reach (it) 不能伸及 (彼青葉).



A pretty white butterfly flew round about her, and at last<sup>1</sup> came on to the leaf. Little Thumb took off her sash, tied one end of it to the butterfly, and the other end to the leaf.<sup>2</sup> In this way she went faster than ever, for the butterfly pulled the leaf along as it flew.

Oh, how happy she felt, as she sailed down the river! On both sides of her lay green fields, and the sun shone upon the water, and made it look like gold.<sup>3</sup>

## CHAPTER III

### Among the Stag-beetles

As Little Thumb was sailing on, a large stag-beetle came flying towards her. He stopped for a moment to look at her, then put his claws around her slender waist, and flew up with her into a tree.

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1. At last 最後.    2. Tied one end of it to the butterfly, and the other end to the leaf=tied one end of it to the butterfly, and *tied* the other end to the leaf. tied 一字前既已有, 可不再用.    3. The sun shone upon the water, and made it look like gold=The sun shone upon the water, and the sun made it look like gold.

Poor Little Thumb, how afraid she was! But she was more afraid for the butterfly, for she had tied it to the leaf, and it could not get loose.

But the stag-beetle did not care about that at all.<sup>1</sup> He sat down upon one of the leaves of the tree, and gave her some honey to eat. "You are very pretty," he said, "though not at all like a stag-beetle."

Before long,<sup>2</sup> all the other stag-beetles that lived in the tree came to see her. They looked at her, and touched her with their feelers. "Why, she has only two legs!" they said. "And what a thin waist she has! Why, she is just like a girl!" "How ugly she is!"<sup>3</sup> said the lady stag-beetles.

They said this so often that the beetle which had carried her off began to think so himself. Flying down with her out of the tree, he set her upon a daisy, and left her.

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1. Did not care about that at all 毫不當心彼事; not.....at all= 毫不; care about 當心; care 常與 about 同用. 2. Before long 不久.

3. How ugly she is! 此係感歎語, 不作 How ugly is she!

There she sat and cried, because the stag-beetles said she was ugly, and would have nothing to do with her.<sup>1</sup> And yet she was more lovely than<sup>2</sup> you can think, with blue eyes, tiny ears, and cheeks like pink rose-leaves.

All that summer<sup>3</sup> poor Little Thumb lived all alone in the great wood. She wove herself a bed of grass, and hung it under a big leaf, so that<sup>4</sup> the rain could not fall upon it. She ate of the honey of the flowers, and drank of the dew which shone every morning on the grass.

Thus passed the summer and the autumn; but now came winter—the long, cold winter. The birds which had sung her such sweet songs were all flown away; the flowers were dead, and the trees had lost their leaves. The large leaf under which she dwelt dried up, and became nothing but<sup>5</sup> a yellow stalk.

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1. Nothing to do with her. 與彼斷絕關係. 2. More.....  
than 勝於. 3. All that summer, 全夏. 4. So that 以致. 5. But  
不過.

She was cold, too, for her clothes<sup>1</sup> were in rags.<sup>2</sup> When the snow came, she was almost frozen to death, and though she crept into a dry leaf, it was not thick enough to keep her warm.

## CHAPTER IV

### In the Field-mouse's Home

Close beside the wood there was a large field in which corn had been grown. Little Thumb crept into this field one day, and came to the door of a field-mouse's home. The field-mouse dwelt snug and warm in a cave in the earth, with whole rooms full of corn.

"Will you please give me something to eat?" said Little Thumb, as she stood just inside the door. "I have eaten nothing for two whole days."

"Poor little thing," said the field-mouse; "come into my warm room, and have some dinner."<sup>3</sup> "How kind she is!" thought Little Thumb.

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1. Clothes 衣; plural number, 當讀 (klōthz). Cloths 布; plural number, 當讀作 (klōth). Singular number: clothe 衣 (klōth), cloth 布 (klōth). 2. rags 碎布. 3. Have some dinner—you have some dinner 稍用些膳.

The more the field-mouse looked at the little girl, the more she liked her.<sup>1</sup> "If you will be my little maid, and keep my house neat and clean, you shall stay with me all winter," said the field-mouse. "You must tell me all the tales you know, for I am very fond of<sup>2</sup> them."

Little Thumb was only too glad to<sup>3</sup> stay, and as she did her work very well, she was as happy as could be.<sup>4</sup>

"Before long, some one will come to see us," said the field-mouse one day. "A friend comes to see me once a week.<sup>5</sup> He is much better off<sup>6</sup> than I am;<sup>7</sup> he has a large house, and always wears a grand fur coat.

"If you could get him to marry you, you would do very well. But as he is blind, he will not know how pretty you are, so you must charm him by telling him your nicest tales, and singing your sweetest songs."

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1. The more the field-mouse looked at the girl, the more she liked her 此田鼠愈看愈愛此女孩。 2. Very fond of 甚愛, 甚喜。 3. Only to=very 甚, 非常。 4. As happy as could be 極人生之樂事。 5. Once a week 每星期一次。 6. Better off 境況較優。 7. He is much better off than I am. 他境況較優於余。

But Little Thumb did not wish to marry him, for he was only a mole. He came in his grand fur coat,<sup>1</sup> and Little Thumb had to sing to him. She sang so sweetly, that he fell in love with her at once,<sup>2</sup> though he did not say so.

He had lately dug a long tunnel through the earth, between his house and theirs; and in this he gave Little Thumb and the field-mouse leave<sup>3</sup> to walk. "But you must not be afraid of a dead bird which lies there," he said, "for it can do you no harm."<sup>4</sup>

Taking in his mouth a piece of touch-wood, which shines in the dark just like fire, he went before them, to light them in the long, dark tunnel. When they came to the place where the dead bird lay, the mole set his broad nose to the roof of the tunnel, and soon made a large hole, through which the light could shine.

In the middle of the floor they saw a dead swallow, with its wings pressed close to its sides.

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1. He came in his grand fur coat 他衣美麗之皮衣而來. 2. He fell in love with her at once. 彼即與他有情. 3. Leave 允許. 4. Do you no harm 於汝無害.

It had died of cold,<sup>1</sup> for its feet were drawn in under its feathers. Little Thumb felt very sorry, for she was fond of birds, and they had sung to her all the summer.

But the mole pushed the bird aside with his short legs, and began to stop up the hole he had made. "It will sing no more," he said. "What a pity it is to be born a bird! It can do nothing but sing and fly, and in winter it may die of hunger."<sup>2</sup>

"You may well say so," said the field-mouse. "What does the bird get by all its singing? When winter comes, it may be frozen to death! And yet how proud birds are!"

Little Thumb said nothing, but when the others turned their backs, she bent over the bird, put aside the feathers which lay about its head, and kissed its closed eyes. "Poor little thing," she said; "perhaps it is the same swallow that I saw so often near the wood."

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1. Died of cold 凍死.    2. May die of hunger 或將餓死.

## CHAPTER V

**How the Frozen Bird Came to  
Life Again**

That night Little Thumb could not sleep, so she got up,<sup>1</sup> and wove a small mat of hay. This she took down and spread over the dead bird. She also laid some soft wool around it, that it might lie warm in the cold earth.

"Good-bye, pretty little bird," she said. "Good-bye, and many thanks for all your help in the summer, when the trees were green, and the sun shone warm upon us!"

With this she laid her head upon the bird's breast, but soon raised it again, for she felt something move. What could it be? It was the bird's heart. The poor thing was not dead; it had only been in a swoon,<sup>2</sup> and now, on being warmed, it had come back to life.

In the autumn, the swallows fly away to warm lands, and if one stays behind, it becomes

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1. Got up 起身. 2. In a swoon 昏倒.



stiff with cold. It falls to the ground as if it were dead, and the winter's snow covers it.

When the bird moved, Little Thumb was very much afraid, for to her it seemed a very big bird. But she made herself be brave, and tucked the wool all round the poor thing, and laid on its head the quilt from her own bed.

The next night she went to see the swallow again. It was still very weak, but it opened its eyes a little as she came near it.

"Let me thank you, pretty little girl, for all your kindness. You have warmed me so nicely, that I shall soon be quite strong again, and shall be able to fly out into the warm sunshine."

"Ah," said she, "it is still very cold out-of-doors.<sup>1</sup> The ground is quite hard, and it snows at times. Stop in your warm bed, and I will nurse you."

When she had brought the swallow some water in a flower-leaf, it told her its story. It had hurt one of its wings on a thorn-bush, and had not been able to fly so well as the other

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1. Out-of-doors 戶外, 露天.