

# 中国成语故事选

汉英对照

繆永华 译解

凌 涛 插画

**Selections from Stories  
of Chinese Set Phrases  
( In Chinese and English )**

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# 目 录



序言 / 1 /

按图索骥 / 1 /

百发百中 / 5 /

杯弓蛇影 / 8 /

草菅人命 /12/

草木皆兵 /16/

丑女效顰 /19/

得过且过 /22/

对牛弹琴 /25/

邯郸学步 /28/

涸辙之鲋 /31/

狐假虎威 /35/

画龙点睛 /38/

画蛇添足 /42/

见猎心喜 /46/

渐入佳境 /49/

矫枉过正 /52/

嗟来之食 /55/

井底之蛙 /58/

惊弓之鸟 /63/

刻舟求剑 /67/  
口蜜腹剑 / 70 /  
滥竽充数 / 73 /  
量体裁衣 / 77 /  
买椟还珠 / 82 /  
门可罗雀 / 86/  
南辕北辙 / 89 /  
破镜重圆 / 93 /  
齐人攫金 / 98 /  
杞人忧天 /101/  
黔驴技穷 /106/  
曲突徙薪 /111/  
塞翁失马 /115/  
守株待兔 /120/  
螳螂捕蝉 /123/  
屠龙之技 /126/  
望梅止渴 /129/  
望洋兴叹 /133/  
闻鸡起舞 /138/  
揠苗助长 /141/  
掩耳盗钟 /144/  
叶公好龙 /147/  
一箭双雕 /150/  
一鸣惊人 /153/

鹬蚌相争	/158/
愚公移山	/161/
与狐谋皮	/168/
朝三暮四	/172/
郑人买履	/176/
指鹿为马	/179/
自相残杀	/183/
自相矛盾	/186/

# Contents



Preface /2/

Looking for a Steed with the Aid of Its Picture /3/

A Hundred Shots , a Hundred Bull's-Eyes /7/

Mistaking the Reflection of a Bow in the Cup for a Snake  
/10/

Treating Human Life As a Blade of Grass /14/

Every Bush and Tree Looking Like an Enemy Soldier  
/18/

The Ugly Woman's Imitating Frowning /21/

Muddling Along /24/

Playing the Lute to a Cow /27/

Learning the Hándān Style of Walking /30/

The Silver Carp in a Dry Rut /33/

The Fox Borrowing the Tiger's Fierceness /37/

Putting in the Eyeballs in Painting a Dragon /40/

Drawing a Snake and Adding Feet to It /44/

Being Delighted to See Others Hunting /48/

Being in Better Circumstances Gradually /51/

Straightening the Crooked Beyond the Straight /54/

Food Handed Out in Contempt /57/

A Frog in a Well /61/

A Bird Startled by the Mere Twang of a Bow-String  
/65/

Nicking the Boat to Seek the Sword /69/

Honey-Mouthed and Dagger-Hearted /72/

Passing Oneself Off As One of the *Yu* Players /75/

Cutting Out a Garment After the Figure /80/

Buying the Casket And Giving Back the Pearl /84/

Being Able to Catch Sparrows on the Doorstep /88/

Trying to Go South by Driving the Chariot North  
/91/

A Broken Mirror Joined Together /96/

A Man of *Qí* Snatching Gold /100/

The Man of *Qí* Fearing for the Sky's Fall /104/

The Donkey in *Qíán* Exhausting Its Tricks /109/

Crooking the Chimney and Removing the Firewood  
/113/

The Old Frontiersman Losing His Horse /118/

Standing by a Stump Waiting for More Hares to come  
/122/

The Mantis Stalking the Cicada /125/

The Art of Butchering Dragons /128/

Quenching One's Thirst by Thinking of Plums /131/

Lamenting One's Littleness Before the Vast Sea /136/  
Rising to Practise Swordsmanship at Cock's Crow  
/140/  
Trying to Help Seedlings Grow by Pulling Them Up  
/143/  
Covering One's Ears While Stealing a Bell /146/  
Lord Ye's Love of Dragons /149/  
Hitting Two Hawks with One Arrow /152/  
One Loud Call Amazing the World /156/  
The Snipe and the Clam Grappling with Each Other  
/160/  
The Foolish Old Man Who Removed the Mountains  
/165/  
Asking a Fox for Its Skin /170/  
Three at Dawn and Four at Dusk /174/  
The Man of Zhèng Buying Shoes /178/  
Calling a Stag a Horse /181/  
Killing Each Other In a Body /185/  
Contradicting Oneself /188/

## 序 言



汉语历史悠久,是世界语言中十分优美而丰富多彩的一种语言。在汉语中,成语十分丰富,其中大多是由四个字组成,都很精粹、凝练、优雅俊美、爽耳悦目,包含深邃的哲理和优美风趣、发人深思的故事。可以说,汉语成语是汉语之美的升华。在语言表达中,恰当地运用成语,可以使语言精炼和形象生动,还可以充实口语词汇。

中国自改革开放以来,国际交往日益增多。世界各地出现学习汉语的空前热潮。为了弘扬中国优秀文化和帮助国外懂英语的各族人用英语对照学习汉语并了解中国文化,也为了帮助国内高中、大学学生和自学者学习英语和古汉语,我特挑选短小精悍、生动有趣的中国成语故事,根据古籍原文译成现代汉语和英语,并加汉英对照的题解,帮助读者理解成语的含义。每则故事附汉语古籍原文及题意插画。

我这样做,是想使本书形式上图文并茂,内容上亦庄亦谐,一箭三雕:既是帮助学习语言的读物,又是可供消遣怡情的故事书,也是可供英语工作者作为探索研究汉英翻译技巧的参考书。衷心希望此书能对中外读者有所帮助。如有不妥之处,欢迎批评指正。

本书的编排,则以成语的汉语拼音字母为序。英语译文中,涉及中国人名地名的,根据中国书刊惯例,一律采用汉语拼音字母;并再标以汉语普通话四声即阴平、阳平、上声、去声的符号。对于中国古籍名称,则先写汉语拼音字母,再在圆括弧内注明英语译文。谨此序言。

缪永华

## Preface



The Chinese language has a long history. It is one of the elegant, rich and varied languages in the world. It has many set phrases, most of which are composed of four characters. The Chinese set phrases are all terse, concise, exquisite, beautiful and pleasing to the ear and the eye. They contain profound philosophic theory and fine, interesting, entertaining stories calling for deep thought. We may say that the Chinese set phrases are the sublimation of the beauty of the Chinese language. In giving speech, one can make his speech concise and vivid and also enrich the vocabulary of his spoken language by using proper set phrases.

Since the reform and opening to the outside world, China has established more and more contacts with other countries. An unprecedented upsurge in Learning Chinese has appeared all over the world. In order to carry forward China's excellent culture, help those foreigners who know English to learn Chinese and understand the Chinese culture, and also help the students at home on high school and college levels and those studying English by themselves to learn English and ancient Chinese, I have purposely selected brief, forceful, vivid and interesting stories of the Chinese set phrases and translated them into modern Chinese and English according to the original an-

cient Chinese writings. I have also added the explanatory notes on the titles in Chinese and English so as to help readers understand the meanings of the set phrases. Before and after each story and its explanatory note are the original text of the ancient Chinese writing and the picture based on the meaning of the phrase.

In doing so , I mean to make both the pictures and the texts of this book excellent in form and have its content serious and comical at the same time. I intend “ to kill three birds with one stone ” , that is , I intend to make this book be a reading material for the study of languages , a story-book for recreation and delight , and also a reference book for the workers of English to research into the skill of translation from Chinese into English. It is earnestly hoped that this book will be helpful to the readers at home and abroad. Criticisms and suggestions are welcome.

As to the layout of this book , it is arranged according to the alphabetical order of the phonetic letters of the Chinese set phrases. According to the usual practice of the books and magazines published in China , the names of Chinese persons or places in the English version are precisely those in the phonetic letters of the Chinese language. Moreover , on the phonetic letters are marked the signs of four tones in modern standard Chinese pronunciation , namely , yīngpíng ( high and level tone ) , yángpíng ( rising tone ) , shàngshēng ( a variant pronunciation for 上声 shàngshēng ) and qùshēng ( falling tone ) .

With regard to the names of ancient Chinese writings ,

have first written them in Chinese phonetic letters , then put the English translations in the parentheses.

Such is my preface to this book.

Miao Yonghua

## 按图索骥

àn tú suǒ jì

伯乐《相马经》有“隆颡蚨目，蹄如累鞠”之语，其子执《相马经》以求马，出见大蟾蜍，谓其父曰：“得一马，略与相同，但蹄不如累鞠尔。”伯乐知其子之愚，但转怒为笑曰：“此马好跳，不堪御也。”

——《升庵集·艺林伐山》

### 【今译】

古代有个善于相马的伯乐，他的经验总结在《相马经》中，有这样一段话：“千里马的特征是前额高高隆起，双目好像铜钱，蹄子大而端正，好像叠在一起的酒鞠饼。”

他的儿子拿着这本书出去找千里马。看见一只很大的癞蛤蟆，就用草绳系住牵回家来，对父亲说：“我找到了一匹好马，和你书上说的差不多，只是马蹄不像叠在一起的酒鞠饼。”

伯乐很了解他的傻儿子，便转怒为笑说：“是啊，这匹马喜欢跳，但是不能让人骑啊！”

## 【题解】

此成语亦作“按图索骏”，喻指那些拘泥成法不结合实际的人。后来，亦比喻按照线索去寻找事物。



## Looking for a Steed with the Aid of Its Picture

Bólè , an expert at reading horse in ancient times , summed up his experience in a book *The Classic of Reading Horses* . In it were the following words , “ A high-bulged forehead , two copper-like eyes and four regular big hoofs resembling piled yeast-cakes are characteristic of a fast horse that covers a thousand *li* a day ” .

His son went out to look for such a fast horse with the book in his hand . When he saw a big toad , he tied it with a straw string and led it back home . He said to his father , “ I have found a swift horse similar to what you have described in the book except that its hoofs are not like piled yeast-cakes . ”

Bólè knew his foolish son very well and so he held back his rising anger and said smilingly , “ Yes , this ‘ horse ’ likes leaping but it can’t be ridden by a man . ”

—Translated from *Shēng Ān Jí* ( The Volume by Yáng Shēng-ān ) .

### 【Explanatory Notes on the Title】

This set phrase is the same as àn tú suǒ jùn . It metaphorical-

ly denotes those who are sticklers for accepted rules without combining them with practice. Afterwards ,it also figuratively means seeking a certain thing according to its clues.

# 百发百中

bǎi fā bǎi zhòng

楚有养由基者 ,善射 ,去柳叶者百步而射之 ,百发百中。

——《战国策·西周策》

## 【今译】

战国时代 ,楚国有个名叫养由基的 ,箭术非常高明。

一天 ,他站在离开柳树百步以外的地方 ,瞄准柳叶射去 ,射一百次 ,每一次箭头都穿过叶心 ,真是百发百中。

## 【题解】

此成语指射箭技术高明 ,每一次都命中目标。亦比喻料事有充分把握。另一成语“百步穿杨”与此相似 ,也形容箭术高明。