

初中學生文庫

漢文註釋

天方夜談別集

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Other Arabian Nights

THE WIFE WHO BOUGHT HERSELF A NAME

Once upon a time¹ there was a very simple² woman whose name was Khadijah.³ One day a travelling magician⁴ came through the streets of the town in which she lived, crying out: "New names for sale!⁵ New names for sale!" and Khadijah heard him. So she opened her window and called down to him:

"What do you charge for a new name?"⁶

Said the magician: "I ask only a thousand *piasters!*"⁷ It did not seem too much for the simple woman.

"Can I choose any name I like if I buy?" she asked.

"Indeed you can," answered the magician, heartily.⁸ "You can choose any name you wish—

1. Once upon a time 曩昔. 2. 愚的; 腦筋簡單的. 3. 婦人名.
4. 魔術家. 5. New names for sale! 出賣新名字. 6. What do you charge for a new name? 買一個新名字, 你索價幾何? what=how much.
7. piasters (pī-ās'tērs) 西班牙, 意大利, 土耳其等國所用之銀幣, 約值華幣一圓. 8. 懇切.

Rose, Jasmine, Sit Bdour, Kut-ul-Kuloob, or any other name of your liking.”¹

“Then I shall choose the name of Rose,” said Khadijah, and running to the chest² in which her poor husband kept the money he had saved³ through years of toil,⁴ she returned to the window.

“Here are your thousand *piasters*,” she cried, dropping the bag of money into the magician’s outstretched⁵ hands, “and now my name is Rose!” And both the magician and the simple woman parted from each other⁶ well contented.⁷

When Khadijah’s husband came home that evening he found the house-door locked, and as he had no key⁸ he shouted: “Oh, Khadijah!” Then, when he received no answer, he shouted again: “Oh, Khadijah!” And when still there was no answer he raised his voice,⁹ thinking his wife must be asleep. Then he knocked at the door harder and harder, and while he knocked he began to grow very angry. Finally he began to kick at¹⁰ the

1. of your liking 爾所中意的。 2. 箱子。 3. 節省。 4. through years of toil 經過多年之辛苦。 5. 伸開的。 6 parted from each other 彼此離別。
7. well contented 十分滿意。 8. 鑰匙。 9. raised his voice 提高聲音。
10. 踢。

door, and at last he took up a large stone, broke the door, and entered into his house. To his amazement¹ when he entered the room, there sat his wife Khadijah on a couch,² smiling and undisturbed,³ as though nothing had happened.⁴ In his rage⁵ her husband spoke harshly to⁶ her and calling her names⁷ which no man in his calmed mood⁸ would call his wife, asked:

“Why did you not answer when I called? Why did you not open the door for me?” But Khadijah calmly replied:

“I would have done so in a moment if you had called me by my right⁹ name!”

“Your right name? What do you mean?”¹⁰ shouted her husband. “And what might your name be?” he asked sarcastically.¹¹ “I always thought it was Khadijah!”

“So it used to be, but my name now is Rose,” said Khadijah with the greatest calmness.

1. to his amazement 所可驚愕者。 2. 臥榻。 3. 泰然自若。 4. as though nothing had happened 若無事然。 5. 憤怒; 盛怒。 6. spoke harshly to 嚴厲責問。 7. calling her names 詈罵。 8. in his calmed mood 在心平氣和之時。 9. 正確的; 不錯的。 10. What do you mean? 爾意謂何? 11. 冷語; 諷刺。

Then she told the unhappy man how she had bought a new name from a travelling magician for a thousand *piasters*, the thousand *piasters* her husband had sweated and toiled¹ for years to save. When he heard this, the rage of Khadijah's husband reached its limit,² and he fell to³ beating her, as he cursed⁴ her saying:

“May Allah⁵ make you more wretched⁶ than you are already. I have borne with⁷ you all these long years, but I shall bear with you no more.⁸ This is the parting⁹ of the ways for you and me. I am going out into the wide, wide world. If I can find any one who is more foolish than you I shall come back to you; but unless I do¹⁰ you need never expect to see me again!”

And tying up¹¹ some provisions¹² in a bag, which he hung from his girdle,¹³ he said farewell to¹⁴ his wife and went out.

1. sweated and toiled 流汗工作; 刻苦工作. 2. reached its limit 達至極點. 3. fell to 從事; 開始. 4. 呪罵. 5. May Allah... 願上帝...; Allah 阿剌伯人及回教徒對上帝之稱呼. 6. 不幸. 7. borne (*pret. of bear*) with 容忍. 8. no more 不復; 不再. 9. 分離. 10. unless I do=unless I can find any one who is more foolish than you. 11. tying up 包紮, 此係 participial phrase 形容 “he said...” 中之 he 字. 12. 糧食. 13. 腰帶. 14. said farewell to 別離.

After walking the entire forenoon he came to a little town about the mid-day hour.¹ And there he sat down by the town well² to rest, tired and bowed down with bitter thoughts of his loss,³ and what a curse⁴ a simple wife could be to an honest man. But as he sat there by the side of the well, the housewives⁵ of the town came crowding up and all of them asked the self-same⁶ question:

“Where are you going?”

“I am going to the Land of Damnation!” he answered curtly,⁷ for he did not want to be bothered⁸ by their questions. But the women, who took his answer to mean⁹ the Land of Yemen, often referred to as¹⁰ the Land of Damnation by the country folk¹¹ because so few of the soldiers sent there to fight the rebelling¹² Arabs ever came back alive, pressed on¹³ him more eagerly.

“Ah, kind stranger,”¹⁴ said one, “that is where my husband went, and I have never heard from¹⁵

1. about the mid-day hour 約在日中之時. 2. 井. 3. with bitter thoughts of his loss 思想彼所受之損失, 甚為悲傷. 4. what a curse 何其不幸. 5. 主婦. 6. 同一的. 7. 簡略. 8. 被擾. 9. took his answer to mean 以為其所答者係指... 10. often referred to as (= which was often referred to as) 常被他人稱謂. 11. country folk 鄉民. 12. 背叛的. 13. pressed on 逼迫. 14. kind stranger 仁慈的賓客. 15. heard from 接得消息.

him since! Will you do me a favor¹ and take these gold pieces² to him?"

And another said: "My dear brother also has gone to the Land of Damnation. Do a good deed³ and take him these jewels,⁴ so that he can sell them and use the money they bring!"

And so all the women of the town gave him something valuable⁵ for son, husband, brother, or sweetheart,⁶ and the traveller put them all in a bag, and after many thanks and farewells, hurried out of the town⁷ as fast as he could go.

But he was still only a few miles distant when the men of the town came home from the fields where they had been working. They found the whole town in a great excitement,⁸ and when they asked their wives what it was all about, they were told of the obliging⁹ stranger who was on his way to¹⁰ the Land of Damnation, and now they had loaded him with¹¹ gifts for their dear absent ones.¹² Then the men were very angry with their

1. Will you do me a favor 懇請. 2. gold pieces 金幣. 3. good deed 好事; 善舉. 4. 寶石. 5. 貴重的. 6. 情人. 7. hurried out of the town 匆促離鎮. 8. 興奮; 騷動. 9. 樂盡義務的. 10. on his way to=going to 前進. 11. loaded him with=supplied him with excessively 給彼以...甚多. 12. dear absent ones 作客在外的親人.

wives, gave them sound beatings¹ and at once gathered to discuss what had best be done to regain² the treasure the stranger had carried off with him.³

At last they agreed that one of their number should mount⁴ a swift horse and follow the road that led out of town.⁵ For they reasoned⁶ that the man could not have gone very far, and that a horseman would soon overtake⁷ him.

Now when the horseman was still a distance off, the traveller looked around and saw him drawing near⁸ at great speed. He quickly realized⁹ that he was being pursued; he dug a hole by the roadside, buried the treasure in it, and then sat down and waited for the horseman to approach.¹⁰ When the horseman reached the traveller he reined in his steed,¹¹ saluted¹² him and asked:

“Have you seen a man going in this direction carrying a bag of gold and precious stones!”¹³

“Indeed I have,” answered the traveller. “He passed me about an hour ago, and by this

1. sound beatings 重打. 2. 復得. 3. carried off with him 攜之而去.
4. 騎. 5. follow the road that led out of town 循出鎮之路而行. 6. 推究;
推測. 7. 追及. 8. drawing near 逼近. 9. 覺察. 10. 行近; 馳近.
11. reined in his steed 勒韁停馬. 12. 行敬禮. 13. precious stones 寶石.

time must have reached the top of yonder¹ hill. But it seems to me,² worthy man, that you will never catch up with³ him riding horseback.⁴ You will have to get down from your horse and run after him. You see, a horse has four legs. By the time it puts down one foot and picks up⁵ another four times,⁶ the man you want would be out of reach;⁷ while if you ran along on your own feet you soon would overtake him."

The horseman pondered⁸ for a moment and then said:

"There is wisdom in your words,⁹ O stranger!" And he alighted¹⁰ from his horse and handed the bridle to¹¹ the traveller, saying:

"Please hold my horse for me while I pursue the man I want and bring him back with me!"

Now the traveller had a horse. He waited a few minutes until the man had run out of sight, then dug up the bag of gold and jewels, swung

1. 在彼處的。 2. it seems to me 據我看來; 我意。 3. catch up with 追及。 4. riding horseback 騎馬; 此 participial phrase 係形容 you。 5. picks up 舉起。 6. four times 四次。 7. out of reach 追不及。 8. 思索; 默想。 9. There is wisdom in your words 爾說的話, 倒有見識的。 10. 躍下。 11. handed the bridle to 將韁轡交於...

himself into the saddle,¹ and galloped away² in a different direction toward another town.

When he entered the gate he noticed³ that the town⁴ was in a great commotion.⁵ Everywhere rose expressions of sorrow and lamentation.⁶ While one man cried: "What a pity⁷ the bride's head should have to be chopped off!"⁸ Another was saying: "It is a shame that they will have to cut off the mare's⁹ legs, in any case!"¹⁰

The traveller, who could make nothing of¹¹ these strange remarks,¹² asked what was wrong,¹³ and the townsfolk¹⁴ told him. It seems that a wedding was being celebrated¹⁵ and the bride, mounted on a thoroughbred¹⁶ mare, was riding to the bridegroom's house, as was the custom,¹⁷ when the procession¹⁸ came to a tunnel¹⁹ under a bridge.

1. swung himself into the saddle 躍上馬鞍。 2. galloped away 疾馳而去。 3. 看見。 4. the town 指全城之人言。 5. was in a great commotion 大騷動。 6. expressions of sorrow and lamentation 悲歎之言語；此句爲欲增重語勢，故 predicate "rose" 倒裝在 subject 之前。 7. What a pity 惜哉；凡在 what a pity, it is a pity, it is strange 等之後，吾人常用 should 字。[例] It is strange that you should do so 君爲此事，殊足詫異。 8. chopped off 斬去。 9. 牝馬。 10. in any case—at any rate 無論如何。 11. could make nothing of 不能了解。 12. 言論。 13. what was wrong=what was the matter 何事；有何事故。 14. 市民。 15. was being celebrated 正被舉行。 16. 純血種的；良種的。 17. as was the custom 是乃風俗，as 此處係一關係代名詞。 18. 行列。 19. 地道；洞道。

There was no other street it could take, and the tunnel was so low that the bride could not pass beneath it mounted on the mare, unless, indeed, they cut off her head or the mare's legs. So at last they told him! It was a question of doing either one or the other and that was why every one was lamenting.

"There is an easier way of settling the difficulty,"¹ said the traveller. "What will I get if I solve the problem² for you without cutting off either the bride's head or the mare's legs?"

"You are sure to be handsomely rewarded,"³ every one told him, "for the bride's father is a rich man."

So they led the traveller to⁴ the spot⁵ where the bridal party⁶ was standing at the entrance of the tunnel.⁷ All the women were weeping, and the men were standing aside in a group⁸ putting their heads together⁹ trying to hit upon some way out of the difficulty.¹⁰

1. settling the difficulty 解決困難. 2. solve the problem 解決難題.
 3. handsomely rewarded 重重酬報. 4. led to 領至, led 係 lead 之 preterit tense. 5. 場所; 地點. 6. the bridal party 新娘的一班人.
 7. entrance of the tunnel 橋洞口. 8. in a group 成羣結隊. 9. putting their heads together 商量. 10. to hit upon some way out of the difficulty 想出一種能脫離困難的方法.

"Weep and worry no more,"¹ cried the traveller when he saw the gloomy² and helpless crowd. "In a few minutes both bride and mare will have arrived safely at the other end of the tunnel." Then he drove his own horse close to the bride's mount³ and said to her:

"My good bride, bend your head." And the girl bent her head, and lo and behold,⁴ she rode through the tunnel without the slightest difficulty!

"Wonderful! Wonderful!" cried the astonished⁵ townsfolk, full of admiration for the ingenious⁶ stranger. "Let us make him mayor of the town!"⁷ shouted some. "He is a wizard!"⁸ cried others. But the traveller did not wish to be made mayor of such a town nor did he feel flattered⁹ because they called him a wizard. The next day, after having been entertained with lavish hospitality¹⁰ and presented with¹¹ a large sum of money by the bride's father, Khadijah's husband mounted his

1. worry no more 毋再憂慮. 2. 憂愁的. 3. the bride's mount 新娘所乘之馬. 4. lo and behold 看呀, 引人特別注意時用之語. 5. 驚愕的. 6. 智巧的. 7. mayor of the town 市長. 8. 術士. 9. feel flattered 覺得榮幸. 10. entertained with lavish hospitality 設盛筵以款之. 11. presented with 贈以.

horse and rode on to the next town, which he reached as the evening shadows were falling.¹ Once inside the town, he inquired for a lodging,² and was directed³ to a certain house where he was taken in by a family consisting of a man, his wife, a daughter of marriageable age,⁴ and her brother.

After the traveller had unsaddled⁵ his horse, he asked for some water in order to give it a drink. And since there was no water in the house, the woman turned to her daughter and said:

“Go and fetch⁶ water from the well for our guest’s⁷ horse!”

So the daughter went to the well. When she got there⁸ she took her water-jar⁹ from her shoulder and set it down to rest for a moment, and while she rested she thought of herself:

“This man surely has come to ask my parents for my hand in marriage.¹⁰ To-morrow he will marry me. We will set up housekeeping together,¹¹

1. the evening shadows were falling 天色漸黑. 2. inquired for a lodging 訪問旅舍. 3. 指導. 4. of marriageable age 已屆結婚年齡的. 5. 卸馬鞍. 6. Go and fetch=go to fetch. 7. 客人. 8. got there 走到那面. 9. 盛水之瓶. 10. to ask for my hand in marriage 向我求婚. 11. set up housekeeping together 共同開始組織家庭.

and in due time¹ a son will be born to us! The boy will grow up² strong and well, and then one day I shall send him to this very³ well to fetch water. But alas, he will look at his shadow reflected in the water,⁴ and stooping closer⁵ to examine it he will slip,⁶ fall in, and be drowned!" And at once she began to cry and lament: "Oh, my child, my child, why could not your mother die in your stead?"⁷

So taken up⁸ was the girl with grieving over⁹ her imaginary tragedy¹⁰ that she forgot all about her errand.¹¹ An hour went by and she did not return, and at last her parents began to worry and wonder what could have happened to their daughter at the well. So they turned to their son and said:

"Son, go and see what is keeping your sister!"

The young man went to the well and found his sister wailing and lamenting while the tears ran down her cheeks.

1. in due time 於適當之時期. 2. grow up 長大成人. 3. very 此處用作 adjective, 有「即此」意, 常與 the, this 等字連用. 4. shadow reflected in the water 反照在水中的影子. 5. 更近. 6. 失足. 7. die in your stead 代汝而死. 8. taken up=absorbed in 一意. 9. grieving over 悲傷. 10. imaginary tragedy 理想上之悲劇. 11. forgot all about her errand 忘其使命.

"Why are you crying, sister," he asked, "and why do you tarry¹ here beside the well?"

Then his sister stopped crying, and looking at her brother asked:

"Has not the stranger in the house come to propose to me?"²

Her brother answered that such might well be the case.³ Then the sister told him of the tragedy her imagination⁴ had conjured up,⁵ and when she came to the point⁶ where her son had fallen into the water and been drowned, her brother began to lament with her and cry:

"Oh, my nephew, Oh, my nephew, why could not your uncle die in your stead?"

And the two mingled their tears while their parents sat anxiously waiting for them in the house.

Then the husband turned to his wife and said:

"Perhaps you had better go and see⁷ what has become of⁸ our son and daughter!"

1. 滯留. 2. propose to me 向我求婚. 3. such might well be the case 或許如此亦未可知. 4. 意象. 5. conjured up 以意象作出者. 6. came to the point 說到這點. 7. had better go and see 莫如去一看. 8. become of 結局; 變成.

The woman at once hurried to the well, and there found her son and daughter weeping and lamenting¹ as though their hearts would break.¹ When she asked her daughter what was the matter,² the latter³ told her what she had already told her brother, and soon her mother in turn⁴ was crying:

“Oh, my grandson, my grandson, why could not your grandmother die in your stead?” and thus all three sat and wept.

At last, after waiting a long time, the head of the house turned to the traveller and said:

“Make yourself at home,⁵ O guest, until I find out⁶ what keeps my family at the well all this time!”

When he got there, he saw his wife, son, and daughter crying and lamenting together.

“What is the trouble?” he asked. “What is keeping you at the well all this time?”

His wife told him their daughter's story, and soon her father, too, was weeping and calling out:

1. as though their hearts would break 心若欲碎, 言不勝悲痛之至也.

2. what was the matter 何事. 3. the latter 指 daughter. 4. in turn 依次相繼. 5. Make yourself at home 作客若歸 (不拘禮節). 6. find out 查明.

“Oh, my grandson, my grandson, why could not your grandfather have died in your stead?”

Meanwhile the traveller waited and waited in vain¹ for the people of the house² to return. By now³ it was quite dark, and he began to fear that some misfortune had overtaken the entire family.⁴ So he stepped out of⁵ the house and asked the people in the street where he could find the town well. When they told him he made straight for⁶ it, and there he found the whole family gathered, weeping and lamenting. When he asked the reason for their tears his host⁷ told him the story he had from his daughter, adding:

“Is that not so? Have you not come to ask my daughter’s hand in marriage?” The traveller was surprised.

“Indeed I have not,” he said. “I am already married, and I might as well tell you⁸ that I am going back to my wife this very minute!”

And with these words⁹ he hurried back to the

1. in vain 徒然. 2. the people of the house 一家之人. 3. By now 現今.
4. to fear that some misfortune had overtaken the entire family 恐怕全家之人已遭災禍. 5. stepped out of 舉步離開. 6. made straight for 直向...走去. 7. 主人. 8. might as well tell you=had better tell you.
9. with these words=so saying.