



金斧头

The Gold Axe

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从前，有个叫程诚的男孩，家里很穷，他小小年纪就到地主家去打工。地主很吝啬，人送外号“贪不够”。贪不够每天让程诚担水、扫地、劈柴，干许多活儿，还常常不给他饭吃。

Once upon a time, there was a boy called Cheng Cheng. Since he came from a very poor family, he had to work at the landlord's house when he was very young. The landlord was so greedy that he earned a nickname "Greedy Pig". Greedy Pig made Cheng Cheng fetch water, sweep the floor, cut firewood and do lots of chores all day long. What's more, he often didn't give Cheng Cheng anything to eat.

一天，程诚刚担完水回来，贪不够又给了他一把斧头，要他去砍柴。程诚很累，走过一座小桥的时候，腿一软，差点摔倒。斧头掉进河水里，被翻滚的波浪吞没，眨眼就不见了。



One day, just after Cheng Cheng finished fetching water, Greedy Pig gave Cheng Cheng an axe and ordered him to cut firewood on the mountain. Cheng Cheng was really exhausted. As he was crossing a small bridge, his legs buckled under him, and he almost fell. In the blink of an eye, the axe fell from his grip and was swallowed by the swirling water.



丢了斧头，砍不成柴，回去肯定又要遭贪不够一顿打！程诚坐在河边哭起来。河神听见哭声，变成一个白胡子老爷爷，走过来问：“孩子，你为什么哭呢？”

Without an axe, he could not cut any firewood; without firewood, he would surely get a severe beating from Greedy Pig! Thinking of this, Cheng Cheng sat down on the riverbank and cried. When the river god heard him crying, he turned himself into a white-bearded old man and came over, "Child, why are you crying?"

程诚把丢斧头的事告诉了老爷爷。“孩子，你等着！”老爷爷说完，跳进了湍急的河水里。“老爷爷，小心！”程诚冲着老爷爷的背影喊道。



Cheng Cheng told the river god what had happened. "Just wait, child!" With these words, the river god dived into the rushing torrent of the river. "Be careful!" Cheng Cheng shouted after him.



过了一会儿，老爷爷钻出水面，举着一把金光闪闪的斧头问：“孩子，这是你丢的斧头吗？”程诚摆摆手，老老实实地说：“不是，这不是我的斧头！”

After a while, the river god popped out of the river holding a glittering gold axe in his hands. He asked Cheng Cheng, "Child, is this the axe you just lost?" Cheng Cheng shook his head and answered honestly, "No, that is not my axe!"

又过了一会，老爷爷举着一把银光闪闪的斧头钻出水面，问：“孩子，这是你丢的斧头吗？”程诚摆摆手说：“不是，这也不是我的斧头！”



A little while later, the river god arose out of the water again holding a silver axe, and asked, "Child, is this the one?" "No, that isn't, either." Cheng Cheng answered.



当老爷爷第三次钻出水面时，程诚看到老爷爷手里举着的正是自己那把铁斧头，他高兴得跳起来：“这是我的斧头！谢谢您，老爷爷！”

When the river god popped out of the water for the third time, Cheng Cheng saw that the old man was finally holding his axe — the iron one. Cheng Cheng was so happy that he jumped for joy. “That’s my axe! Thank you!”



程诚接过斧头，
用袖子擦干斧头上的
水。当他抬起头准备
再次向老爷爷表示感
谢时，他发现老爷爷
已经不见了。

Cheng Cheng took the axe and carefully wiped it dry with his sleeves. When he lifted his head to thank the old man again, he found that he was already gone.

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程诚一边感念着好心的老爷爷，一边来到山上砍柴。斧头经过老爷爷的手，有了魔力，变得格外锋利，轻轻一挨那些树枝就会断。没花多大工夫，一担柴就砍好了。

Cheng Cheng went up the mountain to cut firewood, feeling grateful to the old man. Because the axe had passed through the river god's hands, it had gained some magic power and was much sharper than before. Branches split easily as soon as they were touched by the axe, so the day's work was finished quickly.

贪不够见程诚回来，劈头就骂：“回来这么晚，又野哪儿去了？”程诚把丢斧头的事告诉了他。贪不够跺着脚嚷道：“你真是天底下头号大傻瓜，为什么不要金斧头呢？哪怕银斧头也行啊！”



When Greedy Pig saw Cheng Cheng returning, he cursed him, "Why are you so late? You must have been playing around!" Cheng Cheng explained the whole story. "You must be the stupidest idiot in the whole wide world! Why didn't you take the gold axe? Even the silver one would have been a better choice!" he shouted, stamping his feet in anger.



贪不够一晚上梦中都是金斧头和银斧头。第二天一大早，他找出一把锈迹斑斑的破烂斧头，装扮成樵夫的样子，来到那座小桥上。他见四下无人，悄悄把破斧头扔进河里。

Greedy Pig dreamed of the silver and the gold axes all night long. The next morning, he took the most chipped and rusty axe he could find. Then he disguised himself as a woodcutter and headed to that small bridge. After making sure that no one was around, he quietly threw the rusty old axe into the river.

然后，贪不够一屁股坐在河边，高一声低一声假哭起来。河神变的白胡子老人又出现了：“你为什么哭呢？”贪不够撒谎说：“我过河时，一不小心，斧头落进水里了。主人肯定会责骂我的。”



Then, Greedy Pig sat down on the riverbank and pretended to cry. The river god, still in disguise, appeared again. "Why are you crying?" he asked. Greedy Pig lied, "When I was crossing the river, my axe accidentally fell into the river. My master will surely scold me for that."



“别着急，我来帮你！”白胡子老人说完，跳进水里，不一会儿，就把贪不够的破斧头捞了出来。贪不够急忙摆手说：“这不是我掉的那把。”

“Don't worry, I'll help you!” The white-bearded old man dived into the river. In no time, he held up the rusty old axe. Greedy Pig shook his head quickly and said, “This is not mine.”

白胡子老人笑笑，把破斧头放在地上，又跳进水里，捞上来一把银斧头。贪不够伸出手想接，可是想着后面的金斧头，他依旧摇摇头说：“这也不是我掉的那把。”



The old man smiled, put the axe down, and jumped back into the waters. This time he came up with a silver axe. Greedy Pig wanted to grab it, but thinking of the gold axe, he shook his head and said, "No, that isn't mine, either."



第三次，白胡子老人捞上来一把金斧头。贪不够一见，两眼放光，一把抢过金斧头，紧紧握在手里，连声说：“这是我的，这是我的！”

The third time, the river god held up a gold axe. The minute he saw it, Greedy Pig's eyes shone with greed. He immediately seized the gold axe, shouting over and over again, "This one is mine! This one is definitely mine!"