

列 异 传

TALES OF MARVELS

宋定伯

南阳宋定伯，年少时，夜行逢鬼。问曰：“谁？”鬼曰：“鬼也。”鬼曰：“卿复谁？”定伯欺之，言：“我亦鬼也。”鬼问：“欲至何所？”答曰：“欲至宛市。”鬼言：“我亦欲至宛市。”共行数里。鬼言：“步行太亟，可共迭相担也。”定伯曰：“大善。”鬼便先担定伯数里。鬼言：“卿大重，将非鬼也？”定伯言：“我新死，故重耳。”定伯因复担鬼，鬼略无重。如其再三。定伯复言：“我新死，不知鬼悉何所畏忌？”鬼曰：“惟不喜人唾。”

THE MAN WHO SOLD A GHOST

When Song Dingbo of Nanyang was young, he met a ghost one night as he was walking.

“Who are you?” he asked.

“A ghost, sir. Who are you?”

“A ghost like yourself, ” lied Song.

“Where are you going?”

“To the city.”

“So am I.”

They went on together for a mile or so.

“Walking is most exhausting. Why not carry each other in turn?” suggested the ghost.

“A good idea, ” agreed Song.

First the ghost carried him for some distance.

“How heavy you are!” said the ghost. “Are you really a specter?”

“I am a new ghost, ” answered Song. “That is why I am heavier than usual.”

Then he carried the ghost, who was no weight at all. And so they went on, changing several times.

“As I am a new ghost, ” said Song presently, “I don’t know what we spectres are most afraid of.”

“Being spat at by men — that is all.”

于是共道遇水，定伯因命鬼先渡，听之，了无声。定伯自渡，漕灌作声。鬼复言：“何以作声？”定伯曰：“新死，不习渡水耳。勿怪。”行欲至宛市，定伯便担鬼至头上，急持之。鬼大呼，声咋咋，索下，不复听之。径至宛市中，着地，化为一羊，便卖之。恐其变化，乃唾之。得钱千五百，乃去。于时言：“定伯卖鬼，得钱千五百。”

They went on in company till they came to a stream. Song told the ghost to cross first, which it did without a sound. But Song made quite a splash.

“Why do you make such a noise?” inquired the ghost.

“I only died recently. I am not used to fording streams. You must excuse me.”

As they approached the city, Song threw the ghost over his shoulder and held it tight. The ghost gave a screech and begged to be put down, but Song would not listen and made straight for the market. When he set the ghost down it had turned into a goat. He promptly sold it, having first spat at it to prevent it changing its form again. Then he left, the richer by one thousand five hundred coins.

So the saying spread:

Song Dingbo did better than most —

He made money by selling a ghost.

怒特祠

武都故道县有怒特祠，云神本南山大梓也，昔秦文公二十七年伐之，树疮，随合。秦文公乃遣四十人持斧斫之，犹不断。疲，士一人，伤足不能去，卧树下。闻鬼相与言曰：“劳攻战乎？”其一日：“足为劳矣。”又曰：“秦公必持不休。”答曰：“其如我何？”又曰：“赤灰跋于子何如？”乃默无言。卧者以告，令士皆赤衣，随所斫，以灰跋树，断化为牛，入水。故秦为立祠。

THE SHRINE TO THE ANGRY BULL

In Wudu County stands the Shrine to the Angry Bull. They say this deity was a giant catalpa tree on the south hill. In the twenty-seventh year of his reign, Duke Wen of Qin sent men to fell this tree, but each time they gashed the trunk it healed again. Even when the duke sent forty men with axes, they could not cut it down. Tired out, they all went home except one man who was unable to leave because he had hurt his foot. He lay down under the tree, and there he heard two spirits talking.

Said one: "Have you not had enough of fighting?"

Said the other: "It is tedious, certainly."

"What if the duke goes on and on?"

"What harm can he do me?"

"Suppose he sends men in red to sprinkle ashes on you?"

At that the other was silent.

The wounded man reported this to the duke, who told his men to put on red clothes and sprinkle ashes on each cut they made. By this means the tree was felled. It changed into a bull which plunged into the stream. Because of this a shrine was erected here.

鲍子都

故司隶校尉上党鲍宣，字子都。少时举上计掾，于道中遇一书生，独行无伴，卒得心痛，子都下车为按摩，奄忽而卒。不知姓字，有素书一卷，银十饼。即卖一饼以殓殓，其余银以枕之，素书着腹上。哭之，谓曰：“若子灵魂有知，当令子家知子在此。今奉使命，不获久留。”遂辞而去。

至京师，有骏马随之，人莫能得近，唯子都得近。子都归，行失道，遇一关内侯家，日暮住宿，见主人，呼奴通刺。奴出见马，入白侯曰：“外客盗骑昔所失骏马。”侯曰：“鲍子都上党高士，必应有语。”侯问曰：“君何以致此马？”子都曰：“昔年无故失之。”子都曰：“昔

THE LOST HORSE

The city tribune, Bao Xuan, was a native of Shangdang whose other name was Zidu. As a young man he was on his way to the capital for an examination when he met a scholar traveling alone who had a pain in his chest. Bao alighted from his carriage to attend to him. But very soon the other died, not having disclosed his name, leaving a scroll of writing and ten silver pieces. Bao spent one piece of silver on the funeral, placed the rest under the dead man's head and spread the scroll over his body. After mourning he left him, saying:

"If your spirit is conscious after death, let your family know where you are. I have business and cannot stay with you any longer."

When Bao reached the capital a fine steed attached itself to him but would let no one else approach it. Returning home Bao lost his way, and went up to a noble-man's house, hoping they might put him up for the night. He asked for the master, and gave the slave his card. When the slave saw the horse, he hastened in to report to the nobleman:

"The stranger outside has stolen that steed you lost." His master said: "Bao Xuan is a well-known scholar of Shangdang. There must be some reason for this." He asked Bao: "How did you come by this horse which I lost the other year?"

年上计，遇一书生，卒死道中。’具述其事。侯乃惊愕曰：‘此吾儿也！’侯迎丧开椁，视银书如所言。侯乃举家诣阙上荐，子都声名遂显。

Bao told him: "On my way to the capital I met a scholar who died on the road. . . ." He told the whole story from beginning to end. The nobleman was aghast.

"That was my son!" he cried.

He went to fetch the coffin, and upon opening it found the silver and scroll there just as Bao had said. Then the nobleman went to court to recommend Bao, and Bao's fame spread far and wide.

张 奋

魏郡张奋者，家巨富。后暴衰，遂卖宅与黎阳程家。程入居，死病相继，转卖与业人何文。文日暮乃持刀上北堂中梁上坐。至二更，忽见一人，长丈余，高冠黄衣，升堂呼问：“细腰，舍中何以有生人气也？”答曰：“无之。”须臾，有一高冠青衣者，次之，又有高冠白衣者，问答并如前。

及将曙，文乃下堂中，如向法呼之。问曰：“黄衣者谁也？”曰：“金也，在堂西壁下。”青衣者谁也？曰：“钱也，在堂前井边五步。”白衣者谁

THE HAUNTED HOUSE

Zhang Fen was a rich man of the principality of Wei. Suddenly falling into a decline, he sold his house to the Cheng family of Liyang. But after moving in, one after another they fell ill and died. Then they in turn sold the house to He Wen of Ye.

One evening He sat with drawn sword on the beam in the main hall facing south. At the second watch, he saw a figure over ten feet high come in, dressed in a tall hat and yellow garment.

"Slender Waist!" called this apparition. "Why do I smell a living man?"

"There is no one here, " was the answer.

Then another in a tall hat and green came in, and after him another in a tall hat and white. Both asked the same question and received the same answer.

When it was nearly dawn, He came down and called "Slender Waist!" as the others had.

"Who is the one in yellow?" he demanded.

"Gold, " came the answer. "Under the west wall of the hall."

"Who is the one in green?"

"Copper, five paces from the well in front of the hall."

也？”曰：“银也，在墙东北角柱下。”

“汝谁也？”曰：“我，杵也，在灶下。”

及晓，文按次掘之，得金银各五百斤，钱千余万。仍取杵焚之，宅遂清安。

“Who is the one in white?”

“Silver, beneath the pillar in the north-east corner.”

“And who are you?”

“A pestle under the stove.”

At daybreak He dug where he had been told, and found five hundred catties of gold, five hundred catties of silver, and more than ten million copper coins. When he burned the pestle the house ceased to be haunted.

谈 生

汉谈生者，年四十，无妇。常感激，读《诗经》。夜半，有女子可年十五六，姿颜服饰，天下无双，来就生，为夫妇之言：“我与人不同，勿以火照我也；三年之后，方可照。”为夫妻，生一儿，已二岁。不能忍，夜伺其寝后，盗照视之。其腰已上，生肉如人，腰下但有枯骨。妇觉，遂言曰：“君负我。我垂生矣，何不能忍一岁而竟相照也？”生辞谢，涕泣不可复止。云：“与君虽大义永离，然顾念我儿，若贫不能自偕活者，暂随我去，方遗君物。”生随之去，入华堂，室宇器物不

THE PRINCE OF SUIYANG'S DAUGHTER

The scholar Tan was still unmarried at forty, much to his distress. One night he was studying *The Book of Songs* at midnight when a girl of about sixteen came in. Her beauty and splendour had no equal on earth, and she offered to be his wife. She warned him, though:

"I am no ordinary woman. For three years you must not look at me by torchlight."

They married and had a son, and when the boy was two years old, Tan could contain his curiosity no longer. While his wife lay asleep he held a torch over her. From the waist up she was flesh like any other woman, but from the waist down she was nothing but dry bones! Just then his wife woke up.

"You have wronged me, husband!" she cried. "I was soon to have become a mortal. Why couldn't you wait for one more year instead of holding that torch over me?"

Tan made abject apologies.

"Now we must part for ever," she said in tears. "You must take good care of my son. If you are too poor to support yourself, come with me now and I shall give you a present."

He followed her into a splendid hall — a rare building richly furnished — where she gave him a robe made of pearls.