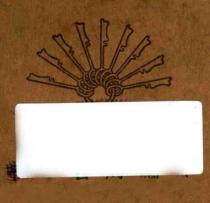


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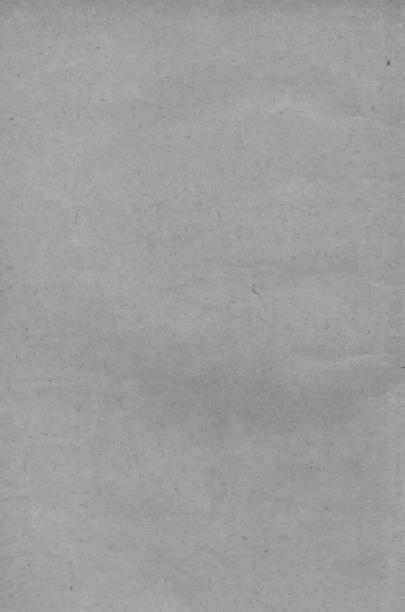


THE THREE SISTERS

With Notes in Chinese

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CHEN WEN CHU



The Three Sisters

CHAPTER I

How Little Two Eyes Got Her Dinner

Once upon a time¹ there was² a woman who had three daughters. The eldest³ of them was called Little One Eye, because she had only one eye, which was set⁴ in the middle of her forehead.

The second was called Little Two Eyes, because she had two eyes like other people.⁵ The third was called Little Three Eyes, because she had three eyes, one of which⁶ was in the middle fo her forehead.

Now because Little Two Eyes looked like other people, her mother and sisters could not bear⁷ her. "You are no better than anyone else," they said. "You do not belong to us." ⁹

^{1.} Once upon a time 亦可作 once on a time: 有一日,有一回.
2. There was 有也; 不可作「彼處是」解.
3. Eldest 獨言 first-born, 最先生的.
4. Was set 在, 處.位.
5. Like other people 同於當人.
6. Which 指 eyes.
7. Could not bear 不能容, 耐不得.
8. Anyone else 亦可作 anybody else: 其餘無論何人.
9. You do not belong to us 汝不屬於晉等; 有擯棄之之意, 獨云非我徒也.

So they used to beat her, and gave her poor clothes, and the food which was left over from their own meals. Indeed, they tried to vex her in every way they could.

One day, Little Two Eyes was sent into the fields to look after⁴ the goat; but her sisters had given her so little to eat, that⁵ she was quite hungry. Sitting down on the hillside, she began to cry, and she cried so much, that two little streams⁶ ran down her cheeks.

She was still crying, when all at once⁷ a woman stood near⁸ her, and said, "Little Two Eyes, why do you cry?"

"Have I not much need to cry?" said Little Two Eyes. "Because I have two eyes, like other people, my mother and sisters cannot bear me. They push me out of one corner into another; they give me poor clothes, and I have nothing to

r. Used to 慣常, 智為. 2. Left over 遺下. 3. Indeed 誠哉, 信乎; 有嗟嘆之意. 4. To look after 看守, 照料. 5. So...that: 如此...故. 6. Streams 河; 言 Little Two Eyes 哭之甚, 兩行之淚如河注, 悲之至也. 7. All at once 突然, 卒然. 8. Near 近也. 9. Need 需要. 10 Push me out of one corner into another 百方資訊.

eat but what they leave. To-day they have given me so little, that I am quite hungry."

"and I will tell you something that will keep you from ever being hungry again. Say to your goat, 'Little goat, bleat; little table, rise,' and a neatly-laid table will stand before you. There will be nice food on it and you can eat as much as you like."

"When you have had all you wish, you have only to say, 'Little goat, bleat; little table, away,' then it will pass out of sight." So saying, the woman was gone.

"I will try at once if what she says" is true," said Little Two Eyes, "for I am too hungry to wait. 12 'Little goat, bleat; little table, rise.'"

^{1.} But what 獨言 except that which 獨非自此外. I have nothing to eat but what they leave 言我自彼等所捐棄者外, 無以爲食也. 2. Dry your eyes 勿哭. 3. Keep... from: 使...勿. 4. Ever 爲 adverb, 獨言at any time, on any occasion, 不論何時. 5. Little goat, bleat little table, rise. 嗚乎, 小羊; 興乎, 小桌: 此爲 wise woman 敬 Little Two Eyes 求食之口訣. 6. Neatly-laid 布置整潔. 7. As you be 雖汝所欲. 8. All you wish 凡汝所欲. 9. Have 有當字意. 不可解作有 上字; have only to say 但當言也. 10. Pass out of sight 不是 11. What she says 彼所說者. 12. Too hungry to wait: 我其意思 爱hungry that I will not wait 同.

Hardly had she said these words, than there stood before her a little table. It had a clean white cloth on it, on which was laid a plate, a knife and fork, and a silver spoon. There was some nice food, too, smoking hot, sas though it had just been taken off the fire.

Having said grace,⁶ Little Two Eyes began to eat, and found⁷ the food very good. When she had eaten as much as she wished, she said as the wise woman had taught⁸ her, "'Little goat, bleat; little table, away.'"

At once, the little table, and all that stood on it, passed out of sight.

"That is a nice easy way of getting food," thought Little Two Eyes, and was quite happy and merry.

CHAPTER II

How Little One Eye Watched Her Sister

In the evening, 10 when she came home 11 with her goat, she found a little dish of food which her

^{1.} Hardly...than: 市...而...已. 2. Too 舆 in addition 同,又也; 實旣有碟刀义七,又有美食也. 3. Smoking hot 熱氣蒸鬱. 4. As though 舆, as it 同,如也. 5. Just taken off the fire 剛出於釜. 6. Having said grace 新報於上帝; 基督教人臨食之禮也. 7. Found 覺. 8. Taught 數. 9. Thought 念. 10. Evening: 讀如 ēv'nīng, 晚, 黃昏. 11. Home: 此處作 adverb 用,有「向家」之意.

sisters had put aside¹ for her. But she did not touch it, for she had no need.

The next day she went out again with her goat, and again she did not eat the few crusts² that had been left for her.

At first³ the sisters took no notice of⁴ this, but when the same thing⁵ took place⁶ again and again,⁷ they said, "All is not right⁸ with Little Two Eyes. She always leaves her food now, though she used to eat up every bit⁹ of it. She must have found some other way of getting food."

To find out the truth,¹⁰ Little One Eye said that she would go with Little Two Eyes when next¹¹ she drove the goat into the field. "I will find out what she does there," she said, "and see if any one brings her food and drink."

r. Put aside 藥. 2. Crust 麵包硬皮; the few crusts 獨言殘杯冷炙也. 3. At first 始. 初. 4. Took no notice of 不留意. 5. The same thing 相同之事; 即指 Little Two Eyes 自牧羊 歸家不食其姊妹所遺之物一事. 6. Took place 發生, 遇. 7. Again and again 一再. 8. Ah is not right 全不對; 此 Little Two Eyes 之姊妹見其行事有異而疑之之詞也. 9. Every bit 全, 不遺穢毫. 10. To find out the truth 探其真情. 11. Next: 此處作 adverb 用, 義如 on the first occasion to come 以後第一次也.

So when Little Two Eyes set out¹ next day, Little One Eye came to her and said, "I will go with you into the field, and see that the goat is taken care of,² and is driven³ where the best grass grows."

Now Little Two Eyes saw what her sister had in her mind,⁴ and drove the goat into long grass, saying, "Come, Little One Eye, let us sit down, and I will sing you something."⁵

Little One Eye was tired with⁶ her walk and with the heat of the sun, and was glad to sit down. "Are you awake, Little One Eye? Are you asleep, Little One Eye?" sang her sister, till⁷ at last⁸ Little One Eye was fast⁹ asleep.

When Little Two Eyes saw this, 10 she said, "'Little goat, bleat; little table, rise,'" and at once sat down, and ate and drank as much as she wished. Then she called again, "'Little goat, bleat; little table, away,'" and in a moment 11 everything was out of sight.

^{1.} Set out 首途. 出發. 2. Taken care of 受看管 被照料. 3. Driven 課. 程. 4. What her sister had in her mind 其鄰所存於心者. 15. Sing you something 發言 sing something for you. 6. Was tired with 疲於. 7. Till 藝伽 to the time when, 至也. 8. At last 畢竟, 到底. 9. Fast 紫也; fast asleep 紫睡. 10. This: 指 Little One Eye 然底之事. 11. In a moment 頃刻間, 瞬息間.

Little Two Eyes now woke¹ her sister, saying, "You said you would watch. But you fell asleep, and the goat might have run far away, for all² you would have known. Come, let us go home."

When they got home, Little Two Eyes did not touch her dish of food once more. Little One Eye, what has your sister had to eat? asked her mother. "I do not know," she said, "for I fell asleep."

CHAPTER III

How Little Three Eyes Watched Her Sister

The next day⁵ the mother said to Little Three Eyes, "This time *you*⁶ shall go and see where Little Two Eyes gets her food. Some one must bring it to her, or⁷ she could not live."

^{1.} Woke 喚醒, 2. For all 雖然,與 notwithstanding 問義 3. Got home 到家. 4. Once more 义一回;言义一回到家而不食也. 5. The next day 翌日,次日. 6. You: 此字印斜檀者,示重讀也。 全句之中,重讀此字,何也,Little One Eye 嘗與 Little Two Eyes 同出,求其何從得食而不得,故其母使 Little Three Eyes 為之,日,今汝去,觏 Little Two Eyes 何從得其食,所以必重讀汝字者,其意若日,去,Little One Eye 嘗去矣,觏,Little One Eye 嘗去矣,觏,不行而者,昔者彼去而彼觏,今也汝去而汝觏,昔去與今去同, 昔觏與今觏同,所不同者,昔彼而今汝耳,所異者汝,所重即在汝,不在去,不在觏,不在其他也,故必重讀汝字而辭意乃益明;下文 you 字印斜體字者義並做此。 7. Or 否則,不然,非彼則此之詞。

So Little Three Eyes said to her sister, "I will go with you to-day, and see that the goat is taken care of, and is driven where the best grass grows."

But Little Two Eyes saw what her sister had in her mind, and drove the goat into long grass, saying, "We will sit down here, Little Three Eyes, and I will sing you something."

Tired with her walk¹ and with the heat of the sun, Little Three Eyes sat down, and her sister began to sing. "Are you awake, Little Three Eyes?" she sang. But then, instead of² singing, "Are you asleep, Little Three Eyes?" she sang, "Are you asleep, Little Two Eyes?"

She went on³ in this way⁴ for some time,⁵ singing, "Are you awake, Little Three Eyes? Are you asleep, Little Two Eyes?" till at last the two eyes fell asleep. But the third eye

^{1.} Tired with her walk 走得疲倦。 2. Instead of 代替. 3. Went on 有績績意; 此言績績而唱也. 4. In this way 如此; 此謂唱 Are you awake, Little Three Eyes? Are you asleep, Little Two Eyes? 之句也. 5. For some time 有頃.

stayed awake, for it was not spoken to, as the others were.

Little Three Eyes, to be sure, shut it, and made believe to go to sleep. But the one eye was wide awake all the time, and she could see all that went on.

When Little Two Eyes thought that her sister was fast asleep, she said the words that the wise woman had taught her, "Little goat, bleat; little table, rise."

Up came⁸ the table, and Little Two Eyes ate quite⁹ a nice dinner.

Then, having sent the table away, she woke her sister. "Ah, 10 Little Three Eyes," she said, "have you been asleep? You keep watch 11 well, do you not? 12 Come, let us go home."

When they got home, Little Two Eyes again did not eat. "I know why the proud thing 13 does

T. Stayed awake 仍醒.

2. Not spoken to 未語及. 此言 Little Two Eyes 阿不唱 Are you asleep, Little Two Eyes 阿不唱 Are you asleep, Little Three Eyes 故 Little Three Eyes 阿服護而第三眼仍醒, 以未向之唱也.

3. Others 其他,言其他兩眼也.

4. To be sure 獨言 of course, 自然也.

5. Made believe 佯寫,假装.

6. Wide 大聚.

7. All that went on 凡所經歷;此指下又 Little Two Eyes 念口訣得食事.

8. Up came=Came up 到也,出也.

10. Ah 嘻.

11. Keep watch 看守。

12. Do you not? 汝贵不然,反言以取必也。

13. The proud thing 驕物;Little Three Eyes 指其姊也。

not eat," said Little Three Eyes to her mother. "When she says to the goat, 'Little goat, bleat; little table, rise,' there stands a table before her, on which is the very best food, far better than' we have here.

"When she has eaten as much as she wants, she says, 'Little goat, bleat; little table, away'; and the table is out of sight in a moment. I have seen it all. She put two of my eyes to sleep with her song; but the one on my forehead stayed awake."

"Shall she be better off² than we are?" cried the mother. "Fetch me a knife at once." Away ran Little Three Eyes³ for a knife, with which her mother soon killed the goat.

CHAPTER IV

A Strang Tree

When Little Two Eyes saw what her mother had done,⁴ she ran out of the house, and wept⁵

^{1.} Far better than 遠勝於. 2. better off 辩言 in better condition, 較寫安舒也. 3. Away ran Little Three Eyes 裕言 Little Three Eyes ran away 保函裝句法. 4. What her mother had done 其母所爲者; 即指以刀殺羊事. 5. Wept 垂, 灑.

bitter tears. But all at once the wise woman stood near her again, and said, "Little Two Eyes, why do you cry?"

"Why should I not cry?" she said. "My dear little goat has been killed by my mother, and now I must suffer hunger and thirst again."

"Listen to me, Little Two Eyes," said the wise woman. "Ask your sisters to give you the goat's heart. Then, if you bury³ it in the ground in front of⁴ the house, it will turn out⁵ well for you."

So saying, she passed out of sight. Little Two Eyes at once ran home to her sisters, and said "Dear sisters, will you give me a part of the goat? Will you give me its heart?"

"You can have that, if you do not want anything else." So Little Two Eyes took the heart, and after dark she buried it in front of the house, as the wise woman had told her

^{1.} Why should I not cry? 子何寫而不哭. 2. Suffer 受, 遠, 遊, 3, Bury: 蓋如 běr⁽¹⁾, 埋也. 4. In front of 在前, 5. Turn out: to prove as the result, 至竟到底. 6. Oh 嘻. 6. Dark 黑; after dark 天武黑.

Next morning, when the sisters woke, and went to the door, there stood before them a lovely tree. 1 Its leaves were of silver, and its fruit of gold. 2 Nothing more charming had ever 3 been seen in the wide world.

How had the tree come there in the night? Little Two Eyes alone⁴ knew that it had grown out⁵ of the heart of the goat, for it stood just⁶ where she had buried the heart in the ground.

"Climb up, my child," said the mother to Little One Eye, "and gather us some fruit from the tree."

Up went Little One Eye, but when she put out⁷ her hand to take a golden apple, the branch sprang away⁸ from her. This took place every time,⁹ so that she could not pluck a single apple, though she tried with all her might.¹⁰

"Little Three Eyes," said her mother, "do you try. With your three eyes you can see better than Little One Eye."

^{1.} Lovely tree 美未, 嘉樹.
2. Of silver, of gold: 從線. 從金: 言如以金銀為之也。 3. Ever 嘗. 會.
4. Alone 獨也. 言 Little Two Eyes 其姊妹不知樹所從來, 而彼獨知之也。 5. Grown out 生也, 發也。 6. Just 正; 言此樹正植於 Little Two Eyes 埋羊心處地上。 7. Put out 伸.
8. Sprang away 職開.
9. This took place every time 回回如此, 每次如是.
10. With all her might 竭其力.

But Little Three Eyes did no better. Try as she would, the golden fruit always sprang back from her hand.

At last the mother tried herself, but she, too, found that she was only taking hold of³ the empty air, when she meant⁴ to take hold of the fruit.

CHAPTER V

The Coming of the Prince

"I will go up myself," said Little Two Eyes at last. "Perhaps I shall get on better."

"You!" cried her sisters. "What can you do, with your two eyes?"

But Little Two Eyes went up the tree, and the golden apples did not spring away from her, but fell into her hand of themselves.⁵ Soon her apron⁹ was quite full, and she came

I. No better 無以過,不能有加. 2. Try as she would 粉言 she tried as many times as she would try. 3. Taking hold of 緊握. 4. Meant 意欲: 此言其母手指空拳, 乃以為果已採得, 而固握勿失也. 5. Myself 自,身,親,躬. 6. get on 義如 go forward,進行也;此言上樹採果也. 7. You! 爾孚;輕之之詞也. 8. Of themselves 自,不傻人力也;此言果自落於 Little Two Eyes 手中,不勞採之也. 9. Apron 禮, 惟申: 幅帛繫於腰際, 截胸下以障污垢者. Apron quite full 盈糟也.

down the tree, and gave the fruit to her mother.

Even this did not make the sisters behave any better to Little Two Eyes. They were angry with her, because she alone could get the fruit and they were more cruel to her than ever. 4

One day, as the three sisters stood by the tree, a young man came near.

"Quick,⁵ Little Two Eyes," cried the other two; "creep out of sight, that you may not bring shame on⁶ us." So saying, they threw Little Two Eyes on the ground,⁷ and put an empty cask over both her and the apples which she had just⁸ plucked.

Now, as the young man came nearer,⁹ the two sisters saw that he was a handsome¹⁰ prince. When he got to¹¹ the tree, he stood still,¹² and looked at it in great wonder.¹³

^{1.} Behave to 待. 2. Were angry with 怒. 3. Were cruel to 虐待. 4. Than ever 過於昔日; 謂昔未曾有也. 5. Quick 快些; 促之之詞也. 6. Bring shame on 辱及. 7. Throw on the ground 急推置於地. 8. Just 適. 9. As the young man came nearer 及少年進行較近. 10. Handsome 溫雅, 有威儀也. 11. Got to 到. 12. Still 僑 adverb, 靜, 不動也. 13. In great wonder 大堤, 大驚異.