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汉英对照 中国古代故事精选集



SELECTED CHINESE STORIES
ANCIENT CHINESE STORIES

复旦大学出版社

序 言

中国为世界四大文明古国之一。中华民族历史悠久，传统文化源远流长，为人类作出之巨大贡献，素为世人所推崇。流传迄今之甲骨、钟鼎、竹简、帛书，以及大量碑刻之外，典籍文献浩如烟海，所记寓言、成语、格言、民间故事之类，比比皆是，俯拾即得，其涉及之内容极为广泛，虽因时代之局限，杂有迷信成分或唯心色彩，但大多寓意深长，对为人处世之道颇多启迪，不愧为中华民族之珍贵遗产。

综观全球，国家林立，民族纷繁，历史背景各不相同，文化传统不一，风俗习惯迥异，价值观念亦复悬殊，但无数寓言、故事所阐明之哲理，与中国类似甚或相同者不乏其例。大至热爱祖国、保卫民族，小若先公后私、严己宽人之教导，旁及为人应正直、处事宜公道、善恶需区分，是非必明辨等

训诫，靡不贯通，实乃世界之瑰宝。

原南开大学老教授史志南先生和前东吴大学法学院早期毕业生奚亚夫前辈，博通古今，学贯中西，尤其酷爱文学，深感祖国文化颇多蕴藏于古代寓言、成语、格言、故事之中，乃相约广为搜集、取精用宏，并陆续译成英文，汇集成册，以弘扬祖国文化，促进中西交融，不意着手未久，“文革”骤起，不得不中途辍笔。

事隔十余年，欣逢改革、开放之盛世，举国上下，精神焕发，史、奚两位以耄耋之年，发扬“老骥伏枥，志在千里”壮心，奋笔力作，在旧译之基础上悉心补充、整理，以遂初衷。詎料史老未竟其业，遽而谢世。奚老年逾九秩，乃以愚公移山之精神，终于完成近二百篇之编译任务，辑成《中国古代故事精选集》二集，蔚为壮观。

唐刘禹锡诗云：“莫道桑榆晚，为霞尚满天。”亚夫前辈，年将期颐，仍能孜孜不倦，努力编译，嘉惠后学，其志可佩，其功匪浅。值此汇编行将问世之时，爰书数语，藉作介绍，并表敬意。

张梦白

Foreword

Considered, as one of the four ancient civilized countries of the world, China has a long history and a traditional culture of primitive origin. The unique contributions China has made towards mankind have always been looked upon with great admiration. Besides the inscriptions on bones or tortoise shells, those on ancient bronze objects, worded bamboo slips bound together, books copied on silks and large quantities of stone tablets, which have been handed down from time immemorial, China also possesses a tremendous amount of ancient books and an abundance of literature, in which fables, parables, proverbs and popular stories can be found everywhere with little effort. They deal

with almost everything under the sun and, though tinged here and there with superstition and idealism, are mostly educational in implication and instructive as to how to live and make friends with people. No wonder they are cherished as the priceless heritage of the Chinese race.

Naturally countries and nations all over the world differ from each other in their historical backgrounds and cultural traditions, and differences in social customs and concepts of value are common among different peoples, yet the philosophy and reasoning expounded in the countless fables and tales, both Chinese and foreign, are more or less similarly rooted, if not exactly the same. Topics dealt with include the love of one's motherland, the defense of one's nation, self-sacrifice, self-discipline and kindness to others, as well as teachings in regard to honesty, justice, sense of virtue and evil and of right and wrong. Ancient fables and tales, therefore, are

generally regarded as gems of world treasure.

Mr. Shi Zhinan, the late senior professor of Nan Kai University, Tianjin, and Mr. Afman S. C. Xi, one of the earliest graduates of the Law School of Suzhou University, are both conversant with things past and present, Chinese and foreign, and are particularly well versed in literature as it is their favorite subject. Fully convinced that the ancient fables, proverbs, maxims and tales are the chief carriage of Chinese culture, they decided to make arrangements to present a refined collection of the above on a wide basis and have them translated into English and to be gathered into book form so as to make the Chinese culture better known to the western world and help bring about mutual understanding between nations. Unfortunately, this noble work was forced to be suspended due to the sudden outbreak of the "Cultural Revolution".

More than ten years have elapsed and China is now witnessing a new epoch of social reform

and of opening itself to the outside world. Old aged as they were, Shi and Xi were as much as inspired as others—ambitious like old yet energetic thoroughbred horses staying in a stable but aiming high to run thousands of ‘li’,—and resumed their project with redoubled efforts, supplementing and revising the work left unfinished. Regrettably, Professor Shi passed away before the completion of the project. Left alone, Mr. Xi, now in his 90s, kept working on the compilation and translation of ANCIENT CHINESE STORIES, altogether nearly two hundred pieces in two magnificent volumes.

Poet Liu Yu-xi of the Tang Dynasty once wrote, “Though the sun is setting, it can still illuminate the whole sky brilliantly.” This is an apt description of the spirit of Mr. Xi, who, although well advanced in age, undertook the task with unfailing tenacity for the benefit of the younger generations and won high admiration for his academic achievements. On the occasion

of the publication of the book ,I feel greatly honored to have the opportunity to express my respect to the authors by way of this introduction.

Zhang Meng-bai
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自序

数千年前,在世界多数国家尚过着原始生活或半开化生活的时候,中国文化已发展到一定的程度。火药、指南针、造纸等都由中国人民首先发明。早在公元前 2000 年,他们已能用楔形文字记载自己的历史;用药草去医治疾病。中国人民的智慧获得如此伟大发明,赢得世界人民的赞赏,被推颂为世界文化的摇篮并非虚语。这些文化大都在历代优秀作家的寓言、格言、成语、传记和民间故事里表现出来。阅读这些记载一方面能了解中国古代的文化,另一方面对当时社会制度、劳动人民的思想和智慧也能明悉无遗。译述者搜集了中国诸子百家所著述的富于哲理的,幽默的,回味无穷的寓言、格言、成语、民间故事和传记等近两百篇精萃文学,分上下两集译成英文,作为文化交流的初步尝试。上集是寓言、格言和成语;下集是故事

和传记及其他。

译者为便利读者更了解故事内容起见，对原有文意略有增减。书中若干故事是参考多种历史资料加以改编的。原文作者姓氏和创作时期如有证考均加记明以便稽查。

书中收集的资料，都是古代文学作品，难免夹杂一些唯心主义者所主张的观点，这是不同历史时代的反映，这些观点是否正确，似难定论，读者宜善鉴别。

译述者限于译述水平浅漏，因之謏陋谬误在所难免，对原文优秀文义有未能充分表达的地方，敬请海内外鸿儒不吝匡正是幸。

PREFACE

Thousands of years ago when the majority of nations of the world were in the primitive stage or semicivilized stage, China had already developed her civilization to a notable degree. The inventions of gun-powder, the compass, paper, etc. were first made by Chinese. As early as 2000 B. C. Chinese had already used the cuneiform characters to record their history and used medicinal herbs to cure diseases. The wisdom with which they made these inventions won the admiration of the whole world. It is not without cause that China has been universally praised to be the cradle of civilization.

The Chinese civilization may be found in these fables, proverbs, biographies and folk

tales. A study of such records not only enables one to understand ancient Chinese civilization, but also to have insight into the Chinese social order and the thinkings and wisdom of the labouring people. With a view to introducing Chinese ancient culture to the modern world, the compilers and translators have gathered the works of various writers and authors. These nearly two hundred interesting anecdotes, full of philosophical thinking, humour and entertainment, are present to the readers in two volumes. The first volume consists of fables, parables and proverbs; the second, with popular stories, biographies and others. They have been translated into the English language as an initial step towards the interchange of Chinese culture with other cultures.

With the purpose of enabling the readers to obtain a clearer understanding of these anecdotes, the sense in the original has, to a certain degree, been improved or omitted or rearranged

in the process of reshaping and translating. Some of the folk tales here are rewritten from various historical records. The names of the authors and the time of the writing of the originals, if traceable, are specified with each anecdote for the purpose of reference.

Some articles contained herein are written by idealistic thinkers. They held different opinions, and it is the reflection of the age in which they lived. Readers are advised to exercise their intelligence to see the soundness and correctness in their thinking.

The compilers and translators hereby acknowledge their literary incompetance and insufficient experience, which may have caused the graceful notions in the original to be inadequately expressed. The learned public are therefore earnestly requested to point out and correct any mistakes found herein.

上 集

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