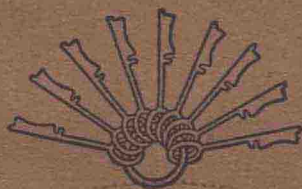


初中學生文庫

漢文註釋

巨 嬰 傳

編 者 李 虞 杰



THE GIANT BABY



# The Giant Baby

One cold afternoon in January,<sup>1</sup> many years ago, a poor farmer named<sup>2</sup> Roger was ploughing his field.<sup>3</sup> A bitter wind<sup>4</sup> blew through his clothing,<sup>5</sup> and rattled<sup>6</sup> the brown leaves still shivering<sup>7</sup> on the oak-trees.<sup>8</sup>

The soil was heavy, and Roger could scarcely<sup>9</sup> drive the ploughshare<sup>10</sup> through the stiff clods;<sup>11</sup> though he put forth all his strength,<sup>12</sup> he could not keep himself warm. At the head of the field<sup>13</sup> he stopped, both to stamp<sup>14</sup> his cold feet and to blow<sup>15</sup> on his purple fingers,<sup>16</sup> before the oxen<sup>17</sup> turned the plough for a fresh furrow.<sup>18</sup>

Roger glanced over his shoulder<sup>19</sup> at the rooks<sup>20</sup> following him on foot and wing,<sup>21</sup> prompt<sup>22</sup> to pounce upon<sup>23</sup> and devour worm<sup>24</sup> or grub<sup>25</sup>

1. January 正月. 2. named 名曰. 3. was ploughing his field 方犁其田. 4. bitter wind 烈風. 5. clothing 衣服. 6. rattled 使發刮辣聲. 7. shivering 發抖; 戰慄. 8. oak-tree 橡樹. 9. could scarcely 難能. 10. ploughshare 犁鏵. 11. stiff clod 堅結之泥土. 12. put forth all his strength 用其全力. 13. head of the field 田端. 14. stamp 頓足. 15. blow 呼氣, (指自口中呼出熱氣). 16. purple fingers 紫色之手指. 17. oxen 乃 ox 之複數. 18. fresh furrow 另一犁溝. 19. glanced over his shoulder 掉首回顧. 20. rooks 烏鴉. 21. on foot and wing 或步或飛. 22. prompt 敏捷. 23. pounce upon 抓住. 24. worm 小蟲. 25. grub 蛴螬.

turned up<sup>1</sup> by the shining ploughshare. The farmer was hungry, and the rooks were hungry too; so much they had in common.<sup>2</sup> He drove the ploughshare deep for their sakes,<sup>3</sup> as he thought, 'I am Providence<sup>4</sup> to these birds, and give them food; and sure am I there is a Providence that will give me my food, if I work hard, and do not lose heart.'<sup>5</sup>

As he toiled on, he began to whistle,<sup>6</sup> and to think of<sup>7</sup> all the lucky men he had known, or of whom he had heard.<sup>8</sup> There was once<sup>9</sup> a man ploughing, as Roger himself was doing, when he struck on<sup>10</sup> an old iron pot in a deep furrow, with a king's ransom of broad gold pieces in it, and was wealthy ever after.<sup>11</sup>

But Roger remembered that the man's sons never did an honest day's work<sup>12</sup> among them after their father became rich. They spent their

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\* 1. turned up 發現; 翻起. 2. so much they had in common = they had so much in common 彼等具有如許同樣之點. (均指饑餓而言). 3. for their sakes 因彼等之故. 4. Providence 上帝. 5. lose heart 氣沮, 落膽. 6. whistle 作嘯聲. 7. think of 念及. 8. of whom he had heard 曾耳熟者. 9. once 有一次. 10. struck on 觸着, 碰到. 11. Ever after 此後. 12. never...work 不務正業.

lives in quarrelling over the treasure<sup>1</sup> they had neither earned nor deserved,<sup>2</sup> and small good it did them.

All the folk<sup>3</sup> he could think of<sup>4</sup> that had come into sudden good fortune<sup>5</sup> had had a stone in the other pocket to balance<sup>6</sup> it; and Roger thankfully remembered that if he was not so well fed as some people, at least<sup>7</sup> he was happy, with his three merry children and his thrifty<sup>8</sup> wife Joan.

The cold grew stronger. A red glow<sup>9</sup> in the west marked<sup>10</sup> where the sun was setting below the bare horizon.<sup>11</sup> It would soon be too dark to see, and he must leave his task unfinished.<sup>12</sup> Roger wished he had had more oxen to his plough, until he remembered that cattle must be fed, and that at the farm food was scanty<sup>13</sup> both for man and beast.

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1. quarrelling...treasure. 因爭財而吵鬧. 2. ~~deserved~~ 應得. 3. ~~the~~ = people. 4. he...of = whom he...of 彼能憶及者. 5. that ~~1. fortune~~ 驟發大財者. 6. balance 平均 (此句即: “福兮禍所倚, 禍兮福所伏”之意). 7. at least 至少. 8. thrifty 節儉. 9. red glow 紅光. 10. ~~marked~~ 表出. 11. horizon 天地交接之處; 地平線. 12. ~~unfinished~~ 未竟. 13. scanty 不敷 缺少.

Roger was ploughing the last furrow by the light of the red sunset, with the keen wind piercing him to the bone,<sup>1</sup> when he heard a sound that made him stand still<sup>2</sup> and listen.

Had it been springtime,<sup>3</sup> he would have said it was a stray calf<sup>4</sup> bellowing<sup>5</sup> for its mother. But calves there were none in January. Then the cry, though loud as an animal's,<sup>6</sup> had a strangely human sound<sup>7</sup> in Roger's fatherly<sup>8</sup> ear, and he thought that perhaps it came from lost<sup>9</sup> and frightened children.

He set off to the rescue,<sup>10</sup> and the cause of the outcry<sup>11</sup> was not far to seek. Under the hedge in the dry ditch, half-covered<sup>12</sup> by withered bracken,<sup>13</sup> lay the biggest baby-boy the farmer had ever seen,<sup>14</sup> with eyes shut, nose wrinkled up,<sup>15</sup> and screaming hard with a square mouth.

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1. the...bone 寒風砭骨. 2. stand still 停止, 靜立. 3. springtime 春天, 春日. 4. stray calf 迷路之小牛. 5. bellowing 牛鳴. 6. animal's=animal's cry 動物之呼聲. 7. human sound 人聲. 8. fatherly 慈愛. 9. lost 走失; 迷途. 10. set off to the rescue 出發往救. 11. outcry 呼號. 12. half-covered 一半遮蓋. 13. withered bracken 凋萎之蕨. 14. the...seen 農人見所未見者. 15. wrinkle up 縮起.

The child was as tall as, and much fatter than, Roger's youngest girl of six years old; but for all that,<sup>1</sup> it was a bald, toothless<sup>2</sup> baby, that could only lie on its broad back and bellow.

The good farmer was frightened by the strange, big little baby. But he felt sorry for it; he could not leave it to die of cold<sup>3</sup> in the night, and he scrambled down<sup>4</sup> into the dry ditch to the helpless creature.

Taking it up in his arms (and what a load<sup>5</sup> it was to carry!), he wrapped its rags<sup>6</sup> about it, and set it down in the furrow, while he loosed<sup>7</sup> the oxen from the plough. He then picked it up again, and set off with it for home, the tired beasts following him.

The big baby roared in his ear, till Roger was deaf and dizzy.<sup>8</sup> It choked<sup>9</sup> him with its strong, fat arms round his neck, and tried to suck<sup>10</sup> one of his fingers down its wide throat.

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1. for all that=nevertheless. 2. toothless 無齒. 3. die of cold 凍死. 4. scrambled down 匍匐下去. 5. load 重載. 6. rags 破布 (its 指 baby's). 7. loosed 放鬆; 解放. 8. till...dizzy 一俟羅傑爲之耳聾頭暈. 9. choked 扼喉. 壅塞氣息. 10. suck 吮.



‘It would be no joke<sup>1</sup> to be your mother and nurse,’ said he, stumbling<sup>2</sup> over the furrows with his heavy burden.

The thing grew heavier and heavier; and Roger, thinking that it must be a big lazy boy that could walk and talk if it would, stopped to set the child on its feet.<sup>3</sup> But it was really only a huge<sup>4</sup> baby, that said ‘Ba! ba! boo!’<sup>5</sup> in a big voice, and rolled over like a sack of potatoes.<sup>6</sup>

The farmer took up his load again, and strode out<sup>7</sup> manfully through the cold wind. Though he could not keep himself warm with ploughing, the sweat now ran down his face. His wife opened the door for him, and Roger, staggering<sup>8</sup> into the kitchen, set down his clumsy,<sup>9</sup> roaring burden on the settle<sup>10</sup> by the fire.

‘What in the name of wonder<sup>11</sup> have you brought home with you?’ asked his wife, while the children gathered round the half-naked<sup>12</sup> creature.

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1. no joke 非戲謔. 2. stumbling 蹣跚. 3. set...feet 使小孩立直 (即使小孩立在地上步行之意). 4. huge 巨大. 5. Ba! ba! boo 係未能言語小孩之哭聲, 別無他意. 6. a sack of potatoes 一袋山芋. 7. strode out 大步而行. 8. staggering 蹣跚; 搖擺. 9. clumsy 蠢笨. 10. settle 高背長椅. 11. in the name of wonder 以神怪之名義 “in the name of” 以...名義. 12. half-naked 半裸.

‘You can see for yourself, can’t you? It’s a poor baby I found in the dry ditch at the top of the Ten Acre Field,<sup>1</sup> and as no Christian<sup>2</sup> could leave it there to starve, I heaved it up,<sup>3</sup> and brought it home.’

‘But that’s no baby,’ said Joan shrilly.<sup>4</sup> ‘It’s as big as a six-year-old child, and stronger too, judging by the noise it makes.’<sup>5</sup>

So saying, she thrust a piece of bread into the big, square mouth, to quiet it for a minute.<sup>6</sup> ‘We can’t hear ourselves speak for its noise,’ she said. ‘Baby indeed!’<sup>7</sup>

‘I tell you, wife, that it is really a baby. I know it to my cost,<sup>8</sup> for I thought a great thing like that could walk if it would, and when its weight was nearly breaking my back, I plumped it down on its feet, and loosed my hold.’<sup>9</sup>

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1. Ten Acre Field 田名 (直譯之即 “十畝田”). 2. Christian 耶穌教徒. 3. heaved up 舉起. 4. shrilly 尖聲; 清音. 5. judging...makes 從彼所發之聲音而斷. 6. to...minute 使之稍靜. 7. Baby indeed! 尙稱嬰孩耶. 有不信爲 baby 之意. 8. I...cost 我確知 (含有一種 “急切” 之態度). “to one’s cost” 之本意, 即 “有性命之虞.” 此處 “to my cost” 似含 “可以余之性命爲孤注” 之意. 9. loosed my hold 釋手; 放手.

‘But it sank in a heap;<sup>1</sup> it can no more stand alone than a bolster.<sup>2</sup> Oh, it’s certainly a baby, bald as a jug;<sup>3</sup> it hasn’t a tooth in its cavern of a mouth, and roars instead of speaking.’

‘Well, it is a baby that will suck our best cow dry in a week. It’s hard enough to feed our own children, without your bringing home a hungry thing<sup>4</sup> like that. So just take it back where you found it, and leave it there,’ said his wife.

The farmer’s son Giles, a boy of ten, was standing by the big baby eating his supper,<sup>5</sup> when it snatched<sup>6</sup> the large piece of bread and cheese from him, bolted<sup>7</sup> it at a gulp,<sup>8</sup> and held out its big hand for more.

‘There, look at that! Did you ever see the like?’ Take the creature away, I say.’

‘No, wife, I can’t do that,’ said Roger, good-humouredly. ‘I like its greedy ways no better than you do; but you wouldn’t turn a dog out<sup>10</sup> on a night like this. If you’d found the child

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1. heap 一堆; 一團. 2. bolster 長枕. 3. jug 壺, 瓶. 4. hungry thing=scanty thing 指巨兒. 5. eating his supper 方事晚膳. 6. snatched 搶奪. 7. bolted 不嚼而嚥. 8. at a gulp 一吞. 9. the like=the boys like it. 10. turn out 驅出, 逐出.

lying out in the cold, with scarcely a rag to its back, and the wind blowing razors,<sup>1</sup> you'd have brought it home yourself, if you'd had the strength to carry it. Come, wife, don't be cross.<sup>2</sup> Give the child some milk while I eat my supper.'

'Here, Joyce,' said her mother to the eldest girl, 'put that cup of milk to the child's mouth, and see what it will do with it.'

The big baby drained<sup>3</sup> the cup at a draught,<sup>4</sup> then dashed<sup>5</sup> it to the floor, and roared for more.

Joan was furious, and her husband looked serious. The big baby had drunk as much milk as Giles took at a meal.<sup>6</sup> The poor farmer thought that perhaps it would have been better for his own children if he had not listened to the big baby's cries of distress;<sup>7</sup> yet how could he have hardened his heart against the poor outcast?<sup>8</sup>

So, thinking aloud, he said, 'You see, Joan, there was no choice; I was obliged<sup>9</sup> to bring it

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1. the ...razors 風利如刀.      2. cross 刻薄; 反對.      3. drained 飲乾.  
4. at a draught 一口.      5. dashed 打碎.      6. at a meal 一餐.  
7. cries of distress 困苦之呼號.      8. outcast 被棄者.      9. obliged = compelled 迫於.

home. But I wish it had been a tiny Tom Thumb;<sup>1</sup> then we shouldn't have missed the little it would have eaten."

'Yes, and Tom Thumb would have been a plaything for the children; but this Tom Bull,<sup>2</sup> as you may call him for his size and his noise, is enough to bring a famine in the place.'

'Well, now you've named the child, we are bound<sup>3</sup> to keep him. Depend upon it, we shall be none the poorer<sup>4</sup> for trying to fill that big mouth.—Shall we, Meg?' As he said this, the farmer, who was eating his supper, turned to his daughter Meg, a little girl of six years old, and popped<sup>5</sup> a bit of bacon<sup>6</sup> into her mouth.

The mother was now somewhat softened, but still she must say, 'I'm afraid there won't be so much bacon on father's plate when Tom Bull begins to eat. It will be fat boy and lean larder<sup>7</sup> then, and our own children will go short,<sup>8</sup> to puff

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1. Tom 係 Thomas 之略，爲一種非常普通之徽號，與 Jack 同，別無他意，此處 Tom Thumb 即指巨嬰而言，意即彼小人。 2. Tom Bull 亦指巨嬰，意即“蠢牛。” 3. bound=under necessity, or necessary. 4. none the poorer=not the poorer. 5. popped 急推。 6. a bit of bacon 一小塊醃肉。 7. lean larder 若直譯之，則爲“瘦弱之伙食房，”意即“空空如也之伙食房耳。” 8. go short 短少；缺少。

and swell one that is none of ours. Roger, you've brought in a two-legged cuckoo<sup>1</sup> that will thrust the home-birds<sup>2</sup> out of the nest.'

'When did you last<sup>3</sup> see a cuckoo that hadn't two legs?' asked the farmer, with his mouth full of bacon and his face lit up by a smile.<sup>4</sup>

'You know what I mean, Roger. That great fat thing is a human cuckoo in the nest, and it will very likely kick our children out.'

Little Meg was amusing herself measuring the big baby's hand against her own,<sup>5</sup> and it was every way<sup>6</sup> bigger and fatter than hers.

Suddenly she ran laughing to her father's side. 'Oh father, I've such a funny thought!'

'Then tell it to me, my little girl.'

Leaning her curly head against him, and pointing at the foundling,<sup>7</sup> she said, 'Father, what a thing it would be if that was a giant's baby you've brought home!'

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1. cuckoo 催耕鳥. 2. home-birds 家禽. 3. last 前次, 乃 adverb.  
4. his face...smile 笑容滿面. 5. measuring...own 以己手比大孩之手.  
6. every way=completely 完全. 7. foundling 棄孩.

The farmer and his wife laughed till they cried at their little daughter's funny thought, and it quite restored her mother's good humour.<sup>1</sup>

'I think we can afford to chance its being a young giant',<sup>2</sup> she said, 'and do our best by Tom Bull,<sup>3</sup> though we should love him more if there wasn't so much of him.'

Every member of the family ate less that Tom Bull might have enough. Even then he was always hungry, and clamouring<sup>4</sup> for more. Then it took so much stuff<sup>5</sup> to clothe him! Three ells<sup>6</sup> of green frieze<sup>7</sup> would not nearly cover him.

But everything about him was big. When he cut his teeth,<sup>8</sup> they were so huge that they frightened Joan; his hands were so large that no gloves<sup>9</sup> could be found to cover them; and he had such a big waist to hold a big stomach-ache<sup>10</sup> that it was terrible.

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1. good humour 好脾氣. 2. I think...giant=I suppose it must be a young giant. 3. do our best by Tom Bull=called it Tom Bull.  
4. clamouring 大呼. 5. stuff 衣料. 6. ell 尺度名 (四十五英寸).  
7. frieze 一面毛之絨布. 8. cut his teeth 生齒. 9. gloves 手套.  
10. stomach-ache 胃病.

The cradle<sup>1</sup> was too small for him, and so he slept on the kitchen settle; and when he grew older he behaved<sup>2</sup> like the cuckoo, and pushed Meg out of her warm bed one night, and got into her place.

Tom was so heavy that Joan could not lift him, and so strong that she dared not punish him when he was naughty.<sup>3</sup> If he had not had a good heart, and loved Roger very much, he would have grown up with the manners and conduct of an unbroken colt.<sup>4</sup>

Before the big baby had been very long with Roger and Joan, things began to look better at the farm. The cows yielded<sup>5</sup> more milk, so that while Tom Bull drank gallons,<sup>6</sup> the children of the house did not go short. The sheep had two lambs each instead of one; their wool grew thicker and heavier, and sold for more money. A swarm<sup>7</sup> of bees settled in the thatched<sup>8</sup> roof, and the children had plenty of honey to eat with their bread.

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1. cradle 搖籃. 2. behaved 行爲. 3. naughty 頑皮. 4. unbroken colt 不羈之小馬. 5. yielded 產出. 6. gallons 加侖 (量名) drank gallons = drank gallons of milk. 7. swarm 一羣. 8. thatched 蓋草的.



The following year<sup>1</sup> the harvest was abundant;<sup>2</sup> and the old hens, that were to have been boiled with bacon in the winter, because they were fit for nothing else, ran about clucking,<sup>3</sup> ‘I’ve laid an egg!’ I’ve laid an egg!’ What was more, they clucked the truth.

They laid eggs by dozens and scores,<sup>4</sup> and Joan carried baskets full to market, besides having plenty for use in the house.

‘Now, dear wife,’ said the farmer, ‘I told you when I brought the big baby home, that we shouldn’t be the poorer for trying to fill his big mouth with food. See, Providence has not only helped us to feed him, but ourselves as well,<sup>5</sup> we have never been so prosperous<sup>6</sup> before.’<sup>7</sup>

‘Tom Bull has brought us good luck, and it was a blessing that I heard him roaring in the ditch, and a blessing that no giant father or mother has come to claim<sup>8</sup> him, and take him away from us.’

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1. following year 來年; 次年. 2. abundant 富饒. 3. clucking 雞鳴聲. 4. score 二十 by scores 喻其多也. 5. as well = also 亦. 6. prosperous 興旺. 7. before 從前. 此處係 adverb. 8. claim 要求 (即要求領還之意).