



# 中国少数民族 民间故事选


(汉英对照版)

Folk Tales from  
China's Ethnic Minorities

边赞襄 (编著) 曹华民 (译)

湖北长江出版集团  
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# 前言

在中国少数民族的发展历程中，精神文明和物质文明都有了很大的进步。各民族聚居地区流传的民间故事是中国传统文化不可或缺的珍贵遗产的一部分。其中许多源远流长。例如，半个多世纪前，当编者还在小学念书时，就知道苗族民间故事“楼花强盗”了。有的民间故事从其封建背景和原始性的信仰即可知年代更为久远。另一方面，从仫佬族的“老鼠开会”这则故事看，它与伊索寓言“谁给猫儿系铃”如出一辙。而毛南族的“爱金子的人”与希腊神话“点金术”又何其相似乃尔！人们也许要问，“是谁模仿谁呀？”或者说这纯属巧合！不管怎么说，美好的民间故事就是应当共享。民间故事互相模仿或有从世界的一个地方传播到另一个地方的趋势，其结果将是，有了大家喜爱的更多的故事。

编者之所以编译此书，一方面是出于对故事的偏爱，另一方面也是为外国朋友打开另一扇大门，让他们更多地了解中国将近半数少数民族的风土人情、对家园的热爱、与邪恶斗争的勇敢和智慧以及实现梦想的决心。最后同样重要的是，希望能给对文艺作品汉译英有兴趣的读者提供一个借鉴。

编者希望读者，尤其是青少年，喜欢这些民间故事。如能如愿以偿，不胜荣幸。

编者感谢美国费尔雷·迪金森大学教授露易丝·柯歇尔（已故）曾校阅本书译稿并提出宝贵建议。编辑王艳波先生为本书收集了美丽的插图，我的妻子大力帮我解决了一些不能直译的难点，在此一并致谢。

## Foreword

In the history of the ethnic minorities in China, the creative spirit has been flourishing alongside material development. The folk tales spread in the regions inhabited by different nationalities are part and parcel of the invaluable heritage of China's traditional culture, many of which were handed down from generation to generation. For instance, the Miao minority folk tale "Bandit Louhua" was known to many people over half a century ago when I was a primary school pupil. Some of the tales are even older as can be seen from the feudal settings and primitive beliefs that permeate them. On the other hand, the Mulam minority tale "The Meeting of the Rats" is amazingly akin to Aesop's "Who Will Bell the Cat?" The Maonan minority tale "The Gold Lover" resembles the ancient Greek myth "The Golden Touch" so strikingly that one may ask "Who copied whom?" Or is it just a coincidence? Whatever the case, good folk tales deserve to be shared. The tendency then of folk tales to be copied or to migrate from one part of the world to another generates a delightful collection of tales.

The reason why I decided to have this booklet brought out is partly because of my predilection for folk tales and partly because of my desire to open a door for all non-Chinese speaking friends in other parts of the world to learn about the folkways of nearly half of the ethnic minorities in China, their love for hearth and home, their bravery and wisdom in fighting evils, and their determination to live their dreams. Last but not least, it is hoped that this booklet will provide something of use to readers interested in literary translation from Chinese into English.

It is my hope that readers, especially the young, will enjoy the folk tales in this selection. If they do, I will feel enormously rewarded.

I am grateful to the late Professor Louise Kirscher of Fairleigh Dickinson University for reading the English version and making useful suggestions. Thanks are also due to the editor Mr. Wang Yanbo for the collection of all the beautiful illustrations in the book and to my wife who gave me immense help in the treatment of a number of details that just cannot be literally translated.

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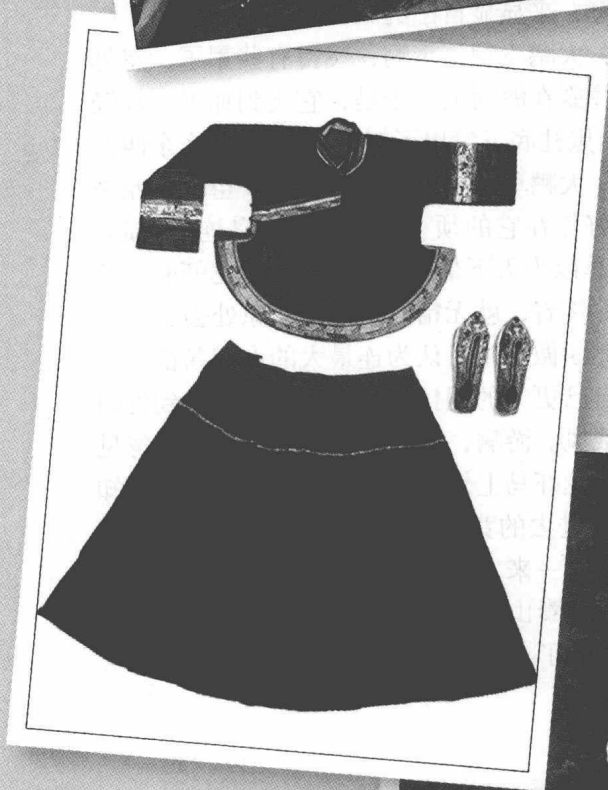


# 壮族

Zhuang

壮族 壮族是中国少数民族中人口最多的一个民族，主要聚居在广西、云南、广东、贵州和湖南。壮族人民以壮戏和歌节著称，主演电影《刘三姐》的演员是无人不知的对歌歌手，就是一位壮族姑娘。歌节每年农历三月三举行。壮族一般信仰原始宗教，部分人信奉天主教和基督教。壮族人民以农业为主，甘蔗产量居全国首位。

Zhuang The largest of the 55 minorities, they live in compact communities in Guangxi, Yunnan, Guangdong, Guizhou, and Hunan. The Zhuang people are noted for their drama and Singing Festival held yearly on "the third day of the third lunar month". The actress starring in the film *Third Sister Liu* that is a hit with everyone is a Zhuang girl whose antiphonal singing is unrivaled. The Zhuang people in general believe in primitive religions and part are Catholic or Christian followers. With farming as the mainstay of livelihood, the Zhuang area has the largest sugarcane yield in the country.



▲ 壮族歌节

◀ 壮族服装

▼ 刘三姐塑像



## 大鹏与龙虾

### The Roc and the Lobster

在无边无涯的海洋中间，有一个小小的岛屿。岛上长着茂密的森林。中央还有一个湖，名叫：“东海”。这里没有人烟，住着一只大鹏鸟和其他一些小鸟。有一次，大鹏鸟飞到东海湖边，一口气把湖水喝了一半。从此，大鹏鸟便骄傲起来了，常常向别的鸟夸耀说：“天下再没有像我这样大的动物了！”并且说：它要到各地去游逛，来显显自己的威风。

在茫茫的大海上，大鹏飞啊，飞啊，飞得有些累了，忽见前面有两条粗大的黑柱露在海面上。于是，它飞到那里，轻轻地停下来休息。忽然，黑柱底下发出了叫声：“你是什么东西？敢在我的须上停歇！”大鹏鸟吓了一跳，忙向下一望——原来是只大龙虾，自己正好停在它的须上。慌得大鹏鸟连忙飞起，惊讶地说：“天啊！我总以为天下最大的是我，谁知龙虾的一条须就比我大得多呢！”接着，就无精打采地飞回原处去了。

可是，龙虾却从此骄傲起来，认为连最大的大鹏鸟都比不过自己，还有什么比自己更大的呢！于是，它在大海里到处遨游，就想显显龙虾的威风。游啊，游啊，游得有些累了，忽见前面有个黑森森的洞，龙虾马上想钻进去休息一会。——谁知这是一条鲸鱼，龙虾钻进去的竟是鲸鱼的鼻孔。龙虾在里面，伸拳缩脚地闹腾开了。这一来，就把鲸鱼触痒了。只听得“啊嚏”一声，直把龙虾喷到泰山顶上，把脊椎骨也摔断了。——从此，龙虾就没有脊椎骨了。（原载《中国少数民族寓言故事选》，黄显华搜集整理）

There was once a very small island overgrown with trees in a boundless sea. In the center of the island was a lake called the East Sea. Except for a roc and a number of other birds, there were no inhabitants there. Once the roc flew to the side of the East Sea and drank half of the lake water at one go. Thereafter he became self-conceited and often boasted to the other birds, "There are no other animals as big as I in the whole world!" And he added that he would go places for fun and make a show of his strength.

On the vast sea the roc flew and flew and he was beginning to feel tired when he saw two very thick big black columns rising out of the sea. He then flew there and softly lighted on one of them for a rest. Suddenly, a voice boomed out from under the black columns, "What are you that dare light on my tentacle?" Frightened, the roc hastily looked down: he was resting on one of the tentacles of a big lobster! Panic-stricken, the roc flew away saying in great shock, "Good heavens! I have always thought that it is me who is the biggest in the world. How is it that even a lobster's tentacle is far bigger than I?" Crestfallen, the roc flew to where he came from.

On the other hand, the lobster, too, grew conceited thinking that since the biggest roc could not compare with him, what other creatures could be bigger than he? So he swam here and there in the limitless sea like a triumphant conqueror. He swam and swam and was beginning to feel a little tired when he suddenly spied a dark hole in front of him. The lobster wanted very much to get into it to rest for a while. But who could have thought that it was nothing but a whale's nostril into which he had crawled. The lobster made such a noise wriggling and twisting and the whale's nostril was tickled so much that the whale went "Atisshoo" and the lobster was ejected onto the top of Mount Tai. Thus the lobster lost his spine—once and for all.

## 老虎和金竹

### The Tiger and the Golden Bamboo

老虎住在山上，金竹长在山下。本来嘛，可以河水不犯井水。

可是有一天，老虎忽然异想天开，声言自己不仅是兽中之王，而且要做万物之王，世界上一切都要服从它管制，乖乖地听它的支配。

山上的弱小动物害怕它，纷纷逃走了；山下的弱小动物害怕它，纷纷低下了头。偏有正直的金竹见老虎来了，不但不低头哈腰，反倒自由自在地歌唱起来。

老虎气极了，露出狰狞的面目吼叫：“小小的金竹，好大的胆子！我虎大王今天憋了一肚子气，你竟敢在一旁幸灾乐祸！”

金竹慢条斯理地说：“虎大王啊，我生来就住在这里，以自己辛勤的劳动，汲取土中的养分，承受阳光的哺育，人不侵犯我，我也不侵犯别人，自由自在。这样美好幸福的生活啊，怎能不叫我放声歌唱！”说罢，又愉快地唱起来，旁若无人。

这一下直气得老虎眼中冒火，七窍生烟，“唬”的一声跃起丈把高，向金竹扑了过来，想一下拔掉这颗“眼中钉”。没料到气力不足，没把金竹扑倒，自己的腰身反而被两棵交叉的金竹卡住了。这回可好啰，老虎前脚不沾地，后脚不着土，上又上不去，下又下不来，只得苦苦哀求：“金竹大哥哥啊，饶我这一回吧，以后再不敢小看你了。”

金竹说：“你平日横行霸道，欺侮弱小，尝够了大家的血肉，今天谁还饶恕你？你问问大家吧。”

老虎哭嗷嗷地向大家求救。可谁也不同意它，大家都异口同声地说：“不救，不救，让它自己找死吧！”

没有谁来搭救老虎，老虎挣扎了半天，终于夹死在金竹叉上了。（原载《中国少数民族寓言故事选》，曾延伟、依易天搜集整理）



The tiger lived in a mountain and the golden bamboo had its home at the foot of the mountain. So, understandably no quarrel should have ever broken out between them in the first place.

One day, however, the tiger suddenly had a fantastic idea. He declared that he was not only the king of all animals, he should also be the master of all things. Everything in the world must obey his orders and be controlled by him in total submission.

The small and weak animals in the mountain were afraid of the tiger and fled pell-mell and those on the plain, also afraid, lowered their heads except the upright golden bamboo who, seeing the tiger approach, not only did not bow to him, but broke into merry songs in a leisurely and carefree manner.

The tiger was furious and set up a ferocious roar, "You worthless golden bamboo. What a nerve! I, King of All Things, am choked with resentment today and you dare take pleasure in my unhappiness! "

The golden bamboo said unhurriedly, "Tiger King, I've been living here since I was born and I take in the nutrition from the earth and get nurtured by the sunlight. I will never attack until I am attacked. I'm leisurely and carefree. So what shall I do but sing to my heart's content for my happy life? " Saying this, it sang merrily again as if no one was about.

This set the tiger fuming with rage and his eyes seemed molten with green flame. "Oooooooh! " he leapt into the air and sprang on the golden bamboo, so impatient he was to pull out "the thorn in his flesh". Unfortunately, the tiger had not expected that he would not be violent enough, and instead of bringing down the golden bamboo, his lower back was caught up between two intersecting bamboo branches. What a pity! Lifted up with all four feet dangling above the earth, the tiger could move neither up nor down. He entreated piteously, "My elder brother golden bamboo, spare my life this once! I shall never dare look down upon you again! "

The golden bamboo said, "You have played the tyrant all the time bullying the small and weak and have eaten God knows how many of them alive. Who will spare you! Ask all present! "

The tiger pleaded in vain for help with large tears trickling from his eyes, but no one was sympathetic. Instead, they said unanimously, "We won't save you, never! Let it be made clear that you will meet your death here and now! "

As no one came to his rescue, the tiger was, after repeated futile struggles, squeezed to death between two forked bamboo branches.