

唐代传奇选

SELECTED

TANG DYNASTY STORIES

补江总白猿传

佚 名

梁大同末 遣平南将军蒯钦南征 至桂林，
破李师古陈彻。别将欧阳纥略地至长乐，悉平
诸洞，深入深阻。纥妻纤白，甚美。其部人曰：
“将军何为挈丽人经此 地有神 善窃少女 而
美者尤所难免。宜谨护之。”纥甚疑惧 夜勒兵
环其庐 匿妇密室中 谨闭甚固 而以女奴十余
伺守之。尔夕，阴风晦黑，至五更，寂然无闻。
守者怠而假寐，忽若有物惊悟者，即已失妻矣。
关扃如故 莫知所出。出门山险 咫尺迷闷 不
可寻逐。迫明，绝无其迹。纥大愤痛，誓不徒

THE WHITE MONKEY

Anonymous

In 545 A.D., during the Liang Dynasty, the emperor sent general Lin Qin on an expedition to the south. He went as far as Guilin, and wiped out the rebel forces of Li Shigu and Chen Che. At the same time his lieutenant Ouyang He fought his way as far as Changle, conquering all the cave-dwellers there and leading his army deep into difficult terrain.

Now Ouyang's wife had a white skin and was very beautiful and delicate.

"You should not have brought such a beautiful wife here," his men told him. "There is a god in these parts who carries off young women, especially good-looking ones. You had better guard her carefully."

Ouyang took fright. That night he set guards around the house, and hid his wife in a closely guarded inner chamber with a dozen maid-servants on watch. During the night a high wind sprang up and the sky turned dark, but nothing happened and shortly before dawn the exhausted guards dozed off. Suddenly, however, they were startled from their sleep, only to find that Ouyang's wife had disappeared. The door was still locked, and no one knew how she had got out. They started looking outside on the steep hillside, but a thick fog blotted out everything at one yard's distance, making it impossible to continue the search. Then dawn came,

还。因辞疾 驻其军 日往四遐 即深陵险以索之。

既逾月，忽于百里之外丛筱上，得其妻绣履一只 虽侵雨濡 犹可辨识。纥尤凄悼 求之益坚。选壮士三十人，持兵负粮，岩栖野食。又旬余，远所舍约二百里，南望一山，葱秀迥出。至其下，有深溪环之，乃编木以度。绝岩翠竹之间 时见红彩 闻笑语音。扞萝引絙 而陟其上 则嘉树列植 间以名花 其下绿芜 丰软如毯。清迥岑寂，杳然殊境。东向石门有妇人数十 敝服鲜泽 嬉游歌笑 出入其中。见人皆慢视迟立 至则问曰：“何因来此？”纥具以对。相视叹曰：“贤妻至此月余矣。今病在床，宜遣视之。”

but still they could find no trace of her.

In great anger and grief Ouyang swore that he would not return alone. On pretext of sickness he stationed his troops there, and sent them out daily in all directions to search the valleys and heights for his wife. A month later, on a bush some thirty miles away, they found one of her embroidered shoes which, though soaked by rain, was still recognizable. Overcome with grief, Ouyang intensified the search, taking thirty picked armed men with rations to scour the hills. After another ten days, they reached a place about seventy miles from their camp from where they could see a green, tree-clad mountain to the south which towered above the other hills. When they came to the foot of this mountain, they found it surrounded by a deep stream, which they had to build a little bridge to cross. Between the precipices and emerald bamboos they caught glimpses of coloured dresses and heard the sound of women talking and laughing. When they pulled themselves up the cliffs by vines and ropes, they found green trees planted in avenues with rare flowers between them, and a verdant meadow fresh and soft as a carpet. It was a quiet, secluded, unearthly retreat. There was a gate to the east, hewn in the rock, through which several dozen women in bright new dresses and shawls could be seen passing – singing and laughing as they went. When they saw the strangers, they stopped to stare. And when the men went up to them, the women asked what had brought them there.

After Ouyang had told them, the women looked at each other and sighed. "Your wife has been here over a month," they said. "Just now she is sick in bed. You may go and see her." Passing through a wooden door in the stone gate,

入其门 以木为扉。中宽辟若堂者三。四壁设床 悉施锦荐。其妻卧石榻上 重茵累席，珍食盈前。纥就视之。回眸一睇 即疾挥手令去。诸妇人曰：“我等与公之妻 比来久者十年。此神物所居 力能杀人 虽百夫操兵 不能制也。幸其未返，宜速避之。但求美酒两斛，食犬十头 麻数十斤 当相与谋杀之。其来必以正午后 慎勿太早。以十日为期。”因促之去。纥亦遽退。遂求醇醪与麻犬，如期而往。妇人曰：“彼好酒 往往致醉。醉必骋力 俾吾等以彩练缚手足于床，一踊皆断。尝纫三幅，则力尽不解。今麻隐帛中束之，度不能矣。遍体皆如铁 唯脐下数寸 常护蔽之 此必不能御兵刃。”指其旁一岩曰：“此其食廩。当隐于是，静而伺之。酒置花下，犬散林中，待吾计成 招之即出。”如其言 屏气以俟。日哺，

Ouyang saw three spacious enclosures where couches strewn with silk cushions had been placed by the walls. His wife was lying on a bed spread with matting and rugs, with rich food placed before her. At Ouyang's approach she turned and saw him, but signed to him to leave.

"Some of us have been here for ten years already," the other women told him, "while your wife has only just arrived. This is where the monster lives. He is a mankiller, and even a hundred armed men are no match for him. You had better slip away before he comes back. If you will let us have forty gallons of potent wine, ten dogs for him to eat, and several dozen catties of hemp, we shall be able to kill him. You had better come at noon, not earlier, ten days from now." They urged him to leave quickly, and Ouyang did so.

He was back again on the appointed day bringing with him the strong liquor, hemp and dogs. "The monster is a great drinker," the women said, "and likes to drink himself silly. When he is drunk he always wants to test his strength, and tells us to fasten his arms and legs with silken ropes as he lies on the couch. Then he frees himself with one leap. But once we twisted three ropes together, and he couldn't break them. Now if we twist hemp inside the silk, we are sure he will never be able to snap it. His whole body is like iron, but he has always protected those few inches under his navel; it must mean that he is vulnerable there." Then, pointing to a nearby precipice, they said, "That is where he stores his food. You can conceal yourselves there. Keep quiet and wait. Put the wine by the flowers and the dogs in the forest. If our plan works we shall call you."

有物如匹练，自他山下，透至若飞，径入洞中。少选，有美髯丈夫长六尺余，白衣曳杖，拥诸妇人而出。见犬惊视，腾身执之，披裂吮咀，食之致饱。妇人竟以玉杯进酒，谐笑甚欢。既饮数斗，则扶之而去。又闻嬉笑之音。良久，妇人出招之，乃持兵而入。见大白猿，缚四足于床头，顾人蹙缩，求脱不得，目光如电。竟兵之，如中铁石。刺其脐下，即饮刃，血射如注。乃大叹咤曰：“此天杀我，岂尔之能。然尔妇已孕，勿杀其子，将逢圣帝，必大其宗。”言绝乃死。搜其藏，宝器丰积，珍羞盈品，罗列几案。凡人世所珍，靡不充备。名香数斛，宝剑一双。

Ouyang and his men did as they were told, and waited with bated breath. Late in the afternoon, something like a streamer of white silk flew down from the top of a distant hill straight into the cave, and in a little while a six-foot man with a fine beard came out. He was dressed in white, with a stick in his hand, and was attended by the women. He gave a start at the sight of the dogs, then leapt at them, seized them and tore them limb from limb, eating greedily until he was sated. The women offered him drinks in jade cups, and together they joked and laughed gaily. After he had drunk several pints of wine, the women helped him in, and sounds of fun and merriment could be heard.

After a long time, the women came out to summon the men, who went in carrying their weapons. They saw a huge white monkey fastened by its four paws on the couch. At the sight of the men it recoiled and struggled to release itself, but in vain, and its furious eyes flickered like lightning. Ouyang and his men fell on it, but its body was like iron or stone. However, when they stabbed at its belly under the navel, their swords sank in and red blood spurted out. The white monkey gave a long sigh and said to Ouyang, "This must be the will of heaven – otherwise you would not have been able to kill me. Your wife is pregnant now. Don't kill the child when he is born, for he will grow up to serve a great monarch and your family will prosper." With these words he died.

They searched through his possessions, and found stores of precious things as well as an abundance of rare food on the tables. All the treasures known to men were there, including several gallons of rare scents and a pair of finely

妇人三十辈，皆绝其色。久者至十年。云，色衰必被提去，莫知所置。又捕采唯止其身，更无党类。旦盥洗，著帽，加白袷，被素罗衣，不知寒暑。遍身白毛，长数寸。所居常读木简，字若符篆，了不可识，已则置石磴下。晴昼或舞双剑，环身电飞，光圆若月。其饮食无常，喜啖果栗，尤嗜犬胆而饮其血。日始逾午，即欬然而逝。半昼往返数千里，及晚必归，此其常也。所须无不立得。夜就诸床，黠戏，一夕皆周，未尝寐。言语淹详，华旨会利。然其状，即猥獯类也。今岁木落之初，忽怆然曰：“吾为山神所诉，将得死罪。亦求护之于众灵，庶几可免。”前月哉生魄，石磴生火，焚其简书。怅然自失曰：“吾已千岁，而无子。今有子，死期至

wrought swords. The thirty-odd women were all exquisite beauties, some of whom had been there for ten years. They said that when women grew old they would be taken away, to what fate no one knew. The white monkey was the only one to enjoy these women, for he had no followers.

Every morning the monkey would wash and put on a hat, a white collar and a white silk dress, wearing the same in winter and summer alike. He had white fur several inches long. When he stayed at home he would read wooden tablets inscribed with hieroglyphics which no one else could decipher; and after he had finished reading he would put the tablets under a stone step. On a clear day he might practise sword play, and then the two swords would encircle him like flashes of lightning, making a moon-like halo round him. He ate all manner of things, particularly nuts, and was also very partial to dogs, whose blood he loved to drink. At noon he would fly off to travel thousands of miles in half a day, coming back at night. Such was his custom.

Whenever he took a fancy to anything, he would get it without fail. At night he did not sleep but gambolled through all the beds, enjoying every woman in turn. He could chatter away and speak eloquently too, although he had the form of a monkey.

One early autumn day that year when leaves were beginning to fall, the white monkey looked gloomy and said, "I have been accused by the mountain deities and condemned to death. But I shall ask other spirits to help me, and then perhaps I shall escape." Just after the full moon, a fire sprang up under the stone step and burned up his tablets. "I have lived a thousand years but never had a shield," he said de-

矣。’因顾诸女，洊澜者久，且曰：“此山复绝，未尝有人至。上高而望，绝不见樵者。下多虎狼怪兽。今能至者，非天假之，何耶？”纥即取宝玉珍丽及诸妇人以归，犹有知其家者。纥妻周岁生一子，厥状肖焉。后纥为陈武帝所诛。素与江总善。爱其子聪悟绝人，常留养之，故免于难。及长，果文学善书，知名于时。

spondently. "Now this woman is with child, it means my death is near." Then he looked at the women and shed tears for some time. "This mountain is secluded and steep, and men have never been here before," he went on. "When I look down from the mountain top, I have never seen even a woodcutter, while at the foot of the mountain there are many wild beasts—tigers and wolves. If it were not the will of heaven, how could men have come here?"

Ouyang then went back with all the jade and jewels and precious and beautiful things. He took all the women too, some of whom were able to find their own homes. In a year's time Ouyang's wife gave birth to a son, who resembled the monkey. Later Ouyang was condemned to death by Emperor Wu of the Chen Dynasty. But an old friend of his, Jiang Cong, who liked Ouyang's son for his outstanding intelligence, took him into his own house. Thus the boy escaped death. When he grew up, he became a good writer and calligrapher and a well-known figure in his time.

任氏传

沈既济

任氏，女妖也。有韦使君者，名崙，第九，信安王祜之外孙。少落拓，好饮酒。其从父妹婿曰郑六，不记其名。早习武艺，亦好酒色，贫无家，托身于妻族。与崙相得，游处不闲。天宝九年夏六月，崙与郑子偕行于长安陌中，将会饮于新昌里。至宣平之南，郑子辞有故，请间去，继至饮所。崙乘白马而东。郑子乘驴而南，入升平之北门。偶值三妇人行于道中，中有白衣者，容色姝丽。郑子见之，惊悦，策其驴，忽先之，祸后之，将挑而未敢。白衣时时盼睐，意有所受。郑子戏之曰：“美艳若此，而徒行，何也？”白衣笑曰：“有乘不解相假，不徒行何

REN THE FOX FAIRY

Shen Jiji

There was a young lord named Wei Yin who was the ninth son of the daughter of the Prince of Xinan. He was rather wild and a heavy drinker. His cousin's husband was named Zheng, who was the sixth child of the family, but whose personal name is not known. This Zheng had studied the military arts, and was also fond of drinking and women. Since he was poor and had no home of his own, he lived with his wife's family. Zheng and Wei became great friends, and were always together. In the sixth month of the ninth year of the Tian Bao period (750 A.D.), they were walking together through the capital on their way to a drinking party at the Xinchang quarter. When Zheng, who had some private business, left Wei south of the Xuanping quarter, saying he would join him later at the feast. Then Wei headed east on his white horse, while Zheng rode south on his donkey through the north gate of the Shengping quarter.

On the road Zheng came upon three girls, one of whom, dressed in a white gown, was very beautiful. Pleasantly surprised, Zheng whipped up his donkey to circle round them, wanting to accost them but lacking the courage. The girl in white kept glancing at him in what seemed an encouraging way, so Zheng asked jokingly:

“Why should such beautiful girls go on foot?”

The girl in white smiled and said: “If people with mounts

为？”郑子曰：“劣乘不足以代佳人之步，今辄艺相奉。某得步从足矣。”相视大笑。同行者更相眩诱，稍已狎昵。郑子随之东，至乐游园，已昏黑矣。见一宅，土垣车门，室宇甚严。白衣将入，顾曰：“愿少踟蹰。”而入。女奴从者一人，留于门屏间，问其姓第。郑子既告，亦问之。对曰：“姓任氏，第二十。”少顷，延入。郑执驴于门，置帽于鞍。始见妇人年三十余，与之承迎，即任氏姊也。列烛置膳，举酒数觞。任氏更妆而出，酣饮极欢。夜久而寝，其妍姿美质，歌笑态度，举措皆艳，殆非人世所有。将晓，任氏曰：“可去矣。某兄弟名系教坊，职属南衙，晨兴将出，不可淹留。”乃约后期而去。既行，及里门，门扃未发。门旁有胡人鬻饼之舍，方

aren't polite enough to offer us a lift, what else can we do?"

"My poor donkey is not good enough for such beautiful girls as you," said Zheng. "But I shall offer it now, and I shall be glad to follow you on foot."

He and the girl in white looked at each other and laughed, and with her two maids teasing them, they were soon on familiar terms. Zheng accompanied these girls eastward to Leyou Park, and by the time they got there it was already dark. They came to a magnificent house with thick walls and a big gate. As the girl in white went through the gate, she looked back and said, "Wait a little." One of her maids stayed at the gate, and asked him his name. Zheng told her, then asked the name of the girl, and learned that her name was Ren and that she was the twentieth child in the family.

Presently Zheng was invited in. He had just tethered his donkey at the gate and placed his hat on the saddle, when a woman of about thirty came to greet him—she was the girl's sister. Candles were set out and the table spread. After they had drunk several cups of wine the girl, who had changed her dress, reappeared. Then they drank a great deal and were very merry, and late at night they went to bed together. Her coquetry and charm, the way she sang and laughed and moved—it was all exquisite and quite out of this world. When it was nearly dawn, Ren said, "You had better go now. My brother is a member of the royal conservatory of music and serves in the royal guards. He comes home at dawn and he mustn't see you..." Having arranged to come again, Zheng left.

When he reached the end of the street, the gate of that