

"The jade is a rare treasure.<sup>1</sup> Your Majesty desires to get it and has written a note to my king. He immediately called a meeting of councilors. They all said that you are austere and tricky.<sup>2</sup> They fear lest the jade should go to the palace of Chin, but that the cities should not be forthcoming.<sup>3</sup> But I told them, 'Nay, among scholars there is always faith, how much more is there in a mighty king such as you.' My king fasted five days before he handed me the jade to present to you. But you have not been honorable. You have shown it to your ministers and concubines. That certainly has defiled the jade.<sup>4</sup> Therefore I have taken back the jade. If you press me for it,<sup>5</sup> I will break the jade and die here."

So saying, Hsiang-ju tried to strike the jade against the pillar. The king was greatly stirred<sup>6</sup> by his speech. He liked the jade, and feared lest Hsiang-ju would break it. He quickly stopped him, saying, "I must keep my words with Chao," and called his officials to give Hsiang-ju a map of his cities. Hsiang-ju mused<sup>7</sup> that the offer might not be genuine and he would be fooled thereby. So he said:

1. rare treasure, 希世之寶. 2. austere and tricky, 苛刻且狡滑. 3. would not be forthcoming, 不會交來. 4. defiled the jade, 污辱那玉. 5. press me for it, 強逼我交出那玉. 6. stirred, 激動. 7. mused, 思度.



"You must fast five days before you can receive the jade." The king accepted Hsiang-ju's demands, and told him to lodge at a hotel.

Hsiang-ju thought, while he was at the hotel, "The king is now fasting. He may not give me the cities, then I shall have no face to see my king."<sup>1</sup> So he was dressed up as a poor man, and returned to Chao. The king of Chao was very happy indeed at the tactful way Hsiang-ju had dealt with<sup>2</sup> the king of Chin.

Now on the sixth day, the king of Chin called a grand meeting<sup>3</sup> to receive the jade. Hsiang-ju had come to Chin for the second time. He walked with dignity to the court of the king. The king seeing Hsiang-ju empty-handed without the jade,<sup>4</sup> asked:

"I have fasted five days; but where is the jade?" To which Hsiang-ju replied, "Your state has been dishonest since the prince of Mu.<sup>5</sup> I am afraid you were dishonest, too. So I have taken back the jade to my king. Now I am ready to die here."

The king of Chin was angry at his words. He ordered his soldiers to bind Hsiang-ju. But Hsiang-ju remained reserved,<sup>6</sup> saying, "Be not

1. no face to see my king, 無面目去見我王. 2. dealt with, 交涉. 3. grand meeting, 大會. 4. empty-handed without the jade, 空手無玉. 5. prince of Mu, 穆公. 6. remained reserved, 仍然鎮靜.

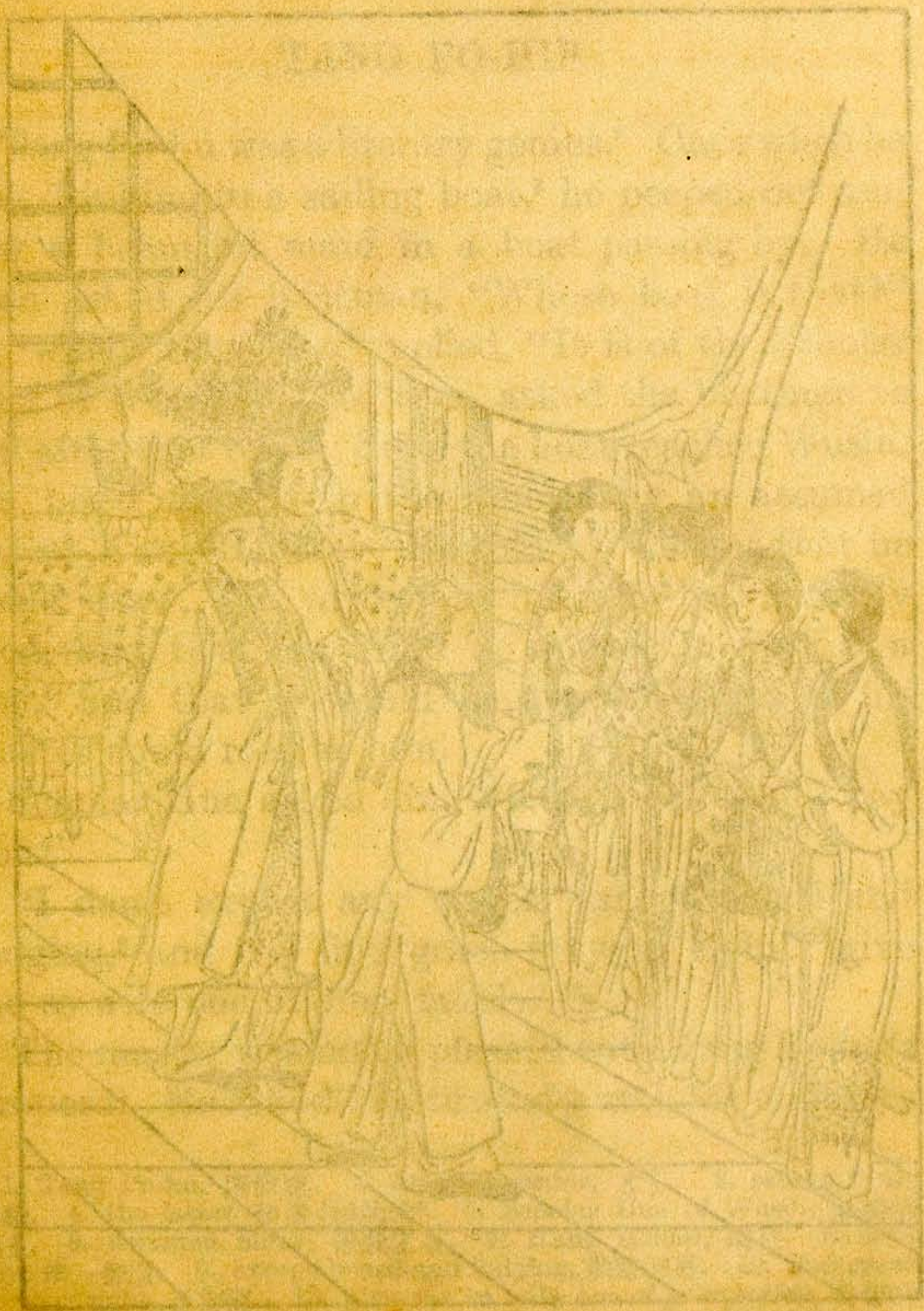


angry, O great King, I have a word to say. If you wish to get the jade, you must send a messenger to Chao and present fifteen cities<sup>1</sup> to my king. He will on receiving the cities hand the messenger the jade. I know I have disappointed Your Majesty, and am worthy of death, and I have sent word to my king. But the world will know that a messenger of Chao has been killed by Chin, only because the latter<sup>2</sup> wants to get the jade, and would lay all the blame on you."<sup>3</sup>

The king and his ministers were silenced by Hsiang-ju's eloquent appeal, and had to treat him politely and send him away.

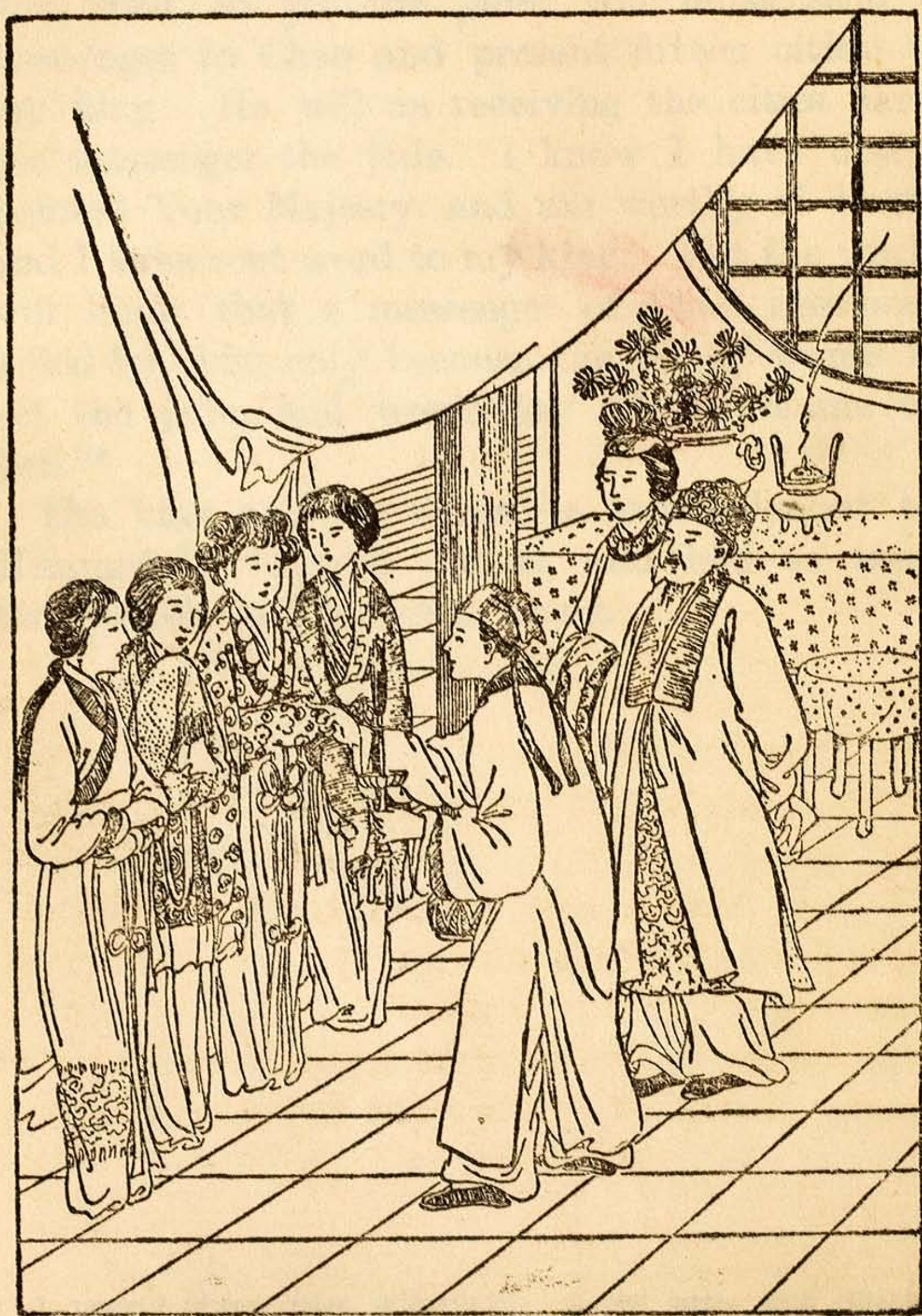
1. present fifteen cities, 奉送十五城.    2. the latter, 後者 (指秦王).  
3. lay all the blame on you, 加罪於你.





"If I could have that maid in green coat."





"If I could have that maid in green coat. . . ."



TANG PO-HU<sup>1</sup>

Tang Po-hu was a literary genius.<sup>2</sup> Once when he was drinking in a sailing boat,<sup>3</sup> he peeped out and saw a beautiful maid in a boat passing by. He then asked his boatman, "Whose boat is that?" To which the latter<sup>4</sup> replied, "It is of the Scholar Hua of Wusih."<sup>5</sup> He then asked the boatman to sail after that boat. Soon the boat reached Wusih. He hired himself to the scholar by an assumed name<sup>6</sup> Kang Hsüan.<sup>7</sup> He told his master that he could draw, and write; but his wife had recently died, and that he would be willing to work as a boy,<sup>8</sup> and that it would be a great favor if his master could receive him.

Scholar Hua asked him, "How much shall I pay you?"

"I don't expect any wages, except board and lodging,<sup>9</sup> and if I find grace in your sight,<sup>10</sup> give me to wife one of your maids."<sup>11</sup>

The master was much pleased with Tang Po-hu's proposal. He asked him to study with his children,

1. Tang Po-hu, 唐伯虎. 2. literary genius, 才子. 3. sailing boat, 划船. 4. the latter, 後者 (指船夫). 5. Scholar Hua of Wusih, 無錫華學士. 6. assumed name, 假託之名. 7. Kang Hsüan, 康宣. 8. as a boy, 作一書僮. 9. except board and lodging, 除膳宿外. 10. find grace in your sight, 得你寵. 11. give me to wife one of your maids, 以你的婢嫁我作妻.



and gave him a name Hua An.<sup>1</sup> Hua An corrected misprints of their books. Some time he would write essays for the master's children. Some time he would drink wine with them and learned from them that the maid whom the master liked best was called Chiu-hsiang.<sup>2</sup> The master was pleased with Hua An and his work, and asked him to be an overseer of his household.<sup>3</sup> Hua An did very faithfully and honestly the work for his master.

Hua An's mistress asked a go-between<sup>4</sup> to find a wife for him. But Hua An said to her, "I have found grace in the sight of my master and mistress, I prefer one of the maids of my master to be my wife." The go-between reported that to the mistress. The mistress granted his request, and had that very night<sup>5</sup> her maids stand in a single file,<sup>6</sup> and asked Hua An to select one among them to become his wife.

Hua An with a lighted lamp in his hand had a general inspection<sup>7</sup> of the maids, but he could not find Chiu-hsiang. He held peace.<sup>8</sup> His mistress knew this, and asked him, "Is there not one among the maids worthy to be your wife?"<sup>9</sup>

1. Hua An, 華安. 2. Chiu-hsiang, 秋香. 3. overseer of his household, 管家. 4. go-between, 媒人. 5. very night, 當晚. 6. stand in a single file, 排作一行. 7. general inspection, 觀看. 8. held peace, 沈默不言. 9. worthy to be your wife, 配作你的妻.



“Since I have found grace in your sight . . . you have not asked all your favorite maids to let me see and choose,” was Hua An’s reply.

Then the mistress called out four of her favorite maids, including Chiu-hsiang. The four maids had no time to dress themselves; they came out in ordinary clothes.<sup>1</sup> Chiu-hsiang was wearing the same green coat that she wore when Hua An first saw her. Hua An saw her, and recognized her. He said nothing, but stood still.<sup>2</sup> “Whom do you like?” the mistress asked.

Hua An, then pointing at Chiu-hsiang, said, “If I could have that maid in green coat, that would be glorious.”<sup>3</sup>

The mistress granted his request. Hua An and Chiu-hsiang were married. In the bridal chamber<sup>4</sup> Chiu-hsiang asked, “Your face is very familiar to me. I must have seen you somewhere before. Judging from your appearance, you are a man of remarkable ability.<sup>5</sup> Tell me what you are<sup>6</sup> and who you are.” “I am Tang Po-hu,” replied Hua An. “It is God’s will<sup>7</sup> that you shall be mine and I yours. Since I have told you my real name, I cannot stay here any longer, let us go to-morrow morning.”

1. in ordinary clothes, 穿平常衣服. 2. stood still, 靜立. 3. glorious, 光榮. 4. bridal chamber, 洞房; 新房. 5. man of remarkable ability, 特殊人才. 6. what you are, 何等樣人. 7. God’s will, 天意.



Hua An packed up his things, returned all things and furniture that his master had loaned him, and made a detailed report,<sup>1</sup> and went away with his bride.

Morning came. The master found that Hua An and Chiu-hsiang were not in the chamber,<sup>2</sup> but found everything in good order. He was totally surprised, and desired to find out where he had gone and who he was.

Months later, one of the scholar's servants saw Po-hu reading at a bookstore. He returned quickly and told his master. But when the master came to the bookstore, Po-hu had left. The manager told the scholar that the gentleman that was reading books just a while ago was no other than<sup>3</sup> Tang Po-hu, the eminent<sup>4</sup> literary genius.

The scholar was much pleased. He went and called on Po-hu. Po-hu told him the reason why he hired himself out as a boy.<sup>5</sup> He then asked Chiu-hsiang to come out and meet her former master. Po-hu made a great feast in honor of<sup>6</sup> the master. They were very happy that day.

1. detailed report, 詳細的報告. 2. chamber, 臥室; 私室. 3. no other than, 非別. 4. eminent, 著名. 5. hired himself out as a boy, 受僱爲書僮. 6. in honor of, 尊崇.



LIU CHIEN-AN<sup>1</sup>

Liu Chien-an was a mighty man of Soochow.<sup>2</sup> His father died, when he was a little boy. He served his mother faithfully. There was a famine, and his mother died of starvation.<sup>3</sup> Chien-an buried her and traveled into a far country for some ten years, during which time<sup>4</sup> his neighbors did not know anything of his whereabouts.<sup>5</sup>

There was an evil man named Li, who amassed<sup>6</sup> a fortune by rice dealing.<sup>7</sup> He schemed with<sup>8</sup> the magistrate. All the farmers in the neighborhood hated him very much, but they could not do anything against him.<sup>9</sup>

One day there came a certain soothsayer,<sup>10</sup> who told the wicked rice merchant that in the eastern section of the city there was a piece of fertile land.<sup>11</sup> If anyone could bury his dead there, his offspring<sup>12</sup> would receive a great blessing.

The evil rice merchant listened to the soothsayer, bribed the magistrate, made untrue deeds,<sup>13</sup> and falsely accused<sup>14</sup> the landlords. The magistrate

1. Liu Chien-an, 劉建安. 2. Soochow, 蘇州. 3. died of starvation, 餓死. 4. during which time, 當時. 5. know anything of his whereabouts, 知下落. 6. amassed, 積蓄. 7. rice dealing, 販米. 8. schemed with, 狼狽爲奸. 9. do anything against him, 能反對他. 10. soothsayer, 卜者. 11. a piece of fertile land, 一片膏腴地. 12. offspring, 後裔. 13. made untrue deeds, 偽造契據. 14. falsely accused, 誣告.



confiscated the lands.<sup>1</sup> Thus after two months all the lands in that section had gone to<sup>2</sup> the wicked Li. And Chien-an's land in which he buried his mother was also confiscated. All the coffins in which the farmers' parents and grandparents were laid were now burned by the wicked merchant. Oh, it was a pitiful land of dry bones!<sup>3</sup> Worse still, the wicked landlord would not allow the farmers to collect the bones of their fathers and rebury them.<sup>4</sup> This made them more bitter against Li, but they could not do anything.

One day there came unexpectedly to the village a certain gray-haired<sup>5</sup> man bearing a sword, and wandering in the field as if<sup>6</sup> seeking something. All the farmers thought the gray-haired stranger must be a robber, and wished to drive him away. But the stranger said: "Be not afraid. Do you not know I am an old neighbor of yours?" I am Liu Chien-an who left here more than ten years ago."

Hearing that the stranger was no other but<sup>8</sup> Liu Chien-an, all the farmers were very glad. They asked him how he fared.<sup>9</sup> But he told them that he had no time to tell them his condition. He asked, "Where is my mother's grave?" Then

1. confiscated the lands, 沒收田地. 2. gone to, 歸於. 3. a pitiful land of dry bones, 一片白骨. 4. rebury them, 再葬. 5. gray-haired, 頭髮花白者; 中年人. 6. as if, 宛如. 7. neighbor of yours, 你的鄰居. 8. no other but, 非別. 9. how he fared, 起居如何.



all the farmers told him the evil deeds the wicked rice merchant had done.

"I must be avenged! What had my mother sinned against Heaven that her coffin should be burned? I must kill that wicked fellow!"<sup>1</sup> Chien-an said.

"Nay, nay!"<sup>2</sup> they all said, "for he has a large army of guards. You cannot stand against them."<sup>3</sup>

"Yes, I can and will."<sup>4</sup> You just wait and see."

In the second watch of that night, Chien-an led the farmers to the magnificent<sup>5</sup> house of the wicked Li. He said to them, "You wait here. I will go in but will come out soon." So saying, he sprang over the wall and after an hour he jumped out and said, "I have avenged my mother's desecrated grave,<sup>6</sup> but I have to deal with the magistrate, too. If misfortune should befall<sup>7</sup> you and you should be caught and wrongly accused, do not tell the magistrate that I have done this. I will come to deliver you within three days."<sup>8</sup> He then departed.

Next morning, the farmers found that all the members of wicked Li's family were beheaded,

1. that wicked fellow, 那惡徒. 2. Nay, nay! 不可, 不可. 3. stand against them, 抵敵他們. 4. can and will=can stand against and will stand against them. 5. magnificent, 宏大的. 6. desecrated grave, 被污辱的坟墓. 7. befall, 遭遇. 8. within three days, 三日內.

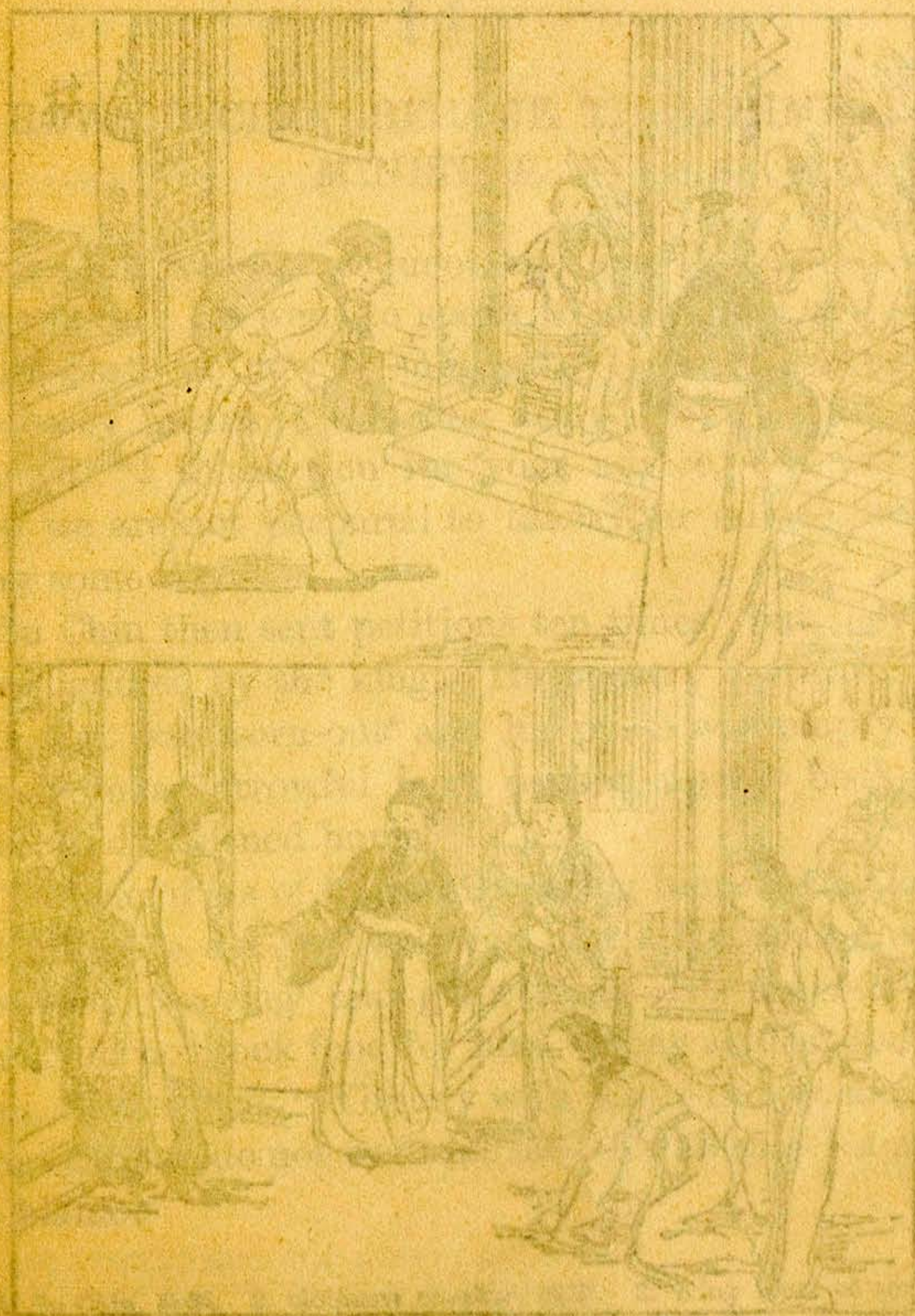


and their heads were hanging on a tree. That night the magistrate lost his ears. There was a note bearing this sentence,<sup>1</sup> "I have taken your ears as a warning.<sup>2</sup> If you do not repent,<sup>3</sup> your head will go off,<sup>4</sup> too."

The magistrate then reported the case to his superior official.<sup>5</sup> The superior official who was a just judge investigated<sup>6</sup> the matter, found out the wickedness of the evil merchant, and restored<sup>7</sup> all the lands to the rightful owners,<sup>8</sup> the farmers. But no body knew where Chien-an had gone.

1. bearing this sentence, 附有那句. 2. as a warning, 作一警告. 3. Repent, 後悔. 4. will go off, 將去脫. 5. his superior official, 他的上司. 6. investigated, 調查. 7. restored, 歸還. 8. rightful owners, 原主.





"His sister-in-law knelt down."  
"He wore a sorrowful face, packed up his baggage."





"He wore a sorrowful face, packed up his bookcase."

"His sister-in-law knelt down."



## HOW SU CHIN<sup>1</sup> BECAME THE PRIME MINISTER

Su Chin was an eloquent speaker,<sup>2</sup> but he was very poor. He went to speak to King Huai of the Chin<sup>3</sup> State on how to subjugate<sup>4</sup> the neighboring states by means of a strong army. But the king replied, "I thank you for your advice, but just now we are not prepared to take your advice, we may some day."<sup>5</sup>

Su Chin then sent petitions ten times,<sup>6</sup> but they were ignored by the king. He became destitute.<sup>7</sup> His coat was worn-out<sup>8</sup> and his purse was empty. He wore a sorrowful face, packed up his book-case, and returned home.

The members of his family seeing him in such a pitiful state did not welcome him. His wife did not stop weaving<sup>9</sup> and greet him. His sister-in-law<sup>10</sup> did not cook food for him. They all despised him. He sighed, "Why my wife, sister-in-law, and even parents do not welcome me—for all that I am to blame?"

1. Su Chin, 蘇秦. 2. eloquent speaker, 說客. 3. King Huai of the Chin, 秦懷王. 4. subjugate, 征服. 5. some day, 將來; 異日. 6. petitions ten times, 上奏書十次. 7. destitute, 貧窮. 8. worn-out, 破舊. 9. weaving, 織. 10. sister-in-law, 嫂.



He therefore broke open<sup>1</sup> his bookcase, and took out a book by Chiang Shang, on military tactics.<sup>2</sup> He read that book, marked, learned, and inwardly digested<sup>3</sup> it. Very often he would fall asleep, but he pierced his leg with a sharp needle,<sup>4</sup> and thus he kept awake, saying, "I must speak to the king again, and become famous thereby." Years later he had mastered the book. He then said to himself, "Now I can speak to kings."

He then went to speak to the king of Chao, and the king of Chao was greatly pleased by his eloquent speeches, and offered him the post of premier,<sup>5</sup> and presented him one hundred carriages and large quantities of gold and silver. He was a wise chancellor, and there reigned peace and happiness in his kingdom. He was the glory of the kingdom.<sup>6</sup> All the governors and princes<sup>7</sup> of Chin showed great respect for him.<sup>8</sup> None could be like him in power and influence.

When his parents heard he was going to speak to the king of Chu,<sup>9</sup> and would pass Loyang,<sup>10</sup> they went out thirty li<sup>11</sup> to meet him. They made a

1. broke open, 打開. 2. military tactics, 兵學 (即指太公陰符之謀而言). 3. inwardly digested, 內心的融會. 4. pierced his leg with a sharp needle, 以錐刺股. 5. post of premier, 宰相之位. 6. the glory of the kingdom, 國家之榮. 7. governors and princes, 官吏與君侯. 8. respect for him, 敬崇他. 9. king of Chu, 楚王. 10. Loyang, 洛陽. 11. thirty li, 三十里.



feast in honor of him. His wife dared not look straight at him, but bowed down. His sister-in-law knelt down, creeping like a snake on the ground.<sup>1</sup> He asked his sister-in-law, "Why were you so impolite to me before, but now so humble before me, sister?"

"Because, Brother, you are now the most influential prime minister of the nation."

"Oh, when a man is poor, his own parents will not receive him; but the minute he becomes wealthy, all his relatives<sup>2</sup> fear him. Man should not neglect honor, position, and wealth," sighed Su Chin.

1. creeping like a snake on the ground, 爬行. 2. relatives, 親戚.



## THE GENTLEMEN'S STATE

In the Tang dynasty<sup>2</sup> when the Empress Wu<sup>3</sup> was reigning, there was a scholar named Tang Ao.<sup>4</sup> One day he and his brother-in-law Ling Chih-yang<sup>5</sup> sailed to the Gentlemen's State to make their fortunes.<sup>6</sup> They landed after several days' voyage. Ling Chih-yang went to purchase goods, but Tang Ao and his boatman To Chiu-kung,<sup>7</sup> wandered on the shore.

Now the land was truly a land of gentlemen. At the entrance to the city, there were written the four characters:<sup>8</sup> "only righteousness is precious."<sup>9</sup> Entering it they found the city full of people, who wore the same kind of dress, and spoke the same speech, as the Chinese, yet all of whom behaved very well.<sup>10</sup>

Tang Ao and To Chiu-kung came to a market, the practice<sup>11</sup> of which place totally surprised them. They found the customers would raise the price,<sup>12</sup> while the clerks would decrease it.<sup>13</sup> That is just contrary<sup>14</sup> to the practice in China. The

1. Gentlemen's State, 君子國. 2. Tang dynasty, 唐朝. 3. Empress Wu, 武后 (則天). 4. Tang Ao, 唐敖. 5. Ling Chih-yang, 林志揚. 6. make their fortunes, 圖利. 7. boatman To Chiu-kung, 船夫多九公. 8. characters, 字. 9. "only righteousness is precious," 惟善爲寶. 10. behaved very well, 立品端方. 11. practice, 習慣. 12. raise the price, 提高價目. 13. decrease it, 減牠 (價目). 14. contrary to, 相反.



customers believed that they would feel better if they could raise the price. But in China even in a one-price<sup>1</sup> shop there may sometimes be a discount.<sup>2</sup>

Tang Ao went further and saw a farmer buying things. The farmer paid the clerk silver and took things away. The clerk examined<sup>3</sup> the silver and found it of better quality.<sup>4</sup> He then ran after the farmer and stopped him, saying, "Brother, the silver we use is of medium quality.<sup>5</sup> Now you have paid me silver of superior quality."<sup>6</sup>

"That is a small thing," replied the farmer.

"I may give you credit for the balance.<sup>7</sup> But I am afraid that if I should not meet you again, I should be punished in the other world,"<sup>8</sup> rebutted the clerk.

The farmer pulled away. The clerk still murmured,<sup>9</sup> "good silver for poor goods." While he was talking, a beggar came by. The clerk then gave the balance to the beggar.

Tang Ao met Wu Chih-ho<sup>10</sup> and Wu Chih-siang,<sup>11</sup> councilors of the king,<sup>12</sup> and descendants of Tai-po.<sup>13</sup> They invited Tang Ao to their home.

1. one-price, 不二價. 2. discount, 折扣. 3. examined, 考察. 4. better quality, 更好的質品. 5. medium quality, 中等質品. 6. superior quality, 上等質品. 7. credit for the balance, 餘找. 8. the other world, 來世. 9. murmured, 喃喃. 10. Wu Chih-ho, 吳志和. 11. Wu Chih-siang, 吳志祥. 12. councilors of the king, 宰相. 13. descendants of Tai-po, 泰伯後裔.



After discoursing<sup>1</sup> on people and government, they passed on to table manners<sup>2</sup> and food. Wu Chih-ho said:

“I have heard you fared sumptuously,<sup>3</sup> you have many courses of food<sup>4</sup> at dinner, and you have desserts and fruits.<sup>5</sup> Your choice of food hinges on the price of food, rather than on its taste and nourishment.<sup>6</sup> Take, for instance, bird’s nests,<sup>7</sup> which do not taste good, but the price of which is ten times as high as ordinary food<sup>8</sup> in your country. Every feast must have the bird’s nests, without which the host<sup>9</sup> cannot show pride to his guests. Your rule regarding<sup>10</sup> a feast is: the more money the host spends on the feast, the prouder he feels. In my country, bird’s nests are abundant and cheap. The poor<sup>11</sup> take them as food and in the market one bushel of rice is exchanged for one picul of bird’s nests. I simply can’t understand why you take it as an indispensable dish<sup>12</sup> in a banquet.”<sup>13</sup>

Then Wu Chih-siang said also: “I hear, too, that your people are too extravagant,<sup>14</sup> you spend too much on weddings and funerals.<sup>15</sup> The rich may

1. discoursing, 談話. 2. table manners, 席上規則. 3. fared sumptuously, 起居奢華. 4. many courses of food, 許多小菜. 5. desserts and fruits, 小食及水果. 6. its taste and nourishment, 牠的味和滋養料. 7. bird’s nests, 燕窩. 8. ten times as high as ordinary food, 十倍於平常食物. 9. host, 主人. 10. regarding, 論及. 11. the poor, 貧者. 12. an indispensable dish, 省不了的一盆(菜). 13. banquet, 宴會. 14. extravagant, 奢侈. 15. weddings and funerals, 婚喪.



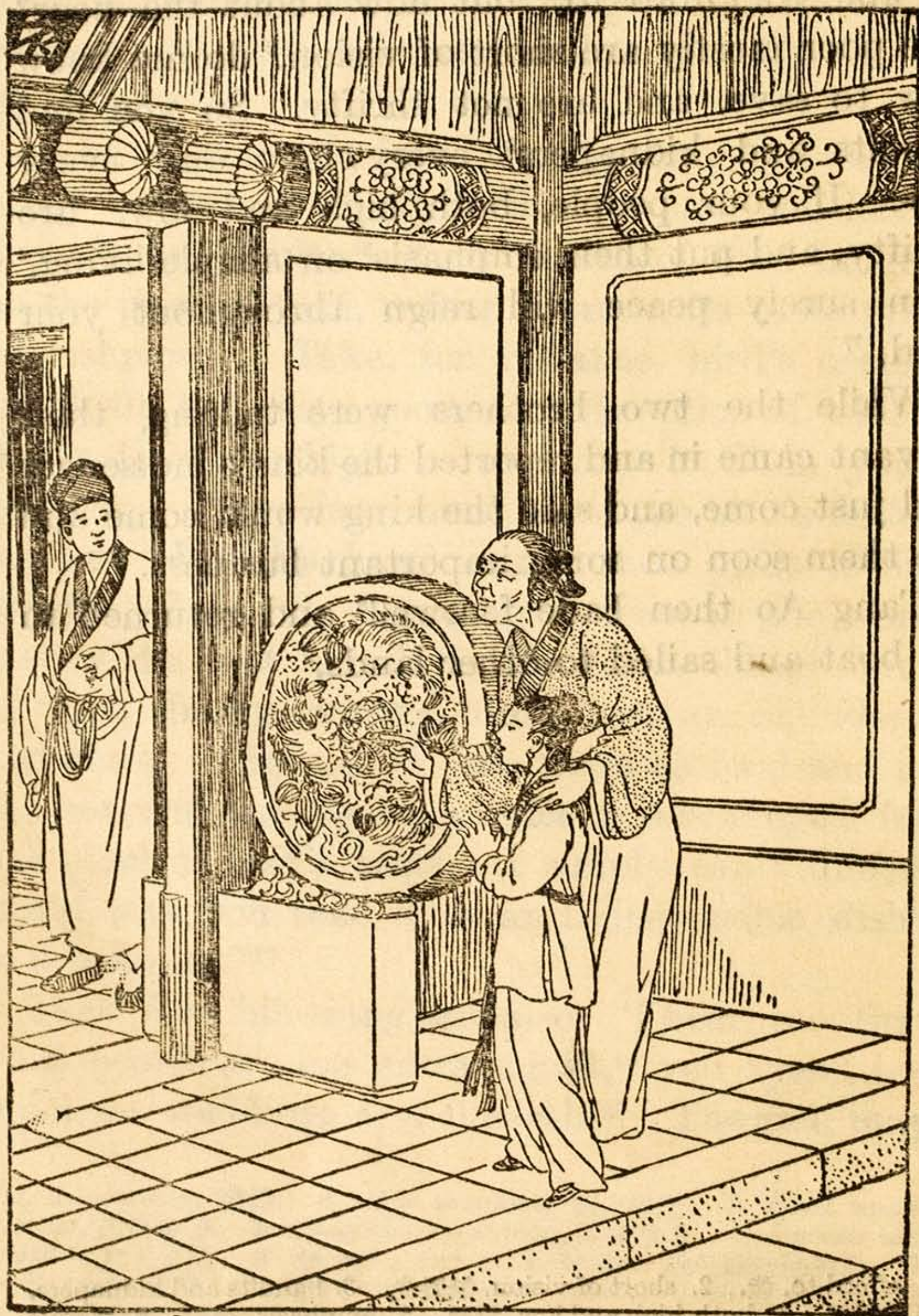
be able to afford to,<sup>1</sup> but how about the poor? The poor mostly are short of vision,<sup>2</sup> do not know how to save, and are not thrifty. So you find bandits and kidnapers<sup>3</sup> everywhere and every day. If your people, both high and low,<sup>4</sup> are thrifty, and put their emphasis<sup>5</sup> on simple living,<sup>6</sup> then surely peace will reign throughout your land.”<sup>7</sup>

While the two brothers were talking, their servant came in and reported the king's messenger had just come, and said the king would come and see them soon on some important business.

Tang Ao then bade farewell<sup>8</sup> and returned to his boat and sailed to other lands.<sup>9</sup>

1. afford to, 能. 2. short of vision, 無眼光. 3. bandits and kidnapers, 土匪與綁匪. 4. both high and low, 貴賤. 5. emphasis, 着重. 6. simple living, 簡單的生活. 7. throughout your land, 全國. 8. bade farewell, 再會; 告別. 9. sailed to other lands, 駛往他國.





"The old widow arrived at the entrance  
of the Yung family."



## THE OLD WIDOW LIU

Long long ago, there was a certain man called Wang Cheng.<sup>1</sup> His father used to be an official in the palace, and one of his relatives was a high official at Nanking.<sup>2</sup> After his father's death, he became poor, and moved out to his native village. Now Wang Cheng died also. His son, nicknamed Doggie,<sup>3</sup> married a girl from the Liu family.<sup>4</sup> She bore a son named Pan-erh<sup>5</sup> and a daughter named Tsin-erh.<sup>6</sup>

Doggie was a farmer. He asked his mother-in-law<sup>7</sup> to stay with him and help in the cooking.<sup>8</sup> His mother-in-law had no children, but had only two mow of land<sup>9</sup> that she tilled and lived on. She helped her son-in-law<sup>10</sup> all she could. But Doggie's condition was going from bad to worse.<sup>11</sup> She thought out a way and said:

"Twenty years ago, you were a good friend of Mr. Wang of Nanking, and you stayed with him. Wang's second daughter is now the wife of Chia<sup>12</sup> of Nanking, an influential and wealthy family. I have heard that she is a kind-hearted lady,

1. Wang Cheng, 王成. 2. Nanking, 南京. 3. nicknamed Doggie, 別名狗兒. 4. Liu family, 劉家. 5. Pan-erh, 班兒. 6. Tsin-erh, 青兒. 7. mother-in-law, 姑; 婆. 8. help in the cooking, 幫助煮飯. 9. two mow of land, 兩畝田. 10. son-in-law, 女婿. 11. going from bad to worse, 每况愈下. 12. Chia, 賈.



generous to the poor.<sup>1</sup> Why not go to her and ask for help?"

Her son-in-law, moved by her words, replied and smilingly said, "Mother, would you go to her to-morrow for me, since you have seen and known each other?"

"What am I?" said the old widow. "She will not receive me, and recognize me."

"Never mind that. You can take Pan-erh with you and see Chou Jui,<sup>2</sup> for he is an entrusted steward<sup>3</sup> of that family," answered Doggie.

"Then let my old bones<sup>4</sup> go to that family for the good of all,"<sup>5</sup> said the old widow.

Next day early in the morning, she dressed up neatly and taught Pan-erh how he should behave in the presence of a rich relative,<sup>6</sup> and started on her way.

The old widow with Pan-erh arrived at the entrance of the Yung family.<sup>7</sup> They saw many carriages and chairs. The old lady dared not step in, but shook off the dust from her coat and shoes. The guards stared at her and asked quite fiercely whence she came. She replied that she wanted to see the steward of the family, and she would

1. generous to the poor, 救濟貧人. 2. Chou Jui, 周瑞. 3. entrusted steward, 可靠的管家. 4. old bones, 老骨頭 (指劉老老). 5. for the good of all, 爲全家之利. 6. how he should behave in the presence of a rich relative, 在一富厚親戚之前應如何舉止. 7. Yung family, 榮國府.



be much obliged<sup>1</sup> if the guards would call him out. But they ignored her request. However, one of the guards told her, "The steward has gone out, but his wife is at home, you may go by the back door, and there you will find her."

The old woman thanked the guard, and went. She reached the steward's. But the steward's wife could not recognize her until she looked at<sup>2</sup> her for some minutes. Then she said, "Oh, I see! Old Lady Liu,<sup>3</sup> please have a seat and a cup of tea, and how are you faring?"

"I am coming to see how you and grandaunt are getting on. If you could take me to see her, so much the better.<sup>4</sup> If not convenient, please convey her my greetings," said the old widow.

Now Chou Jui's wife was a sensible, keen lady. She at once<sup>5</sup> knew why the old woman came to see her, for she remembered that in former days<sup>6</sup> her husband had received assistance from Doggie in land dealings.<sup>7</sup> She therefore said:

"Old Lady Liu, rest yourself, you have come from far, I must let you see the mistress and convey your best wishes. But one thing you may not know: grandaunt has now entrusted all the house management<sup>8</sup> to her niece named Hsi-feng.<sup>9</sup>

1. much obliged, 深爲感激. 2. looked at, 視. 3. Old Lady Liu, 劉老老.  
4. so much the better, 那是更好. 5. at once, 立刻. 6. former days, 從前; 昔日. 7. land dealings, 地產貿易. 8. house management, 管家.  
9. Hsi-feng, 熙鳳.



I would advise you to see her rather than grand-aunt." With that she brought the old widow to Hsi-feng.

The old widow then said to Hsi-feng, "I come to see you to-day and ask you for help, for the parents of that little boy (pointing to Pan-erh) are starving to death." Then she pushed Pan-erh forward, saying, "Tell what your parents told you to."

Pan-erh was a bashful boy.<sup>1</sup> He kept silent. Hsi-feng was a keen shrewd lady. She therefore said to the boy, "Don't speak. I know." She asked Chou Jui's wife to prepare a table of food, and gave twenty taels to the old lady, saying, "That is for the boy to buy clothes with. As darkness is now fast falling,<sup>2</sup> I guess you will have to hurry on your way.<sup>3</sup> But come here again some day, for relatives ought to see each other."

The old widow thanked Hsi-feng gratefully, and returned home with great joy.<sup>4</sup> With that twenty taels, Doggie and his wife passed the year happily.

1. a bashful boy, 怕羞的小孩. 2. fast falling, 快近. 3. hurry on your way 趕你的路程. 4. with great joy, 很快樂.



In the Sung dynasty<sup>2</sup> there lived in Hsinan<sup>3</sup> a head beggar named Ching.<sup>4</sup> He had a beautiful daughter called Yu-nu.<sup>5</sup> He tutored<sup>6</sup> her writing and at sixteen she could write verses<sup>7</sup> and knit.

At a bridge not far from the Ching's house, there was a poor scholar named Mo Chi. A match-maker<sup>8</sup> came to him and asked him if he would care for the hand of the head beggar's daughter.<sup>9</sup> Mo Chi mused, "I am now as poor as a church mouse.<sup>10</sup> Nobody would care to marry me. The head beggar's daughter is beautiful, though she comes from a lowly family."<sup>11</sup> He accepted the proposal and married Yu-nu.

Now Yu-nu proved a very helpful wife. She encouraged Mo Chi to study hard, and Mo Chi got the degree of *han ling*.<sup>12</sup> The chief beggar was very happy over the literary success<sup>13</sup> of his son-in-law, and made a great feast. The whole village came out to see Mo Chi, saying, "What a glorious son-in-law the chief beggar has now!" Mo Chi

1. Mo Chi, 莫稽. 2. Sung dynasty, 宋朝. 3. Hsinan, 新安. 4. Ching, 金. 5. Yu-nu, 玉奴. 6. tutored, 教讀. 7. write verses, 做詩. 8. match-maker, 媒人. 9. if he would care for the hand of the head beggar's daughter, 彼是否願與丐頭的女兒結合. 10. as poor as a church mouse, 窮如教堂中的鼠 (意即一貧如洗). 11. lowly family, 卑微之家. 12. *han ling*, 翰林. 13. literary success, 文學上的成功 (意即及第).



hearing this was sore displeased. He repented that he had married Yu-nu, and forgot what a help Yu-nu had been to him.

Soon after Mo Chi received an official appointment,<sup>1</sup> he started on his way with his wife in a boat. The boat anchored<sup>2</sup> at the bank of the Ts'ashih River.<sup>3</sup> It was a bright night, and the moon silvered upon<sup>4</sup> the boat. He thought out an evil way to kill his wife and marry a rich and noble one. He went into the cabin,<sup>5</sup> awakened her, and lured<sup>6</sup> her to the deck, saying, "Let us see the bright moon shining upon us." He stood behind his wife, and pushed her into the river, and asked the boatman to set sail<sup>7</sup> quickly.

But Yu-nu was not drowned. She was saved by a high official named Hsu Teh-hou<sup>8</sup> whose boat was passing that way, and whose rank was superior to<sup>9</sup> Mo Chi's. Yu-nu told the high official all that happened to her. He comforted her, and asked her to be patient and hold her peace.<sup>10</sup>

Some one told Mo Chi that the inspecting commissioner<sup>11</sup> Hsu Teh-hou had a beautiful daughter not yet betrothed.<sup>12</sup> Mo Chi thought, "What a

1. received an official appointment, 得一官職. 2. anchored, 碇泊. 3. the Ts'ashih River, 采石江. 4. silvered upon, 銀光下照. 5. cabin, 船艙. 6. lured, 引誘. 7. to set sail, 開船. 8. Hsu Teh-hou, 許德厚. 9. rank was superior to, 職位較高於. 10. hold her peace, 緘默. 11. inspecting commissioner, 巡閱使. 12. betrothed, 定婚.



glorious thing it would be if I could be the son-in-law of the inspecting commissioner!" He therefore sent matchmakers and handed them proposals.

Hsu Teh-hou consented to let Mo Chi marry his daughter and the agreement was that the wedding was to be held at the yamen of the inspecting commissioner. There was feasting and jollification.<sup>1</sup> No one on earth could be more happy than Mo Chi who was now to be the son-in-law of the inspecting commissioner. The feast was over, and night came, Mo Chi went into the bridal chamber. No sooner had he<sup>2</sup> entered the chamber than six maids standing behind the entrance came out and beat him.

"Help! help!"<sup>3</sup> Mo Chi cried, "father-in-law!"

"Stop beating that wicked husband," the bride said.

The maids then took the groom to the bride. Mo Chi seeing the beautifully dressed bride was no other than his former wife, Yu-nu, cried loudly "Devil! Devil!"<sup>4</sup>

Then Hsu Teh-hou came out, saying to Mo Chi, "Dear son, this is not a devil, but my own daughter I saved years ago at the Ts'ashih River."

"Forgive me and spare me,<sup>5</sup> Father," Mo Chi then begged.

1. feasting and jollification, 宴樂. 2. no sooner had he . . . , 他尚未. . . .

3. Help! help! 救命! 救命! 4. Devil! Devil! 鬼! 鬼! 5. spare me, 饒我.



"This is not my business. Speak to my daughter," Hsu Teh-hou answered.

Then Mo Chi besought Yu-nu to forgive all his wrongs. She wept. Through the mediation<sup>1</sup> of Hsu Teh-hou, Mo Chi and Yu-nu were reconciled,<sup>2</sup> and lived happily for a number of years afterwards.

1. through the mediation, 經調停. 2. reconciled, 和解.



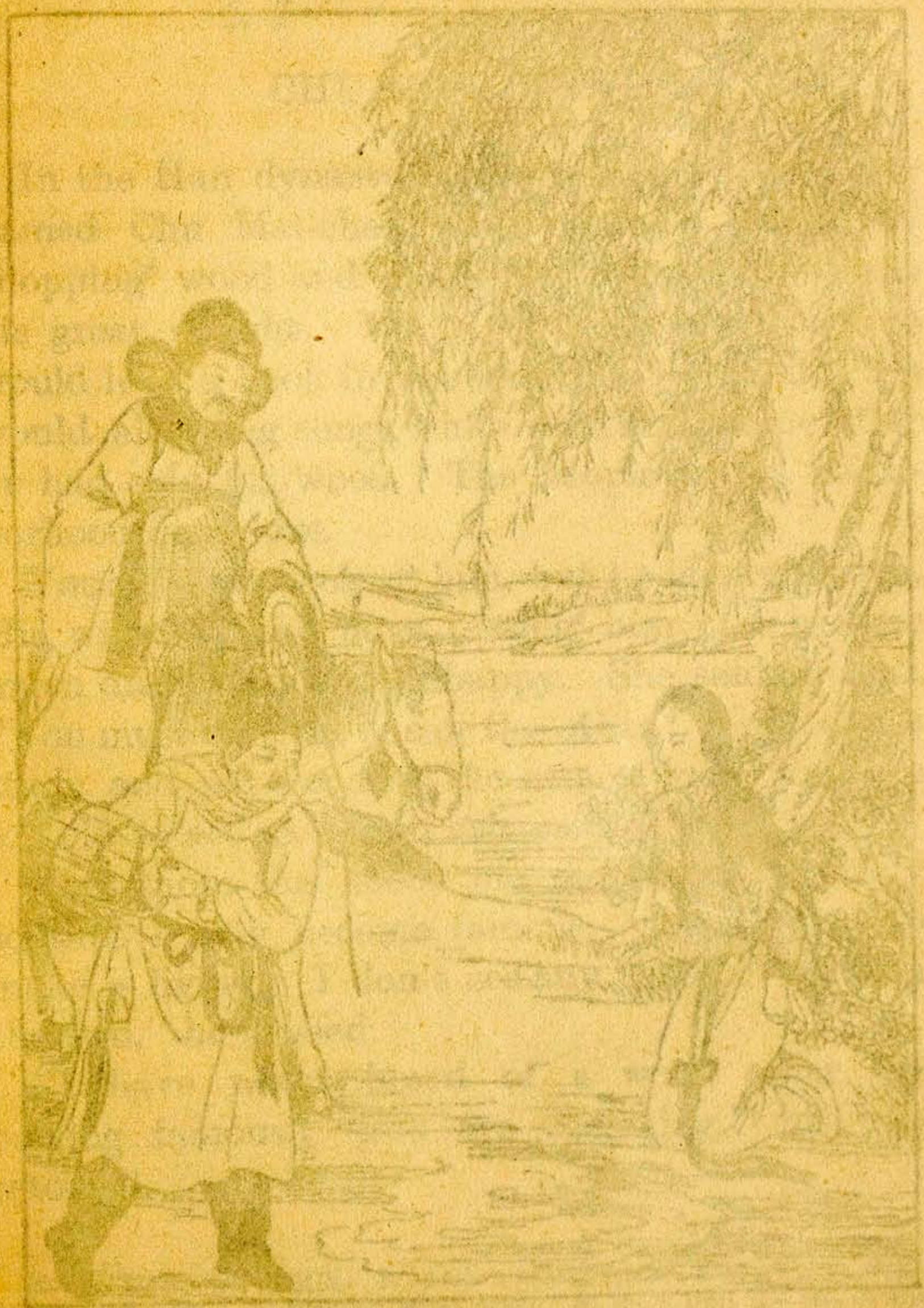


Fig. 1. A view of the water-shed of the  
river into the lake, near the  
mouth of the river.





“Is it possible for the water already spilt to  
run into the bucket again?”



## CHU MAI-CHEN<sup>1</sup>

In the Han dynasty there lived a poor scholar named Chu Mai-chen. He made a living<sup>2</sup> by chopping<sup>3</sup> wood and selling it. But to study was his great delight. While carrying his wood he would hold a book in one hand, and read it. He would also sing songs while returning home after he had sold his wood. The people in his neighborhood liked him.

Young boys mocked<sup>4</sup> him, but he ignored them. His wife saw the boys teasing<sup>5</sup> him and became much displeased and unhappy. She said to him, "You must quit the one or the other.<sup>6</sup> You cannot study and sell wood at the same time. You are too old to act so. I am ashamed of you!"

"Let those that mock me, mock me.<sup>7</sup> I study so that I may become famous. I sell wood to make a living. I don't see any conflict<sup>8</sup> between the two," he replied.

"I have never heard of a wood seller becoming famous. You are dreaming," his wife retorted.

1. Chu Mai-chen, 朱買臣. 2. made a living, 糊口. 3. chopping, 砍伐. 4. mocked, 譏笑. 5. teasing, 戲弄; 冷笑. 6. must quit the one or the other, 兩者必舍其一 (指斫柴或讀書). 7. Let those that mock me, mock me, 譏笑者任他譏笑. 8. conflict, 矛盾.



"Fame depends more upon fate<sup>1</sup> than anything else. Fortune tellers<sup>2</sup> told me that I should be an official at fifty and become famous," he answered.

"Nonsense! The fortune tellers must have fooled you. You will not be able to carry wood at fifty. Both you and I will be starved to death.<sup>3</sup> To be an official and become famous, why, that must mean that you will be a Juggernaut<sup>4</sup> in the other world!"

"Did you not know that Chiang Shang became prime minister in the Chou dynasty<sup>5</sup> at eighty? As to the prime minister of the present dynasty,<sup>6</sup> was he not a swineherd at fifty-nine? But the following year<sup>7</sup> he was offered the important post. I shall be an official at fifty, only wait and see!"

"These two persons were men of remarkable ability. But I don't see ability in you, you fool! I go my way, and you yours," the wife said.

"I am forty-three; seven years from now I shall be fifty, and be an official. If you cannot wait, you may repent," Mai-chen went on.<sup>8</sup>

"I will not wait for one day. If I should wait for seven years, I would starve. You must let

1. Fame depends more upon fate, 名譽由命. 2. fortune tellers, 算命先生. 3. starved to death, 餓死. 4. Juggernaut, 陰間之官. 5. Chou dynasty, 周朝. 6. prime minister of the present dynasty, 現代宰相 (指公孫弘). 7. following year, 翌年. 8. went on, 說下去.



me go my way, so that I may live longer and happier."

Perceiving<sup>1</sup> that she could not be persuaded to stay, Mai-chen at last set her free, and said, "Go and marry a rich husband."

"Anyway, the husband I am going to marry will not be so poor and foolish as you are, Mai-chen." With that she bowed twice and departed without sorrow and regret.<sup>2</sup> But the poor scholar only gave forth a loud sigh, saying, "It is my wife who has divorced me,<sup>3</sup> not I her."

Now the tide of years rolled peaceably,<sup>4</sup> and Mai-chen reached his fifty years of age. It happened that the Emperor Wu Ti<sup>5</sup> issued an order to summon to his aid<sup>6</sup> the great scholars of his time. Mai-chen wrote a petition to the emperor, and was highly recommended by Yen Chu,<sup>7</sup> a fellow countryman of Mai-chen. The emperor made Mai-chen mayor of Kweichi.<sup>8</sup> The attendants of the yamen heard that a new mayor was coming and made great preparations.<sup>9</sup>

Now one of the attendants was the person who had married Mai-chen's former wife. She was in

1. perceiving, 看出. 2. without sorrow and regret, 毫不憂悶及悔恨.  
3. divorced me, 與我離婚. 4. tide of years rolled peaceably, 光陰易逝.  
5. Emperor Wu Ti, 漢武帝. 6. summon to his aid, 詔求. 7. Yen Chu, 嚴助.  
8. Kweichi, 會稽. 9. preparations, 預備.



rags<sup>1</sup> and barefooted,<sup>2</sup> carrying meals to her husband. Mai-chen in his official carriage saw her and recognized her. He sent for her<sup>3</sup> and had her sit in a carriage following his. They arrived at the official residence.<sup>4</sup> The wife was frightened and heartily ashamed.<sup>5</sup> She bowed down and dared not look up. She humbly besought him to forgive her past wrongs<sup>6</sup> and make her one of his maidservants.<sup>7</sup>

Then Mai-chen brought a bucket of water<sup>8</sup> and spilt the water on the ground, asking, "Is it possible for the water already spilt to run into the bucket again?" Mai-chen said, pointing at the water. "However, for old time's sake, I will apportion a part of the garden to you, so that you and your present husband may live by growing fruits and vegetables."<sup>9</sup>

The neighbors and other attendants laughed at<sup>10</sup> her, telling the passers-by, "That is the garden wherein the former wife of our mayor lives." The discontented wife<sup>11</sup> could not bear<sup>12</sup> this kind of ridicule, so she jumped into a well in the garden, and died there.

1. rags, 襤褸. 2. barefooted, 赤脚. 3. sent for her, 招她來. 4. official residence, 衙門; 官廳. 5. heartily ashamed, 愧汗無地. 6. past wrongs, 過去的錯誤. 7. maidservants, 婢僕. 8. a bucket of water, 一桶水. 9. growing fruits and vegetables, 種植菓子及蔬菜. 10. laughed at, 譏笑. 11. discontented wife, 不知足的妻. 12. bear, 忍受.



A-CHI,<sup>1</sup> THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

In the Ming dynasty<sup>2</sup> there lived in Yenchowfu<sup>3</sup> three brothers, Hsu Chê,<sup>4</sup> Hsu Yen,<sup>5</sup> and Hsu Chao.<sup>6</sup> Their father willed<sup>7</sup> that they should live together. They had a faithful old servant named A-chi, who was sold to<sup>8</sup> the Hsu family years ago, after his father's death. He worked hard, rose up early in the morning, and went to bed late at night. He would give his sincere advice, whenever he saw anything not right.

Now Hsu Chê died. He was survived<sup>9</sup> by a wife, two sons and three daughters. Hsu Yen and Hsu Chao wished then to divide the property, ignoring their father's will. They called together their relatives and neighbors. By agreement,<sup>10</sup> A-chi was to serve Hsu Chê's family, for they thought he was old, and could not be of much use to the widow.

Hsu Chê's wife was not willing to have the property divided.<sup>11</sup> She made protest,<sup>12</sup> but her protest was of no help.<sup>13</sup> She went into her chamber, crying, "O husband, how can I spend

1. A-chi, 阿寄. 2. Ming dynasty, 明朝. 3. Yenchowfu, 嚴州府. 4. Hsu Chê, 徐哲. 5. Hsu Yen, 徐言. 6. Hsu Chao, 徐召. 7. willed, 立遺囑. 8. sold to, 賣給. 9. survived by, 遺下. 10. by agreement, 照合同. 11. to have the property divided, 分家產. 12. made protest, 反對. 13. of no help, 無用.



such sorrowful days and hard times! You are not here. I have to bring up<sup>1</sup> the sons and daughters. Of whom can I ask help? Who will help me?"

Just then A-chi was standing without. He overheard<sup>2</sup> the weeping and was moved, and said, "Mistress, don't be sad.<sup>3</sup> Though I am old, I will do the best I can. I am still healthy."

"What trade can you do?" the widow asked.

"That all depends upon money and opportunity.<sup>4</sup> Just now I cannot say."

Next morning, A-chi's mistress gave him her earrings<sup>5</sup> and clothes and had them pawned for twelve taels,<sup>6</sup> and asked him to trade therewith,<sup>7</sup> saying, "Be careful, this is my last penny.<sup>8</sup> Don't fail in your trade, lest I should die of starvation."

"Be sure, I will faithfully trade with your money." A-chi left his home and went to Ching-yün Mountain<sup>9</sup> where varnish trees were grown. He bought paints and carried them to Soochow where there was a great demand, and sold them there, and gained twofold.<sup>10</sup> With cash in hand, he bought sixty piculs of rice and sent the rice down to Hangchow<sup>11</sup> where there was a famine and sold the rice there and gained threefold.

1. bring up, 教養. 2. overheard, 竊聽. 3. don't be sad, 不要憂愁.  
4. opportunity, 機會. 5. earrings, 耳環. 6. pawned for twelve taels, 當得十二兩銀子.  
7. therewith, 以之. 8. my last penny, 我最後的錢.  
9. Chingyün Mountain, 慶雲山. 10. gained twofold, 賺二倍. 11. Hangchow, 杭州.



A-chi now returned home with great joy. The two brothers did not believe in him. They thought that he had lost all the money in business, as he had no business experience at all.<sup>1</sup> They teased him, but he held peace, and put the money he earned into a box.

Now in the neighborhood of the Hsu family there was a rich beau<sup>2</sup> named Hsien Shih-pao,<sup>3</sup> who had squandered all his money<sup>4</sup> with riotous living,<sup>5</sup> and he was in need of money badly. He desired to sell all his houses and one thousand mow of land at half price, fifteen hundred dollars. A-chi hearing this immediately ran to the poor landlord and said that he wished to buy the land. He asked Hsu Chao and Hsu Yen to be intermediators,<sup>6</sup> for that was an important bargain.<sup>7</sup> The two brothers agreed that they would, but they wondered where the money would come from.

Next day Hsien Shih-pao came. A-chi said to the landlord, "You cannot change the price we agreed on yesterday."

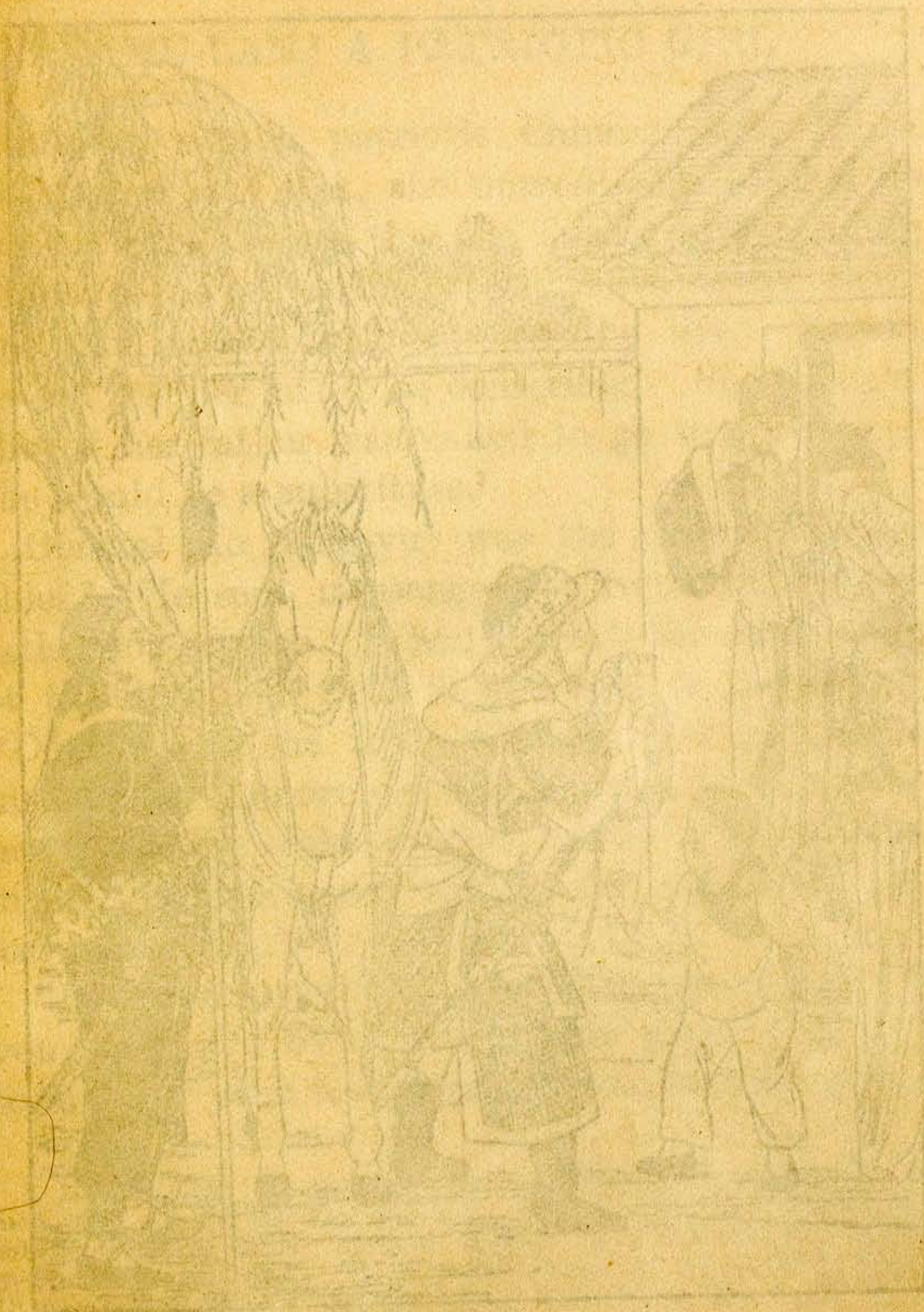
"Sure enough, I'll not change a whit. I can sign the title deed<sup>8</sup> first," said the poor landlord for he was anxious to get money.

1. no business experience at all, 毫無生意經驗. 2. beau, 花花公子. 3. Hsien Shih-pao, 獻世寶. 4. squandered all his money, 浪費他一切錢財. 5. riotous living, 放蕩生活. 6. intermediators, 中人. 7. an important bargain, 一項重要的交易. 8. title deed, 契據.



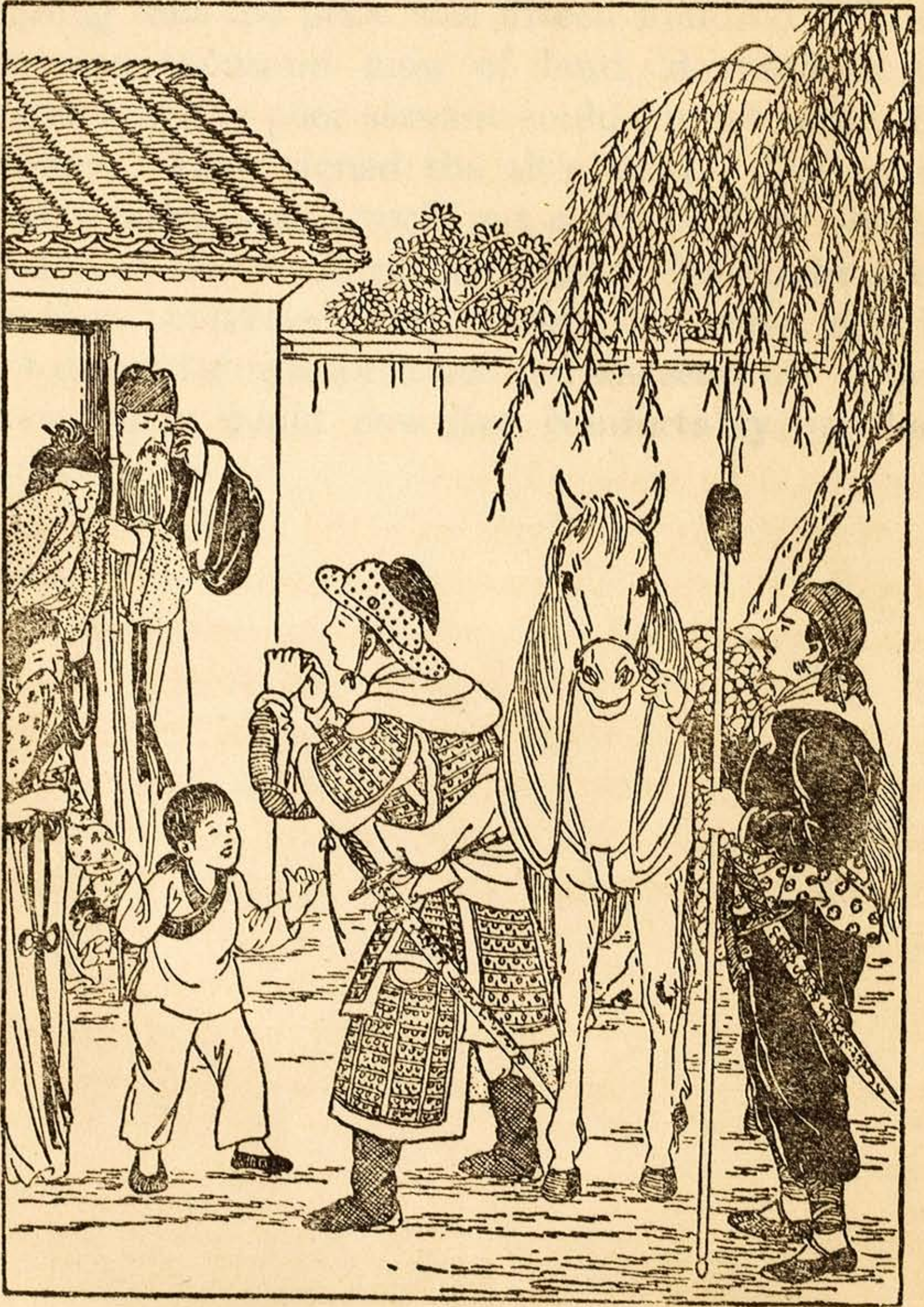
Then the brothers reading the title deed and finding that the price was fifteen hundred dollars for one thousand mow of land, doubted very much how the poor servant could furnish so much money. They signed the title deed. The poor widow went in and took out a box full of silver, and paid the landlord the price. No doubt the brothers marveled very much, but they could not do anything against her and the servant. The poor widow could now live comfortably on the land.





The Lady of the Lake





She bade her parents farewell.



## MU-LAN,<sup>1</sup> A PATRIOTIC GIRL

Mu-lan was a patriotic Chinese girl. When her father was sick, she nursed<sup>2</sup> him. When he got better, he heard that the Turks<sup>3</sup> were invading China. The government was enlisting all men,<sup>4</sup> and Mu-lan's father was on the list.<sup>5</sup> Mu-lan feared lest her father be conscribed. She thought that if her father was called to go to the front,<sup>6</sup> she would be a substitute.<sup>7</sup>

General Ho Ting-yu<sup>8</sup> was the commander-in-chief.<sup>9</sup> He sent messengers to recruit<sup>10</sup> Mu-lan's father for service. When she saw the messengers at the door, she went in and said to her father, "Don't go to the front yourself, but let me go instead, for you are old and too weak. You cannot bear the cold in the north.<sup>11</sup> I will pass myself off for a man,<sup>12</sup> and go for you, for I have learned tactics."<sup>13</sup>

"How can it be, daughter? You are a girl. If you be known by others, it may mean disgrace<sup>14</sup> to me and your forefathers,"<sup>15</sup> her father replied.

1. Mu-lan, 木蘭. 2. nursed, 看護. 3. Turks, 突厥. 4. enlisting all men, 招兵. 5. on the list, 在名冊上. 6. go to the front, 赴戰地. 7. substitute, 替代. 8. Ho Ting-yu, 賀廷玉. 9. commander-in-chief, 總司令. 10. recruit, 招兵. 11. bear the cold in the north, 忍受北方的冷. 12. pass myself off for a man, 扮作男子. 13. tactics, 武藝. 14. disgrace, 羞耻. 15. your forefathers, 你的祖先.



"Girls should be as patriotic as<sup>1</sup> boys. If all the national defense<sup>2</sup> depends upon men, what's the duty of women?" she insisted.

Her father seeing her strong determination<sup>3</sup> granted her request and gave her his former uniform and armor.<sup>4</sup> She put on<sup>5</sup> the uniform, and looked just like a soldier, and even more so than her father.

The messengers came in again and urged Mulan's father to start. She bade her parents farewell.<sup>6</sup> They shed tears. She started on her way, and passed through vales and dales,<sup>7</sup> crossed mountains and hills. She met many soldiers on her way, and went with them to the field. After days' travel, she reached the battlefield.<sup>8</sup> She saw General Ho Ting-yu was fighting face to face<sup>9</sup> with a foreign enemy, and was nearly killed by the enemy. She quickly ran up, and helped him, and defeated the Turkish general. The general was very happy for the unexpected help<sup>10</sup> from a strange soldier. He asked her who she was and where she came from. She told him that she was Hua Hu<sup>11</sup> (using her father's name), of Hsien-an.<sup>12</sup> The general then asked her to be a watchman<sup>13</sup> in his camp in the night.

1. as patriotic as, 同樣愛國. 2. national defense, 國防. 3. strong determination, 堅決的意志. 4. uniform and armor, 制服及盔甲. 5. put on, 穿上. 6. bade her parents farewell, 告別她的雙親. 7. vales and dales, 山谷和深谷. 8. battlefield, 戰場. 9. face to face, 面對面. 10. unexpected help, 意料不到的援救. 11. Hua Hu, 花弧. 12. Hsienan, 咸安. 13. watchman, 防兵.