

ANIMAL STORIES

A collection of stories for children



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Publisher/ **THE SUTRA PRINTING ASSOCIATION
OF R.O.C.**

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Reprinted and donated for free distribution by

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Printed in Taiwan

The Preface

The children who read good books learn to be benevolent and wisdom earlier than they would.

Through the research of professional experts, it is agreed that if the children read a huge amount of excellent of books before thirteen years old; they will become more perfect in physical and mental development and temperament. So it can be said that is the most important time to influence the education of the children's whole life in this period. But today's books, newspapers, magazines or the media from the TV, movie...etc. are full of the violence, pornography....etc.. Once children get in touch with these negative messages; it will influence their innocent and artless spirits directly. And cause their personality to be polluted. This is most harmful for children's education at the present. Also it is a great invisible worry for the parents.

Because this, the Sutra Printing Association of The R.O.C. especially makes the children story series for the school-age children---A set combining the Sutra's education and comic books for inspiring love and wisdom in children. It is hoped by the way of popularizing this series to let

children not only comprehend the delight of the story from the words; but also exert a favourable influence on their character and beautify their spirits from the messages behind their story when they are reading. Reading good books from childhood, can make them become cleverer and more kindhearted. It is equivalent to letting them enrich their life with benevolence and wisdom earlier than they would normally. No matter whether it is now or in the future, children will have more ability to avoid their heart being wounded when they meet bad influences. So this set of a series of children stories give most valuable gifts to children in their whole life.

A series of children stories uses simple, easy words, brilliant multifaceted content and rich colourful pictures to generate childrens' interest. The purpose is to cultivate the moral conduct, to encourage children to respect lives and to understand karma. This series used the Buddhist stories to be the main subject. In addition it also contains other fairy tales, fables and encouragement... etc. related stories. Especially 《A fable story selections of the Sutra》, the subject of most of these fables come from The metaphors Sutra(譬喻經) and The Hundred Metaphors Sutra (Scriptur百喻經). Every story has a profound message. So using simple, reasoning to encourage

understanding of the main subject and every effort has been made to make the stories lively and enlightening.

The Sutra Printing Association of The R.O.C. continuously cultivates the scope of children reading matters. We believe by the efforts of the editorial staff, a series of children stories are the most suitable and superior extra curricular reading materials for children. We hope parents and teachers who are concern with education to make efforts with us to build the fine, happy, perfect, nice and beautiful future for children.

The chairman of the Life TV (The founder of the Life TV)

The general director of the Sutra Printing Association Of R.O.C.

Hai-Tao

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Who is more stupid?

A person had a garden beside the river. His job was to knit the flowers from the garden to become garland. So everybody called him the florist.

In those days, the florist found the flowers in the garden were always being destroyed. Many of them were either being cut or be stepped on in a mess. The florist was very angry and thought: “Who has destroyed my garden, I don’t believe I can’t catch him”. So the florist hid in the corner in the garden without being noticed. He waited quietly; waiting to catch the arch-criminal who destroyed the garden.





At noon, a turtle climbed out from the river. He climbed into the garden looking for the food. The turtle walked one circle in the garden. He climbed slowly and crushed the flowers after he climbed through.

The florist was very angry. He jumped out from the corner and caught the turtle in the same time. And put the turtle into the bamboo basket.

“Alright! So you are the little turtle who breaks the flowers that I work so hard to plant. You will be my dinner later!” The florist was speaking and closing the bamboo basket at the same time. In order to prevent the turtle from running away.

At first the turtle was extremely frightened, then he quickly calmed down and thought: “I can’t just let this person eat me like this; I have to think of some way to escape.” He thought again and again. Then said to the florist: “I just climbed out from the water; my whole body is covered with mud. If you put me in the bamboo basket together with the flowers, won’t you be afraid they will get dirty?”

The florist thought: “That’s right! Who will buy a dirty garland. No way! I have to take the turtle to the river and wash it totally.” He thought and walked to the river. He put the turtle on the stone, and tried to collect the water to wash the turtle. Then to his surprise the turtle exerted itself and jumped into the water.



At this moment the florist found himself to be deceived. He thought: “Bad turtle! You dare to have the impertinence to deceive me; then I will deceive you too. To force you to come out from the water.”

The florist said to the turtle: “Dear turtle! Today you came to my home and left without taking any presents. It would be better to let me knit a floral hoop for you to put on your neck. It would be nice when you wear it.”

The turtle thought to himself: “The florist just wants to kill me early. This must be the excuse for deceiving me.” So the turtle said to the florist: “I am not that stupid like you, also easily to deceive.” Then he turned around and swam away.



Little lions went to be monks

There were two monks who lived on the top of a mountain. They improved themselves according to their religious doctrine everyday, and they already had acquired supernatural power. They were also good friends with a lioness. Every time the lioness went out looking for food, she took her two little cubs to the monks and asked them to take care of her children.

One day, the lioness went out to look for food. The two monks went out to handle some affairs at the same time, so these two little lions were left alone.

A hunter saw the little ones; and thought to himself: “These two lions often stay with the monks. If I wear a cassock and pretend to be a monk, I should be able to catch them easily!”

So the hunter put on a cassock and went to look for the cubs. The cubs really thought the monks had come home. They ran forward to welcome them; but their carelessness allowed them to be caught by the hunter. The hunter killed them and skinned them and then prepared the bodies for sale in the market.



When the two monks arrived home, they couldn't find the two little lions anywhere. So they entered into a state of deep meditation to look for them; and saw that they had been killed by the hunter. The monks were taken aback. They used their marvelously quick feet to catch up with the hunter; and brought the little lion's skins back.



The monks were very sad. They felt they hadn't taken good care of the little lions, which was why they had lost their lives. They missed the little lions very much. So they entered into a state of deep meditation; and used their marvelous ability to discover the whereabouts of the cubs. It turned out that they had been reincarnated in a venerable elder's home and become twins.

The two monks hurried to the venerable elder's home; and asked him: "What would you like to get most now?"

The venerable elder couldn't help but answer: "My family is very rich, we don't lack anything; but the only problem is I don't have little son to rock on my knee."

The two monks gave a smile and said to him: "Don't worry! We can let you have a son."

"Really? I would really appreciate it!" The venerable elder was very, very happy and said thanks again and again.

The monks asked again: "If you have a son; how you will pay us back?"

The venerable elder was really too happy, so he answered in a slipshod way: "If I have a son; I will let him be a disciple for you after he grows up."

The two monks went home happily after they heard this.

After few days, the venerable elder's wife discovered she was pregnant. Later she gave birth to a pair of adorable twins.

When these two sons age were eight. The two monks returned to the venerable elder's home again. Due to predestination from their last life; the two children felt very hearty; and respected them very much.

The monks asked the venerable elder: "Do you still remember what you had promised to us?"

"Yes, I remember." Although the venerable elder hated to part with his sons, he had to keep his promise. He still brought his sons to be the monk's disciples.

So these two children followed the monks and became Buddhist monks. They practiced Buddhism very hard. And soon they learnt the truth. One day, while sitting on the lion's skin and entered into a state of deep meditation. Then they discovered they were lions in their last life and many other sorts of the predestinations in their last life and this life, too.

They prostrated themselves in front of their masters together and said gratefully: "We practiced the Buddhist doctrine and realized the truth. It's all because of your great kindness!"





A big worm in the puddle

There was a puddle in the south east of the Rajagaha City(王舍城). The puddle was very, very smelly. People who walked passed it always held their nose and passed quickly. There was a big worm in the puddle. It swam around in the stinking water. Worse, sometimes the big worm tossed himself up and jumped around. He splashed the stinking water everywhere; and made a nuisance of himself to everyone.

One day, when the Buddha and his disciples were walking past the puddle. One disciple named Ananda(阿難)was curious and asked the Buddha: “Dear Master! What is the big worm’s predestination? Why he is in this stinking puddle now and making himself a nuisance?”

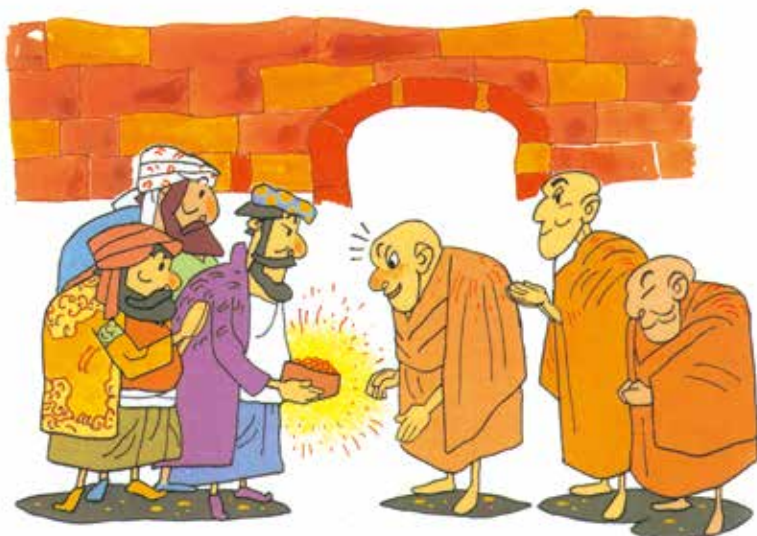
So the Buddha described the following circumstances to all Buddhist monks.

A long time ago, there were five hundred Buddhist monks passing a Buddhist pagoda. The master of the temple kept them in for three months. They accepted that the master would provide for their needs. The master exhausted his ability and did his best to prepare food for all the monks, and also prepared for what they needed when they set out on a journey in the future.

Two months passed, one day there came five hundred businessmen passing by the temple. These businessmen saw every monk working hard to practice Buddhism. They felt very happy; so they told the master that they also would like to provide something for the monks.

After hearing this, the master said: “We came to an agreement at the beginning to provide for their needs for three months. Now it will soon expire, in fact, there are only five days to go. If you want to provide for their needs; then after five days it’s your turn to set out what you want to provide for them.”

The businessmen answered: “We are in a hurry to do business; we have no time to wait here. How about this? We give one Moll-Ni pearl(摩尼珠) per person. Please help us to give these pearls for the Buddhist monks.”



The master of the temple agreed with their request; and accepted the five hundred Moll-Ni pearls. But when the master saw so many expensive pearls, a greedy idea came into his heart. He thought: “If these pearls all belonged to me, it would be wonderful!”

So as soon as the businessmen left; he quickly hid the pearls. He kept the pearls for himself; and did not give them to the monks.

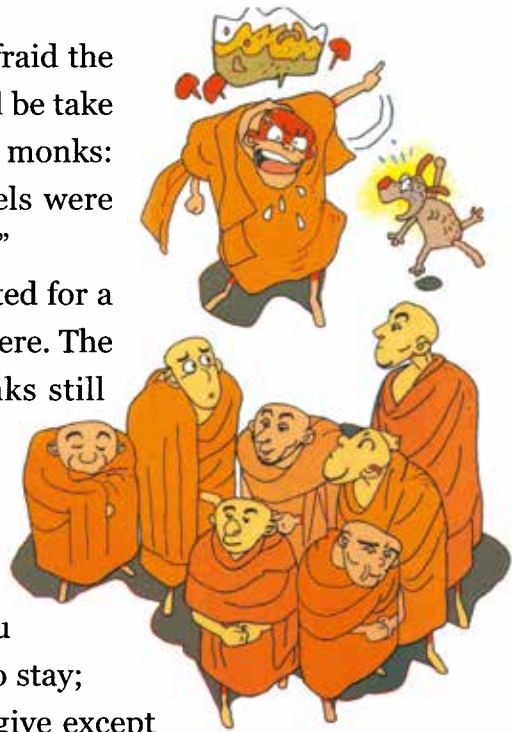
Three months later. All the monks were ready to set out on a journey. They asked the master before leaving: “A few days ago when those businessmen went away. They left many pearls and jewels and asked you to provide it for all of us, didn’t they?”

The master was afraid the pearls and jewels would be taken away, so he said to the monks: “Those pearls and jewels were given to me, not to you.”

The monks hesitated for a while; and still stood there. The master saw these monks still didn’t want to leave; so he said again: “I already provided what you needed for three months. It’s time for you to go. If you continue to stay; there is nothing I can give except polluted water.”

The monks saw how the master had become greedy, so they left quietly.

After the Buddha finished what he described; then he pointed to the big worm in the puddle and said to all of us: “Karma is made by what beings do, what beings say and what beings think. It is caused from their greed, hatred, and infatuation. Now you can see the results of this with your own eyes.”





A donkey who loved to entertain foolish ideas

There was a donkey who hung around everywhere everyday. He did nothing, just entertained foolish ideas.

When he saw horses pulling a carriage, he thought: “It’s too tiring to be a horse, pulling the heavy carriage everyday. And sometime he will be whipped. I’m not going to be like him!”

When he saw a dog guarding a flock, he thought: “It is dangerous to be a dog. What should he do if the wolf comes?”

When he saw the hen laying eggs, he thought: “It is too hard to be a hen. Everyday they just eat a tiny little bit of food; but you need to lay a pile of eggs. I am not going to be like them!”

When he saw the pig sleeping, he thought: “It is not too bad to be a pig. Everyday after eating he sleeps. How comfortable he is!” Just think about that. The donkey saw two people walking into the pigsty. They were holding a rope and walking towards to the fat sleeping pig. Then they tied it up and put it on the car. The pig was squealing and screaming and struggling desperately. He wanted to escape but he couldn't.



The donkey was curious and got closer. He heard people say: "This pig is really corpulent. After butchering then we can sell it for quite a lot of money!"

The donkey was so frightened as soon as he heard that. He ran towards the edge of the village in a hurry. He was running and thinking: "How dreadful it is ! I'm glad I'm not a pig. It would be too terrifying!"

The donkey ran out the village and stood beside the wheat threshing floor. He saw two little donkeys pulling the stone mill to grind the wheat. He thought: "These two foolish donkeys don't have leisurely and carefree days; but help people to work. How stupid they are!" So again the donkey walked around aimlessly.

As he walked, the donkey was fascinated by the view in front of him. The prairie stretched as far as eye could see. The green grass emitted an attractive and delicate fragrance. There was also a clear, blue river. When he put his head up and had a look. He looked into a beautiful blue sky. The donkey felt free of mind and happy of heart, then he walked towards to the lawn.

There the donkey saw a herd of cows. They went for a stroll in small groups. One moment they lowered their heads to eat; one moment they put their heads up to Moo...; another moment they went to the river to drink



the clear and cool water from the stream; and another moment they lay down in the green grass to take a rest. They looked happy and carefree.

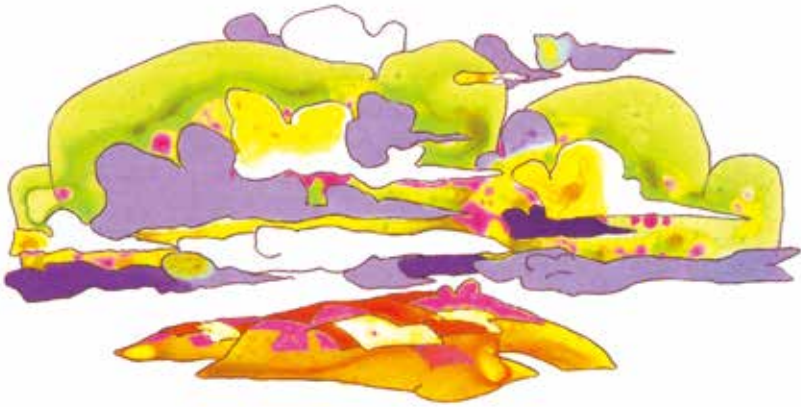
The donkey thought: “Look at the cows. How comfortable and free they are! Why I don’t learn from them and stay together with them to eat grass and drink water?” After he finished speaking, he decided to become a cow.

One moment he and the cow snatched the grass to eat; another moment he jostled with the cow to the river to drink water, the next he went to disturb the cows; who were taking a rest. Then he shouted at the top of his voice as a cow: “I am a cow! I am a cow!” Yet after shouting around, he was still a donkey with a loud voice. He was not like a cow at all.

These cows were annoyed by the donkey and couldn't get any peace at all. They hid away from him as far as they could.

An old cow tried to pursue the donkey with good heart: "It's all fine for you to eat grass and to drink water; but please do not disturb other cows."

The donkey did not listen to the advice. On the contrary he made a row and cause disturbance without any reason. Now he infuriated the cows. They came around and used their horns to stab the donkey and killed him.



A visit from the queen cat

A long time ago, there was a big snowy mountain in Northern India. The top was completely covered by white snow. However each season it seemed like spring at the bottom of the mountain. Soft green grass carpeted the ground, and various flowers and fruit grew in a dense wood, and there was even a limpid spring round it. All in all, it was a beautiful and fertile place.

One year a large group of pheasants flew into the area to live there. The king of the pheasants was benevolent and very intelligent. He built houses on the trees for his pheasants. He selected the shrewd and strong ones to patrol the wood and guard their companions. As a result, the pheasants multiplied rapidly and increased the size of their kingdom.



There was a bad cat who lived near a dense wood at the bottom of the snowy mountain. She heard there were a lot of pheasants living in the wood and thought she would like to catch some to eat. But a flight of pheasants patrolled the wood quiet often, and this made her cautious.

One day, a crafty plot came to the bad cat's mind. She dressed up especially; and walked towards to the wood with swinging steps. She spoke to the bodyguards who were guarding the entrance and said, "Please tell your king quickly; that the queen of cat has come to visit him."

They sent a pheasant to inform the king. After he heard, he thought: “The bad cat must be harbouring malicious intentions so I should be careful.” He spoke to the bodyguards and said:

“Quickly give notice to everyone to keep a sharp look out. Look after the children and close all the doors; do not give the bad cat any opportunity to take advantage of us.”

After preparing himself, the pheasant king sent a bodyguard to escort the bad cat in. On the way she pried about. She saw all families shut and tighten their doors without exception, and could not do anything about it, she burned with anger and hatred, but nothing could be done.



When she arrived and stood in the front of the throne of the pheasant king, the bad cat said hypocritically: “I have come over here just to make a friend with the king and hope he does not aim to dislike and avoid me.”

The pheasant king said: “You are too courteous! As king of pheasants, I always treat any friends with great respect and as my distinguished guests. Why would I dislike and avoid you? By the way, all my friends are vegetarian, haven’t you changed your dietary habits yet?”

After the bad cat heard that; she spoke hesitatingly and didn’t know how to answer.

The pheasant king smiled and said: “Due to this situation, you had better go back home!”



Please spare me!



The bad cat was angry and said: “You are a bumptious pheasant! Do you really think I want to make friends with you? See how I am going to eat you!” All of a sudden she pounced on the pheasant.

The pheasant king shouted an order: “Guards! Arrest her!”

There were many warriors with guns and swords who gathered around immediately. They caught the bad cat in a second and gave her a good thrashing.

“Please spare my life! I won’t do it again!” The bad cat was beaten and cried very loudly. She was begging for mercy, so the bodyguards let her go.

Afterwards the bad cat walked back with a limp. Since that time she dared not go into the woods again.



Who should be angry?

Once upon a time, there was a bird with two heads who lived at the bottom of a snowy mountain. He only had one body; but two heads. One was called Chia-Lo-Char(迦羅茶), another one was called Yo-Po-Chia-Lo-Char(優波迦羅茶). When one of his heads was sleeping; the other was awake.

One day Yo-Po-Chia-Lo-Char fell asleep, but Chia-Lo-Char remained awake. There was a Mo-Tao-Chia(摩頭迦) tree beside Chia-Lo-Char. A blast of the wind blew through suddenly, and a flower fell down from the tree and fell right in front of the Chia-Lo-Char.

He thought: “I can eat this flower by myself, but after it gets into our abdomen; we will get power, and relieve the hunger and thirst at the same time.” So Chia-Lo-Char didn’t wake up Yo-Po-Chia-Lo-Char, instead he ate the flower himself.

After Yo-Po-Chia-Lo-Char woke up, he felt his abdomen was very full; so he asked Chia-Lo-Char: “What kind of delicious food did you eat while I slept? My whole body feels very comfortable, and my voice is beautiful and pleasant to listen to.”

So Chia-Lo-Char told him what happened, and his own thoughts.



After Yo-Po-Chia-Lo-Char heard what he said. He felt very unhappy. He thought: “What a selfish fellow! He ate good food by himself without waking me up. In the future when I get food and drink; I won’t wake him up or let him know.”

A few days passed, the two headed bird went sightseeing. Suddenly Yo-Po-Chia-Lo-Char saw a poisonous flower on the ground. He thought: “Humph! You didn’t wake me up last time. You kept the good food and pocketed the profit without sharing it with me. It would be better that I had eaten this flower and we both died together!”

When he thought about this, he said to Chia-Lo-Char: “You sleep first! I will stay awake.” So Chia-Lo-Char went to sleep.

Yo-Po-Chia-Lo-Char was waiting for Chia-Lo-Char to fall asleep; then he ate the poisonous flower in one go.

Chia-Lo-Char started to feel very uncomfortable. He had just been sleeping for a while when he woke up. Then he started hiccapping. He felt poisonous air rush out from his throat. He asked Yo-Po-Chia-Lo-Char:

“What kind of bad food did you eat when I fell asleep? I feel very uncomfortable, in fact I feel as if I am dying. My throat hurts, and it’s hard to speak.”



Yo-Po-Chia-Lo-Char replied: “A moment ago when you slept, I ate a poisonous flower, remember last time when you ate alone without telling me; this time I chose not to tell you too. I would rather we die together!”

When Chia-Lo-Char heard that, he was very angry and said: “You have gone too far! How can you do this! The food I ate last time was delicious. After eating it both of us grew up. But for this reason you have held a grudge against me! It’s really true that it’s better not to live together with a fool!”



A monk who saved a dog

There once was a country which suffered from famine. Many people had no food to eat, and even though they had money, it was difficult to buy food. As a result it became more and more difficult for the monks to ask for alms.

There was a monk who asked for alms everywhere, but couldn't get any food at all. At last he came to a rich family and asked for alms. The house master took some leftovers and dismissed him. The monk didn't say anything. He prepared to go back to eat the leftovers and then practiced Buddhism.

While he was walking, he saw a butcher get ready to slaughter a puppy. When the butcher saw the monk, he put the knife down and went forward to salute the monk. The monk saw the puppy waiting to be butchered. Mercy and sense of sympathy welled up in his mind. He said to the butcher:



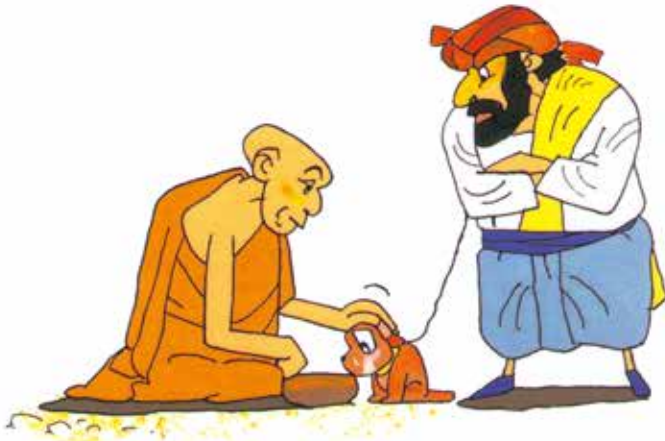
“As you also believe in the Buddha and respect the monks, why not give this puppy to me. Set him free and let him live!”

Although the butcher felt ashamed, he wouldn't agree to the request from the monk. He said: “Now it is very hard to live. My family has nearly starved to death. I have to be ruthless and kill this puppy.”

The monk asked the butcher again and again. He spoke the principle to him; but from beginning to end the butcher refused to agree.

The monk could not help but sigh. He said: “In that case, is it alright for you to let me have a look at the puppy.”

So the butcher passed over the puppy.



The monk gave the alms to let the puppy eat. He stroked his hair at the same time he blessed him and said: "I don't know what bad karma you did in your previous life. You transmigrated to be a dog to suffer and be controlled by people in this life. I hope your sin will diminish and your good deeds will accumulate soon. You will be transmigrated to be a human being after you die, and you will meet the Buddha, you will hear the Buddhist doctrine and how the monks value these three treasures. According to the Buddhist doctrine, practice Buddhism; realize the truth and to free yourself."

When the puppy heard that; his tears ran down at the same time and developed his benevolence ungrudgingly.



The butcher took the puppy back and killed him. After the puppy died; as expected he changed to a human being and was born with a great benevolent heart to a rich family.

Very soon, the child who had transmigrated from a puppy was already seven years old.

That day, the monk went into the town to ask for alms, and arrived in front of the rich family's door. While the family was giving alms to the monk; the child stood just beside him.

As soon as the child saw the monk, the memory of his previous life as a dog passed through his mind. The little boy hurried forward and prostrated himself on the ground at the monk's feet, and requested that be allowed to provide for the needs for the monk.

After the monk had eaten the meal which was provided by the little boy, he got ready to leave and he was stopped by the little boy. The boy turned back to his parents and said:

"I want to follow this monk and to be one, to obey the religious discipline, and attain the full status of a monk, and practice Buddhism according to the Buddhist doctrine. If you won't allow me to become a monk; then I will go on a hunger strike!"

His parents had no choice; they could only allow him to be a monk. So the monk cut the boy's hair and then put a cassock on him. He studied very hard to cultivate himself according to the Buddhist doctrine. Soon he reached to the condition where he would never hold back from practicing Buddhist doctrine. He placed himself in the sea of wisdom of the Buddha dharma and Buddhist scriptures and the Sutra, and went to seek the route to freedom for himself.



A lucky bird

A long time ago,
there was a country called
Benares(波羅奈).

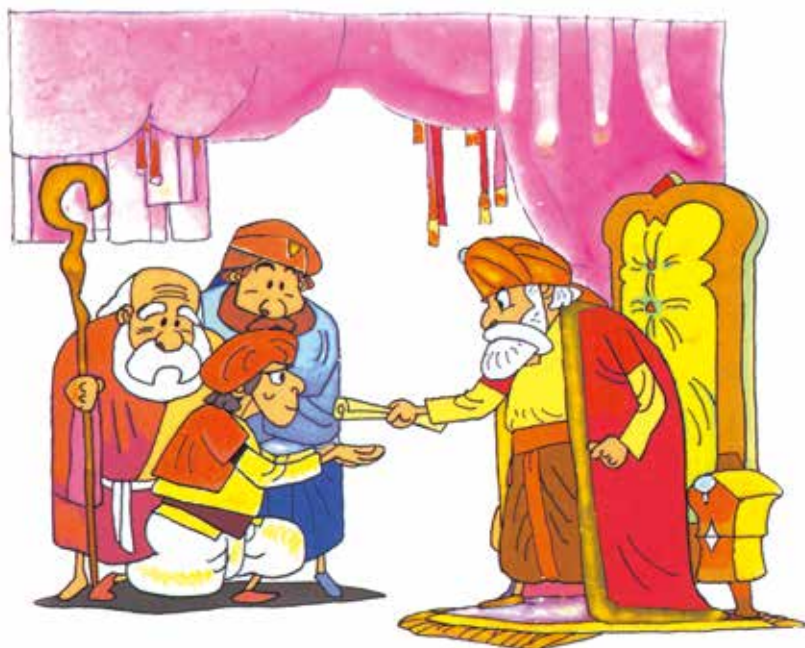
There were many people who
supported themselves by hunting in the country. They
caught and killed the fowls and beasts, and so these were
all extremely frightened. They ran away into the remote
mountains or hid in the caves and dared not to come out.

A merciful celestial being said to the king: “Dear
king! People are killing the fowls and beasts savagely.
The beasts are nearly all dead! Now even the birds are
afraid to fly over your country. You should educate your
people to give up this kind cruel activity and encourage
them to have a benevolent heart.”

The king of the Benares was a very kindhearted
person. He listened to the celestial being and gave the
whole nation instructions that forbade anyone from
catching and killing the beasts.

The instructions from the king soon spread over
the whole nation. Even the beasts knew the message too.





They walked out the caves where they had hidden one after another. They rushed to tell everybody about this and thanked that celestial being and the kindhearted king.

But there was a cruel person who acted against the instructions of the king. He caught and killed the beasts stealthily. This was a sinister and tricky person. He often wore the same clothes as the celestial being to trap the beasts, and seized the opportunity to kill them. Every time he was always very careful when hunting, and was very good at pretending; so he was never discovered.

One day, the person wearing the celestial being's clothes went into the wood again. A little deer saw him from a great distance. He thought that was the celestial being coming; then ran towards to him happily. The hunter was waiting for the little deer to get close by. He pulled out the bow and let fly an arrow immediately. Although the little deer discovered that he was not the celestial being; it was already too late. The arrow struck the little deer's chest and it fell to the ground as the blood poured out of his chest.





All these events were seen by a bird. He was shocked, frightened and saddened, and so decided to expose the hunter's action and not let his companions suffer injury. He memorized the hunter's appearance carefully and told all the beasts about him. When the hunter pretended to be the celestial being again and walked into the woods. The bird forgot the risk of danger of being shot by the hunter. He hurried to remind everybody:

“The one who pretends to be a celestial being is coming again! Everybody should be on the alert; do not be tricked!”

After that the hunter could not catch the beasts anymore, but the beasts still lived in fear. After discussion everyone decided to talk to the people. When they knew this, they were very furious. They all blamed that person; and reported this case to the king. They demanded a severe punishment from him.

Henceforward, the beasts really lived without sorrow and anxiety. They all very appreciated the brave bird, and called him: “Lucky Bird!”



A snake, a toad and a turtle

There was a snake, toad and turtle who lived in a pond and they got along quite well.

One day, the water in the pond suddenly was all pumped-out. Under the circumstances, without water for drinking and food for eating, they could hardly live.

A wicked idea came into the snake's head first. He thought: "Now everybody is all nearly starving to death. Who will still care about relatives and friends? And first to eat the toad is straightforward!" When he was thinking about this, the snake said to the turtle:



“We are all nearly starving to death! We can not continue like this. How about you go and ask the toad to come over; then we eat him together. One dead is better than all.”

The turtle climbed to the place where the toad lived; at the same time he thought: “Normally everybody all lives together, but when we face danger and disaster, then savagely kill each other, there is no any morality and justice at all.”

The turtle thought so and already had arrived at the toad’s residence. The turtle told the toad that the snake asked him to go there; then he read a verse:

On good terms
we are as close as family.
The four cardinal virtues
are the first subject to talk about.
When we are in danger or have disaster,
we lose our nature essence.
Forget about the cardinal virtues,
but eat the food first.

The toad realized why the snake had asked him to go and thought: “When danger and disaster occur; giving up one’s life to provide the needs for other people. Certainly is a good thing. But the snake has no morality and justice. Just for himself to live on and cruelly injure other people. This is really not on!”

When the toad thought about this; so he read a verse as well:

To be kind and helpful when we were safe
in former days.
There isn't any kindheartedness and justice,
when we face danger and disaster.
You pass my words to the snake.
Tell him!
I would never go to him in the end.

The turtle realized what the toad thought. Knowing that he was not going to the snake's place; so he went back silently.





The macaque imitated to build a Buddhist pagoda

When the Buddha was staying in the City of Rajagrha(羅閱祇國), he sent an Arhan whose name was Sh-mon(須漫); to take the hair and nails of the Buddha to build a Buddhist pagoda on the south mountain of Yen-bin country(嚴賓國). After he finished building it, five hundred Arhans often went there to burn joss sticks in front of the pagoda; they worshiped and circled round and around it morning and evening.

At that time, there were five hundred macaques who lived in the South Mountain. When they saw the Arhan provide the needs for the Buddhist pagoda, they went to the riverside to carry mud and stones, and went to the woods to carry the heavy wood. They started to build the Buddhist pagoda. After they finished building it, they worshiped morning and evening in the same way as the five hundred Arhans.

One day the river rose suddenly and sharply. The five hundred macaques did not run away in time. They all drowned in the water. After dieing, they transmigrated to the second ethereal heaven----TRAYASTRIMSAT (忉利天) --- The realm (one of the Desire World). As a result of their predestined relationship they built the Buddhist pagoda and circled round and round to worship it, they transmigrated to heaven after they died. After the five hundred macaques transmigrated, and became celestial beings. They thought: “Why are we here? What kind merits and virtues did we have and do before, that have allowed us to be born in heaven and become celestial beings?”

They used their superpower eyes to watch, and then realized it was because of the merits and virtues of themselves to imitate the Arhans to build and worship the Buddhist pagoda. It made them drown in the flood but it caused them to be born in heaven. They thought:

*The macaque imitated to
build a Buddhist pagoda*



“Without having been monkeys before, we would not be here now. We should descend to the world to pay back the favour of the flesh!” So five hundred celestial beings carried the precious flowers and miraculous sticks and descended from heaven to the world. They came beside their corpses in their last life to toss flowers in the air, to burn joss sticks and circle the corpses seven times.

At that time, there were five hundred Brahmans who did not believe the Karma. They saw so many celestial beings tossing flowers, making sounds of music and circling the putrid corpses of macaques with a respect and an air of solemnity. They asked with curiosity:

“Dear celestial beings! Why do you want to provide for a heap of putrid corpses?”

The celestial beings told the Brahman: “The corpses of these macaques were our bodies in our last life!”





Then the celestial beings told these five hundred Brahmins the details about the things that the five hundred monkeys imitated the five hundred Arhats and helped all the Brahmins to give up evil intentions, to believe Buddha dharma by education and persuasion.

They said to the Brahmins: “Just follow the example of the Arhats and build a Buddhist pagoda; we already have been transmigrated to celestial beings. If we go to the Vulture Peak (耆闍崛山) to worship and provide the needs for all the Buddha then our merits and virtues will know no bounds.”

After hearing this, the five hundred Brahmins all followed the laws of Buddha together and appreciated the favour of the five hundred celestial being's help deeply. They followed the five hundred celestial beings to go to the front of the Buddha; and prostrated themselves on the ground and tossed the precious flowers and burnt the miraculous joss sticks to provide for the needs for all the Buddhas.

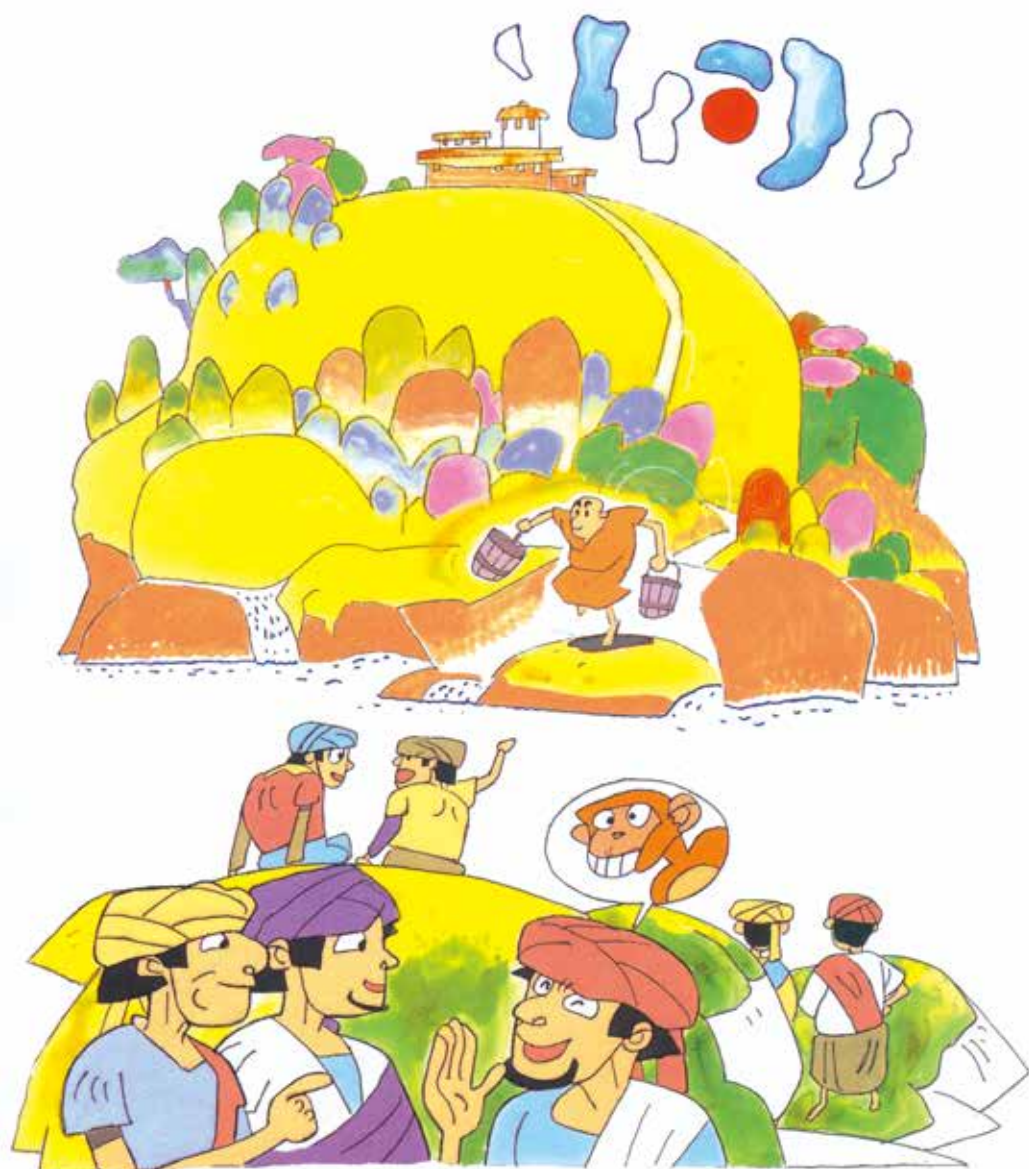
The five hundred celestial beings after worshipping the Buddha; moved towards him and asked: “Dear Buddha! May I ask if how our previous lives were affected by any kind of predestined and relationship which caused us to become macaques? Why did we build the Buddhist pagoda; and were then drowned by the flood water later?”

The Buddha told the five hundred celestial beings: “Once upon a time, there were five hundred young Brahmins who went with each others to cultivate themselves according to the Buddhist doctrine. At that time there was a monk who wanted to build a hut with mud; so he was light as a swallow flying down to the valley to take water. These five hundred young Brahmins saw that, they were jealous of his supernatural power. They all derided him and said: “Look at this monk jumping up and down; he really looks like a macaque!”

After hearing what they said, the monk was not angry he just continued to take the water. One day suddenly the mountain torrents broke out. The five hundred Brahmins were drowned.

At that time, that monk was me and the five hundred Brahmins became those five hundred macaques afterwards, because they derided the monk, that’s why they received retribution for evil-doing.”

*The macaque imitated to
build a Buddhist pagoda*



Five hundred Brahmans heard of such karma and retribution for sin. They all sighed with feeling and said: “The merits and virtues, the retribution for sin and the predestination of the Buddhist doctrine are so precious and marvelous. We are willing to be converted to Buddhism and become the pious followers of the Buddha.”

These five hundred celestials and five hundred Brahmans all followed the Buddha to practice the Buddhist doctrine. After hearing the Buddha dharma they all became the monks at once. They all practiced and worked hard and reached the high state in practicing Buddhism afterwards.



The predecessor of the VEN ANANDA



This day, Buddha told such a story to Ananda and other disciples:

There was a lion king in the forest. He was mighty and magnificent when he was young, and was in command of five hundred lions. Yet as the time passed he got older, became very skinny and his vision started to fail.

One day, the lion king led all the lions and went out to look for food. The lion king was older and saw things in a blur. He did not see a dry well in front of him, and fell into it. No matter how he struggled, he couldn't climb out.

When the other five hundred lions saw his condition, no one cared about him. They all forsook him and walked away without passing glance.

At the same time a wild fox passed by. He saw the lion king was in distress and thought: "I can reside in the forest easily and steadily; there is a lot of food to eat, and this is all thanks to the power of the lion king. Today he has fallen into a dry well; I must think of a way to rescue him!"

The wild fox looked around, trying to think of what he could do to rescue the lion king. Suddenly he noticed a ditch by the well. He exerted all his strength, and dug up the earth with his mouth and his four paws. This enabled the water in the ditch to run into the dry well. When he had finished, it did, and the lion king slowly floated to the top. He waited until the water flowed over the well head, then he jumped out.

A divine tree saw this event; and it said: "Although the body is magnificent and healthy; it should not bully the small and weak. On the contrary it should make friends with them, then it will help in times of danger; for example, this wild fox rescued the lion king who was trying to escape from the dry well, but unable to escape."





The Buddha said to the monks: “That lion king is my predecessor. Those five hundred lions are the predecessors of the monks; and as for the wild fox, of Ananda. In a previous life he saved me when I was in danger. That’s why he can serve the Buddha in this life; hear the most of what the Buddha has to say, and remember too.”

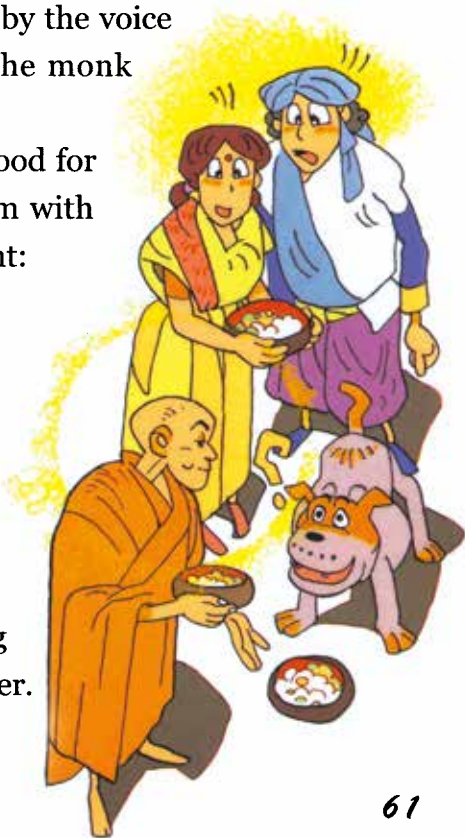
The loving - kindness of a half bowl of cooked cereals

There was a rich family who raised a very fierce dog. It was always barking at people, and tried bite people when he saw them come near the house.

One day, a monk arrived to see if there was anything the rich family could provide for him. At the time the dog was sleeping, but he was woken by the voice of the monk, so he barked at the monk several times angrily.

After the family provided food for the monk; the dog looked at him with fierce light in his eyes. He thought: "The audacity of this monk! He sneaked into my home unexpectedly while I was sleeping; and woke me up as well. If he doesn't share the food with me, I will rush out and bite him."

The monk had cultivated the Buddhist doctrine and had long since acquired supernatural power.



He saw through the thoughts of the dog, and so divided the meal into two, one for the dog; one for himself.

The dog ate his portion of the meal, and then began to feel differently about the monk.

He licked the monk's feet in a friendly way. Then he walked out and lay on the floor, in front of the door, to take sunshine. Just at this moment, two people who had been bitten by the dog unexpectedly arrived, they saw the dog, attacked it, and beat it to death with sticks.

The dog was transmigrated, became a human being, and was reincarnated into a new body afterwards. At the age of about eleven, he met the monk again. He immediately went forward to throw himself on his knee and prostrate himself in worship. Then he asked his parents to invite the monk to be his teacher. He provided for the needs of the monk and asked him if he could accept the precepts, be taught the Sutra and purge misery from the minds of his family. In fact his whole family followed the laws of the Buddha, and practiced Buddhism.

As a consequence of his feelings of love, care and gratitude towards parents, he didn't try to attain the full status of a monk, but he provided the needs friend day and night. Only after his parents died did he become a monk and practice Buddhism.

*The loving-kindness of a half
bowl of cooked cereals*





The request of a donkey

There was a person who raised a donkey. This donkey often carried his master around here and there. One day, he drove the donkey cart for few hundred miles. He and the donkey were completely tired. The master saw the sky was getting dark; and his younger brother's home was around here. So he asked his brother to let him stay one night.

After got off the cart he turned to his brother and said: "Please remember don't harness this donkey to yours."

The younger brother thought this was very strange. He thought: "People all like to have a companion. I think donkeys are the same!"

So the kindhearted young brother still fastened one donkey to another in the stable; but it was strange that his elder brother's donkey didn't want eat and drink. Instead, they just stood there and sniffed each other. They both looked very affectionately at each other.



The elder brother drove the donkey cart on the second day to hurry on his journey, but he hadn't walked for too long before the donkey stopped and laid down.

The elder brother was very angry and shouted: "Get up! Get up quickly! What's wrong with you?" And whipped the donkey with the strap at the same time. But the donkey didn't want to get up. The elder brother was very angry; he extracted the knife and cut half an ear of the donkey.

The donkey was in a great pain. He hurriedly stood up. He forced himself to stand the pain; and glanced at his master with a look of grievance. He continued to pull the cart and walk forward with a struggle.

The elder brother looked at the donkey, he felt he really could not bear to see it like that. So he asked him: “Why are you so lazy and unwilling to work today? You are not usually like this!”

The donkey answered: “Last night your younger brother fastened me with his donkey together. I saw he was fat and strong. So I asked him: “Don’t you need to help your master work ?”



He answered: “When I helped my master to carry the soil; I didn’t want to walk when the road is not good for walking. Then I would lie down and stop walking. At this time my master would lift up the soil and walk by himself. He would let me go to eat the grass on the road side. The other thing was that usually I ate grass in day time and the oats in the evening. That’s why I’ve grown so fat and strong.”

The donkey lifted his head and glanced at his master; then looked down and kept on saying: “I walked five hundred miles everyday; but didn’t eat good forage. So I become thinner and thinner. My body becomes weaker and weaker. If continue like this, I am afraid I can not go on for too long. I beg you to let me relax a bit.” When he finished; the donkey didn’t say anything anymore.

After listening the master felt he had made the donkey work too hard. So he let go the donkey and let him having the grass as he pleased.



Repay your debt by yourself

Once upon a time, there was a money lender who made money on the interest from loans.

Two people borrowed ten thousand dollars from him and repaid the debt on schedule. Finally they paid all the money back. After paying of the first loan, one of them suddenly had a wicked idea. He said to the other: "We borrowed the money once and paid it back on time, so the lender must trust us very much. Let's borrow another ten thousand dollars per person; but next time we won't repay him. We will run away and live as rich men, it's a good idea, isn't it?"

After listening, the other person felt the idea made a lot of sense and nodded his head enthusiastically.

All these conversations were heard by a cow which was tied to a hedge. The cow mooed once, which frightened the men. They turned their heads in the direction of the noise.

They saw the cow swayed his head. Then the cow began to speak: “Whatever you do, don’t do that! I was a human being before. I owed my master one thousand dollars and never paid him back. So I was punished by a course, which turned me into a cow for three lifetimes. I am suffering with this kind endless pain, and don’t know when I can get away from it. If you are thinking of getting yourself into debt for ten thousand dollars, the consequences will be unimaginable!”



The cow could understand what they were talking about. This was nearly frightened the men to death, they didn't even need to mention about how fearful they were after listening the cow's story.

Early in the morning on the second day, the money lender decided to go out for a walk. As soon as he went out he saw two men standing beside the door. These two men had already been waiting by the door for quite a long time. They moved towards to the money lender as soon as they saw him; and hurried to tell him about what the cow had said yesterday with fear in their faces.



The money lender was astonished to hear their story! He looked the cow and put it into a herd of cattle. He could not bear the thought of the cow working in the field again. He also sincerely wished the cow hadn't become a beast again after he had transmigrated. He hoped he could transmigrate and become a human being after his death.

The money lender sighed with feeling and said: "Once Buddha taught us don't hanker after gains for short term. The only way to gain merits and virtues is by doing good things and be glad to give to charities. The debt one owes, still needs to be paid in the end. No one can do it for you!"

Please conferred him to be a great lay Buddhist

There was a family who raised a dog in the Sravasti city (舍衛國). One day, the dog walked out alone. He walked straight down along the road in front of his home. He walked till he arrived before another family's door; then he went in and begged for food.

The strange thing was when he was begging for food. He only put his body inside the house; but kept his tail outside.

The house owner was a lay Buddhist. When he saw a dog coming to beg for food; he angrily took a stick to use against the dog.

The dog was beaten for no reason at all. He was very angry. He went to the office of the local government official, and said to the officers: "There is a lay Buddhist over there. I went to his home to beg for food, he didn't want to give me any, that's ok; but it's not ok to beat me with a stick. I did not do anything to against the dog rules. How can he treat me in this way?"

The local officer felt it was very funny to hear this. So he asked the dog: "There are also rules for dogs?"



The dog answered: “I can sit down or lay down as I please in my own home, but when I go to the lay Buddhist’s home to beg for food. I only put my body inside the door and kept me tail out. I dared not walk directly into his home intemperately.”

So the local officer summoned that lay Buddhist to office and asked him: “Did you beat this dog?”

The lay Buddhist answered truthfully: “Yes, I did!”

The local officer thought for a second and said: “The dog was beaten and really suffered from injustice.” So he asked the dog: “You tell me how to punish this lay Buddhist?”

The dog answered: “Please confer him to be a great lay Buddhist!”

“What?” The local officer felt very surprised and asked: “He has beaten you. Why do you want to confer him to be a great lay Buddhist?”

The dog spoke slowly: “Once I was a great lay Buddhist in the Sravasti city in my previous life, Yet because I did many bad things, I suffered retribution by becoming a dog in this life. Now this lay Buddhist is worse than me; so you should confer him to be a great lay Buddhist. As a consequence of his bad behaviour he will definitely go to hell after his death. This is most serious punishment, isn’t it?”



When a wild cat met a wild chicken

A long time ago, there was a big sheet of wood in India and a lot of birds and beasts lived in it. Out of these birds and beasts, there were two who were the most famous, one was good and the other bad.

The good one was a beautiful wild chicken. His feathers were of brilliant colours and full of luster. He was not only benevolent but also happy to give help to others, and was deeply respected by all the birds and beasts in the wood.

The bad one was a wild cat. She was lazy and dishonest, and liked to bully the small and weak. She specialized in doing bad things and so the birds and beasts in the wood all detested her; no one was willing to have any dealings with her.

The wild cat just had given birth to some kittens, and hadn't been out to catch food, or fed for several days. As a





result she was starving and felt weak in her limbs. She forced herself to raise her spirits enough to walk out the door; and tried to find some food to fill her empty stomach.

While she was walking, she saw a beautiful wild chicken from a distance standing on top of a tree ahead. Her saliva flowed out suddenly, and she thought: “Ah! This plump wild chicken would just fill my stomach. Watch how I catch him!” Thereupon the wild cat slowly walked towards to the chicken.

The wild cat grinned all over her face and said to the chicken hypocritically: “My children would like to learn about your beautiful feathers. Could you come to my home and meet them?”



The wild chicken already knew the wild cat was notorious for her terrible behaviour. He heard what the wild cat said; then, turning towards the tree, replied: “Thanks a lot for your kindness! But I am afraid that I don’t have time to go.”

The wild cat thought: “This wild chicken is always happy to render help to others. I had better pretend to be sick. I’ll wait until he comes close; then I will catch and eat him.” So she grasped her chest; pretended to be in pain and cried out: “Ouch! The pain! My heart is hurting!” Then she fell to the ground.

When the kind wild chicken saw that; he couldn’t help but worry and ask: “What has happened to you? Are you alright?” He flew down from the tree while he was speaking.

The wild chicken was very kind to fly to the cat’s side. He gently patted on the wild cat and said: “How do you feel? Are you getting better?”

As soon as the wild cat saw the chance; she turned over and jumped up. He caught the wild chicken in her hands, and said fiercely and brutally: “I’m getting better, but you have had bad luck!” She opened her mouth in preparation to take a bite the chicken.

The wild chicken exerted all his strength to struggle. He pecked the cat’s paws with his sharp beak, yet the wild cat still grasped the



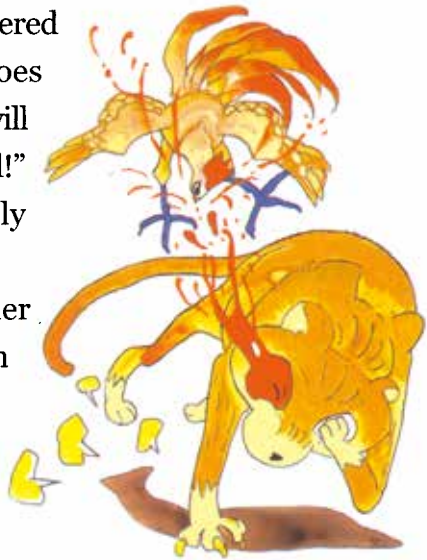
chicken tightly. Now the wild chicken started to worry; so he aimed towards to the wild cat's eye and pecked it. He heard an "Ow!" from the cat; then it loosened the grip of his paws.

The wild chicken flapped his wings furiously and escaped. He flew back to the tree in a hurry and said to the wild cat: "You have such bad heart! No wonder no one wants to have any dealings with you. I will never trust you again!"

The wild cat rubbed the eye which had been pecked to pain and shouted abuse: "You're dead chicken! Remember that, one fine day I will eat you."

The wild chicken answered back: "A person like you does all kinds of bad things; you will get bad circle back in the end!" Then she walked indignantly back to her home.

The wild cat tried her best but she could not catch the wild chicken. Not only was his stomach feeling even emptier; he also felt that she had been very unlucky.



The power of a sentence

Once up a time, there was a man who owned a big black bull. One day, he took the bull and walked pass a sloping field. He saw a crowed of people, so he pressed near to see what were they doing. Then he saw a person crying out in the crowed:

“Is there anybody who dares to have a competition with my bull? The strongest wins. The looser needs to give his belongings to the winner. Who dares to challenge me?”

“My bull is very strong too; there is no harm in trying to gamble once.” This person thought and squeezed through the crowd while he saying loudly: “Come on! I am here to have a competition with you!”

Thereupon both of them helped their bulls to hitch up. They loaded up the car with lots heavy things; led the animals to the bottom of the sloping fields. And asked the bulls to race to the top; to see which bull was quicker.

The owner of the black bull picked up a whip. He cried loudly: “Hey! You curved horn black bull. Later I will beat you this useless guy for few times; then you will pull the cart to the top quickly!”



When the black bull heard that, he was very scared and all his power fell away. So when the competition started; he could not move the cart at all, but the other person's cow pulled the cart to the top of the hill.

People who were surrounding near by after seeing that all roared with laughter. The owner of the black bull felt ashamed and angry; not very willing to give his belongings to that man.

The other man continued cry out again; to see if there was anyone who would like to have a competition with his bull.

The owner started to lead his bull away. But the black bull turned his head and said to his owner: “You tell him we want to gamble again.”

The owner spoke indignantly: “Gamble again for what? You are a useless guy. You have a strong body on the outside. You have caused me a lot of trouble and I have lost so many belongings! Surely you don’t mean to lose all the money I have. Will you feel happier?”

The bull felt very aggrieved and said to his owner: “I could not move that cart, because you insulted and frightened me earlier. I was so frightened that I lost my power.”

After the owner heard that; then he washed and brushed the black bull’s body clean, put a hoop of flowers on the bull’s head and hitched the cart onto his body again; and prepared for the competition one more time. He spoke loudly to the black bull: “My dear strong black bull! You were born with superhuman strength. Quickly show your power and prestige in front us. Pull this heavy cart up to the top of the hill. I will feel incredibly proud of you!”

As soon as the black bull heard that he was full of confidence, and his body was full of power. He rapidly pulled the cart up to the top. As a result the owner of the black bull won back three times money he first gambled.



The consequences of spreading rumours



There was a lion and a tiger, they were good friends, and very close to each other. They often leaned their heads against each other's with their eyes closed; and helped each other to clean their hair with their tongues. Not only did they go out to look for food together but they shared it as well.

There was also a lazy fox nearby. He saw the lion and tiger eating meat constantly. He envied them very much, and tried to think of a way to make friends with them: "I just need to make friends with them. Then they may share any food which was left with me. Then I will have food to eat, won't I?" He went to the front of the lion and the tiger and said to them :

“My dear friends! I admire you very much. I envy your valour and vigour. Hope you can allow me to serve you, and after that award me with a little bit meat to eat. I promise to serve you as well as I can.”

The lion and tiger agreed and started to share their food with the fox.

After a hearty meal, the fox thought: “This lion has a really good relationship with the tiger. If one day they cannot find food, they will definitely eat me together! I had better strike first to gain an advantage. I will try to break their relationship and make them dislike each other.”

After making the decision, the fox said to the lion privately: “You need to be careful of the tiger. He told me that he dislikes you more and more, and said the reason you can find so much food is because you depend on his power.”



The lion glanced at the fox; and asked him suspiciously: “Did the tiger really say this to you?”

The fox answered: “You will know this from his attitude. If you don’t believe me, watch carefully tomorrow. The tiger will definitely lick your hair with his eyes closed arrogantly to show his power and influence.”

Soon afterward, the fox sneaked to the place where the tiger lived and said to him: “The lion has really gone too far! He told me that he dislikes you more and more. And said that the reason you can find so much food is because of his power.”

The tiger also asked suspiciously: “Did the lion really say this to you?”

The fox answered: “Yes, he really dislikes you more and more! If you don’t believe then wait till tomorrow when the lion sees you. He will definitely lick your hair with his eyes closed arrogantly to show his power and influence over you.”

After the fox left, the tiger thought: “The power and influence of the tiger is great indeed! Why he would dislike me more and more? Have I done something wrong?”

The tiger rushed to the place where the lion lived and asked the lion: “Do you dislike me more and more?” The lion asked in reply: “Who said this to you?”

The tiger said: "It was the fox."

The lion asked the tiger again: "Do you also feel sick of me?"

The tiger clarified quickly: "How could that be? Never!"

The lion thought it over and over again. He said angrily: "The fox is trying to make our relationship bad; trying to harm our affection. How can we let him to stay with us?" Thereupon the lion and tiger caught and ate the fox together.



A horse or a donkey?



There was a stableman who raised a donkey and a horse together. As a result the donkey used the horse as his learning model. When the horse ate the grass, the donkey learned the same way like the horse did. When the horse took a walk, the donkey followed close behind the horse and learned from the horse to walk slowly. When the horse ran, the donkey also ran. When the horse wanted to sleep, then the donkey followed him to go to sleep. When the horse needed to carry goods, the donkey also carried goods together with the horse. How far the horse walked everyday; so was the donkey as well.

The donkey felt himself to be exactly like a gallant horse. He saw himself with gray hair and short height. He couldn't help himself to fancy: "If I grow so high, strong and handsome like that big white horse. It would be wonderful! When can I become a gallant horse?"

The donkey stayed with the horse, learned to like the horse in everything. Whatever the horse did then he did the same. The strange thing was that after learning and practicing like this for a long time. The donkey really changed. His skin and hair were no longer gray; and his voice also changed to sound a little bit like the horse.

The donkey was very pleased. He like he looked more and more like a real gallant horse.

One day, the owner of the donkey sold him to a donkey keeper. The donkey lived with other donkeys all day together. Other donkeys did what then he did the same.

Gradually, his hair became gray again. And voice no longer sounded like a horse anymore. It was the voice of a donkey.

The donkey never felt himself looked like a horse again and never fancied to become one either.



A little monkey who bullied the good people and was scared of the evil ones

In ancient Indian, There were a lot of active and clever little monkeys who lived in a forest. People would catch the monkeys and teach them various skills, then take them to do shows in order to make a living as performers. Unfortunately there were many monkeys who were caught and lost freedom and so lived a miserable life.



A little monkey who bullied the good people and was scared of the evil ones



There was a poor little monkey who had been caught by a monkey breaker when he was still very little. The monkey breaker was unfeeling and severe. To make money, he constantly forced the little monkey to learn to do various actions: he made him learn to stand and walk like a human being, and take a dish and ask for money. Every time the little monkey was not doing well; the monkey trainer would beat him with a whip. The little monkey was frightened of being beaten. So he did his best to imitate the actions of human being.

The little monkey lived very unhappily. He was desperate to run away and go back to the mountain. To live with his mates again; to live in freedom. But a firm chain was tied around his neck, which meant he couldn't run away.

Once, the little monkey worked very hard to perform for all day; but had just earned very little money. So the owner abused him:

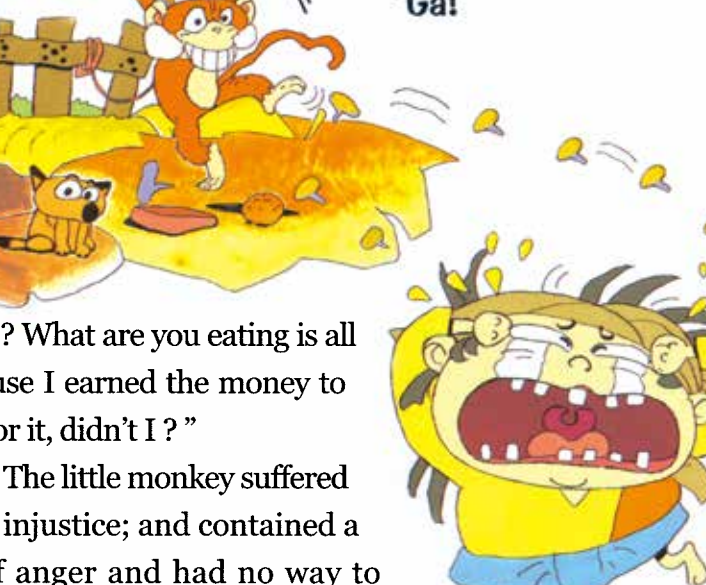
“You useless monkey! You are fond of eating but adverse to work all day, you’ve just earned this tiny little money. Surely you don’t mean us to go hungry, do you? You are not allowed to eat today. If we can’t make money again, beware, I will beat you to death!”

The little monkey was abused. He hid in the corner alone and cried with a broken-heart. He grieved to think more and more. He felt it was better to die than to live. Because nobody could beat him, abuse him and bully him anymore after he died.

The child of the monkey trainer was a very kindhearted person. He liked the little monkey very much and felt sympathy for him. When his father was not at home, he constantly caught the chance to take the food for the little monkey to eat secretly.

He saw the little monkey had been abused and had hidden in the corner to cry. So when his father was not at home he seized the chance to comfort him: “Little monkey. Please don’t cry! I will take some food for you to eat again later when the meal time.”

“Humph! Are you coming to pretend to be a good person



again? What are you eating is all because I earned the money to pay for it, didn't I ? ”

The little monkey suffered from injustice; and contained a lot of anger and had no way to release it. This child always treated him with a pleasant smile on his face

All disaster is caused from impulsive emotions



There was a male pigeon and a female pigeon who lived in a nest. They went out to look for food together in the morning; came back together to stay over night in the evening. They lived beautiful days.

In the twinkling of an eye the autumn came. The ripe fruits were over the mountain. Gentle breezes blew, emitting a puff of an attractive fragrances all the time.

On this day, as soon as the sun was rising; they went out to look for food together.

“What a nice weather today! The sunshine is nice and warm.” The male pigeon said.

“YA! Autumn is the most comfortable season. The weather is neither cold nor hot; and there is a lot of wild fruit to eat. The pity is when the winter comes it will snow heavily; it will be very difficult to find food.”

“In that case we should pick more fruit to keep in the nest! When winter arrives, then we don’t need to go out to look for food.” The male pigeon suggested.

“Good! We need to pick more to fill up our home with fruits.” The female pigeon repeated what he said happily.

Thereupon they made a great effort to pick a lot of fruits and jammed it into the nest until it was full. These fruits were fresh and bright colored and plump and filled the nest with fragrance.



A period of time passed. Due to the dryness of the nest, the moisture content of the fruits all evaporated and they became very, very dry. That's why it seemed the quantity had reduced a lot.

The male pigeon saw this and abused the female pigeon angrily saying: "How could you be so greedy? The fruit which we made so much effort to pick is to keep it for us to eat in winter. But you secretly ate so much all at once!"

The female pigeon exerted all her power to shake her head and said to the male pigeon: "I didn't steal and eat the fruit; they reduced themselves."

"How come the fruit become less by itself? You still do not admit that you stole and ate the fruit. I regret that I chose you at the beginning."

After hearing that the female pigeon exclaimed angrily: "If I said I didn't eat then I didn't eat! How can you accuse me?"

"I am sure you ate the fruits! It was you!" The male pigeon was so angry; he threw himself on and exerted all his strength to peck the female pigeon's head with his beak and went so far as to peck the female pigeon to death.

A few days passed, it rained for several days in the autumn. The rain seeped into the nest; so all the fruit got soaking wet. After being soaked in the rain; they became plump just like before. They jammed the nest full again.

“What’s going on here?” The male pigeon noticed the fruits had increased and felt a little bit strange.

He thought about it clearly and finally realized that: “It was because the rain soaked the fruits and made them become big; that’s why the fruits increased in size. In that case, before the fruit was not stolen by the female pigeon, it just became dry that’s all.”

The male pigeon thought about this. He was so full of regret about pecking the female pigeon to death at that time when he was angry. He rushed into the rain; cried out sadly for the female pigeon:

“It was my fault; I blamed you wrongly. Please come back soon! This is all my fault!”

He cried out sadly in the rain; flew until he was completely exhausted. In the end he was beaten by the rain and fell to his death with sadness onto the ground.



The argument between the head and tail

There was a snake whose head and tail constantly quarreled with each other. No part could convince the other. On this day, this snake's head and tail disagreed with each other again.

The head said to the tail: "I am the boss!"

The tail said to the head: "I am the real boss!"

The head said: "I have ears to hear; have eyes to see; have mouth to eat; when walking I am in the very front, so I should be the boss. You don't have these kind abilities. How can you be a boss?"

The tail said: "I let you go forward; that's why you can go forward. If you don't believe then I will circle the tree with my body. Can you move after that?"

After finishing what he said, the tail circled the tree three times; without loosening it for three days. The head thought about climbing out to look for food. But no matter how he tried, he could not move at all. He was going to starve to death.

The head felt helpless and said to the tail: "Please let me go! I admit that you are the boss."

The tail saw the head admitted defeat; so he loosened his body.

The head said to the tail again: “Now you are the boss, so you go in the front!”

The tail was happily to walk in the front; but the tail had no eyes. He couldn’t see the road. They had not gone very far; when they fell into a fiery pit and burnt to death.



A donkey draped a lion skin around his shoulder

One lion died in the forest. There was a gray donkey who got the lion's skin; he thought to himself: "If I drape the lion skin around my shoulder; I will become a lion. Then I can be the king of the forest, and all the animals in the forest will be in awe and venerate me." The more he thought the happier he felt, he danced with excitement.

On this day the donkey was in an especially good mood. He got up early in the morning, and after filling up his belly, he looked into the mirror and draped the lion skin over his body. The more he looked the more he felt like a lion.

He thought: "I had better walk into the street to see what happens; and frighten everybody."

The donkey walked swaggeringly into the street. When people saw him they really thought it was a lion coming. All were so frightened then hid in a rush. Even the cats, dogs, chickens, ducks...etc. were also too frightened to utter a sound.

The donkey saw this kind situation, he felt very complacent. So he carried on walking into the village and

made a show of authority by baring fangs and brandishing claws.

He heard an old lady in the village frightening her youngest grandson: “Please stop crying! If you cry again then the lion will come and eat you!” He could not help but burst into laughter complacently: “Toot...Ah! Toot ... Ah! Toot....Ah!”

Now he showed the cloven hoof. As soon as people heard the donkey’s laughter; they suddenly realized who it really was and said: “So the donkey has disguised himself as a lion.”

After knowing the truth, everybody headed for the street. They bombarded him with various things; expelled him and abused him. The donkey was beaten and covered with wounds. He ran back home all in a fluster.

A donkey is a donkey. Even though he draped a lion skin around the shoulder; he still cannot become a real lion!



A bird and a macaque

Before in the forest lived a bird and a macaque. They were good friends. They constantly played in the forest together.



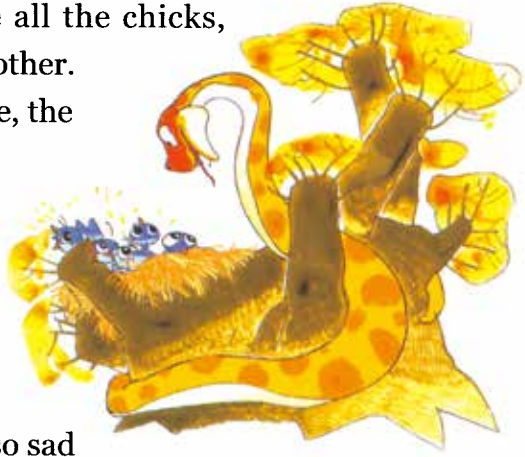
Spring was coming; the bird gave birth to chicks. She built a cozy, warm nest for them in a big tree.

One day, when the weather was warm and clear, the bird flew out to look food for the chicks.

There was a poisonous snake in the forest. He had been on the watch for the chicks for a long time. On this day as soon as he saw the bird mummy flying out; he did not delay in climbing up onto the tree. He put his head

into the nest and ate all the chicks, one mouthful after another.

After a little while, the bird mummy held the chick's food in her mouth and came back with heart full of happiness. When she saw the empty, blood stained nest. She was so sad and her heart was nearly broke.



In the evening, when the macaque went out; he saw the bird mummy was crying sadly. So he asked her what had happened.

She said very sadly: “When I went to look for food; the viper ate my children.”

After the macaque heard that, he hated that greedy cruel viper very much. He said to the bird mummy: “Please don’t be sad anymore. I will definitely think of a way to teach him a lesson, and make sure he gets the bad circle back.”

One day, the macaque saw the viper climbing out the entrance of cave. So he jumped down to harass him. He jumped around agilely in front of the viper.

The viper was enraged; he thought about entangling the macaque with his body. But the macaque was moved too fast. No matter what the viper did he could not tangle the macaque at all. He worried he would burst with anger.

The macaque noticed the viper was tired and nearing exhaustion. Then he seized the chance to grip its head and threw him brutally at big stone to death, and then the viper died.

The macaque got revenge for his good friend. Since that these two good friends were closer and lived happily in the forest.



The heart of a monkey



There was a monkey who lived in the forest near the Ganges River. He not only grew tall and strong; but was also full of power. At that time there was a crocodile who lived in the Ganges River. The crocodile's wife saw this monkey with a big and tall stature and thought about eating his heart very much.

One day, the wife spoke to the crocodile husband: "I have a wish, and it is to eat the heart of the monkey."

The crocodile said: “We live in the water and the monkey lives on the land; and he also very good at climbing trees. How could it be possible to catch him?”

“I don’t care! No matter what you have to think a way to get his heart for me to eat.”

“Alright! I will think a way to get it for you.”
Thereupon the crocodile went to look for the monkey.

At this moment, the monkey was sitting on a big rock and taking a rest on the side. The crocodile climbed to the side and said to the monkey: “Dear monkey! I really feel sorry for you.”

The monkey felt uncertain and asked: “Why do you feel sorry for me?”



“I feel sorry for you as you have to eat these putrid wormy fruits in this small narrow piece of woods everyday. You don’t know, there is a vast forest on the opposite side of the Ganges River. There are many sweet and delicious fruits inside. Why don’t you go to try those bigger and tastier fruits?”

“Alas! The water of the Ganges River is not only deep and wide; but I also cannot swim. How can I go to the forest on the opposite side?” said the monkey.

The crocodile harboured malicious intentions and said: “I can help you! You jump to upon my back and I will carry you over there.” Thereupon the monkey jumped to upon the back of the crocodile.

The crocodile started swimming forward. When he swam to the middle of the river, he turned his body over and threw the monkey into the river.

The monkey struggled in the water continuously bobbing up and down and asked the crocodile: “My friend! Why did you throw me into the water? You know that I cannot swim.”

“I am really sorry! My wife wants to eat your heart. This is the only thing I can do.”

The monkey was frightened; but the monkey had a swift response and said to the crocodile straight away:



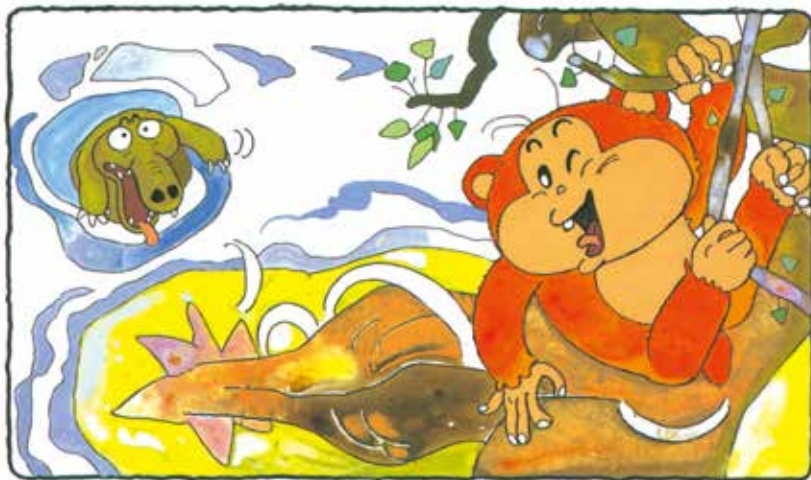
“You should have told me the truth earlier. I usually jump up and down in the tree most of the time. If I carried my heart with me, it would have shaken and broken to pieces already.”

“Ah? In that case where did you put your heart?”
The crocodile asked.

The monkey pointed into the distance of the former side. He said: “Just exactly on that fig tree, I hang my heart up there.”

The crocodile said: “I just want your heart. If you give me your heart; I can let you live.”

“In that case you have to carry me back for a ride. I will go to take the heart down.” Thereupon the crocodile carried the monkey and swam back to the side.



When they arrived at the side, the monkey rushed to jump to the side. He quickly climbed up the fig tree, and looking down to the crocodile who had his mouth wide open and said: “Do you really think that the monkey’s heart is hanging up on the tree? The fruits of the opposite side, you can keep them for yourself to enjoy! I felt sorry for you that you are not short; but have no brain.”

The crocodile discovered he had been cheated; and dove back to the water dejectedly and despondently.

A greedy mouse

Once upon a time there was a venerable elder. He put a bottle which was filled up with butter in his attic. But didn't seal and cover the cap tight and firmly.

"Wow! The smell was so sweet!" A mouse smelt the odour. He searched high and low and discovered that the smell was coming from the butter bottle. Then he got into the bottle and ate the butter without stopping everyday. The colour of his fur became the same colour as the butter.

After eating and eating, the mouse's body became fatter and fatter, day after day. He became too fat to get out the bottle.

Later someone wanted to buy the butter. The venerable elder climbed up to the attic to take the butter bottle down and put it on the fire for roasting. As a result the mouse was burnt to death very quickly, his bones all melted into the butter.

The venerable elder sold the heated butter to that person. After arriving home, that person poured out the butter and found out there were fragments of bones sinking in the button of the bottle.



That mouse turned out to be scattered here and there of his all body long ago; became bone ash. This is the result of being too greedy.

The moving island



In the vast expanse of the ocean, there was a sea turtle king of giant stature.

One splendid starry night, the turtle king came to the top slowly and soon got into dreamland. The huge body of the turtle king looked exactly like an extra small island in the ocean.

Later, there was a merchant ship which stopped beside the body of the turtle king. The sailors thought they had anchored their ship beside an island. The sailors didn't know the island was the body of the huge turtle king.

The businessmen climbed onto the back of the turtle king and started to pile up wood, to make a campfire and prepared to enjoy dinner. The scorching heat of the campfire and the hubbub of voices woke up the turtle king. He thought: “The fire burning on my back is so painful. If I dive under the surface of the ocean and extinguish the fire, their lives will be in danger and it will be difficult to save them. But I cannot endure the pain of being burnt. What should I do?”

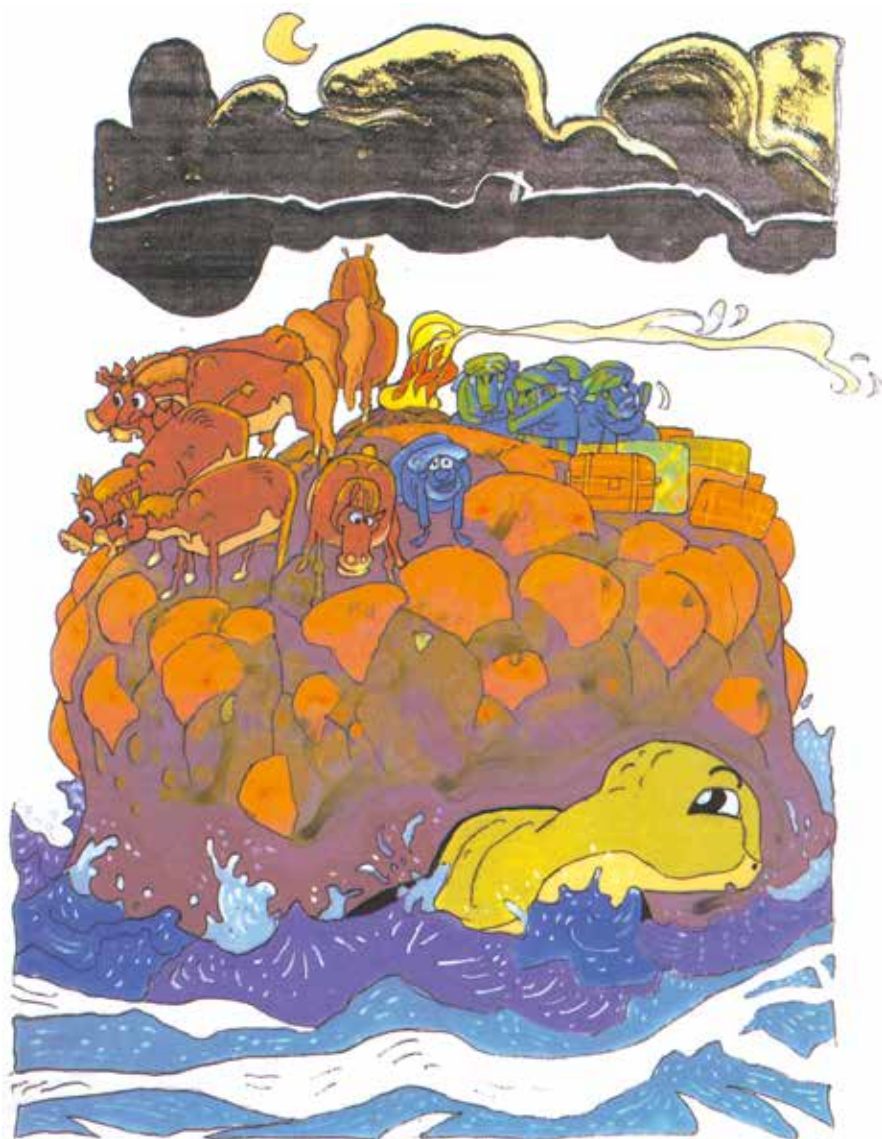


The turtle king put up with it and thought: “I just need to soak my body in the sea for a moment to let the temperature go down and reduce the pain. This will not put them in danger.” Thereupon the turtle king slowly moved his body.

The businessmen thought there was an earthquake; they all screamed in a great panic: “Is the island sinking? Will we be drowned? It’s very difficult for us to find an island where we can rest. The mercy God of the sun and moon and the Jade Emperor(釋梵天王)! Please rescue us with your immeasurable dignity and moral conduct!”

The sound of their prayer circled round the universe. The turtle king comforted the terrified businessmen with his deep, soft and gentle voice: “Please don’t be scared! There is no danger! The campfire is really too hot, so I just want to soak in the water to stop the pain. I definitely won’t let you drown. You can have the meal at ease!”

“AMITABHA Buddha(南無佛)! This turtle is the benevolent Bodhisattva! Thank you very much!” The businessmen cheered and their tears ran down with gratitude!



The rabbit in the moon

There was a beautiful, small island in the center of a giant lake. On the island lived a rabbit who had been transmigrated from a Bodhisattva. The rabbit had three close friends. They were an otter, fox and monkey.



On this day, the Jade Emperor(帝釋天)(or supreme ruler of Heaven in Taoism) heard that the rabbit possessed a benevolent heart. So he came to the island and changed himself into a Brahman who had got lost. He wanted to test the rabbit. He was shabby and tatty in dress and he looked weak and exhausted. He came to the front door of the rabbit's home and spoke in a low spirits: "I haven't eaten for many days. Is there anyone can help me?"



The rabbit heard the miserable cry and rushed out. He asked with deep concern: “You can’t have eaten for many days, can you? Come to my home straight away, have some food and take a rest. Then you can go somewhere else tomorrow. OK?”

The Brahman was too exhausted and lazy to answer. So the rabbit held him up and invited him as a guest to his own home.

The otter, the fox and the monkey learnt of this. They all prepared some food by themselves and came to the rabbit’s home. The otter caught fish. The fox took a lizard and a jar of cheese. The monkey also prepared the fruits. These foods were all taken here to provide for the Brahman.

The rabbit thought: "I cannot offer just a little grass to the guest after all? If we live in the world we should help other people. If I cannot do any favor for my guest, what's the meaning of life?"

The rabbit thought for long time and had an idea. He said to the Brahman: "I cannot find any food, I only can offer my own body to you. Please accept what I provide for you!" After finishing what he said, he jumped into the fire straight.

The Jade Emperor saw the rabbit jump into the fire regardless of his own danger. He revealed his true appearance immediately. He stretched out his hands to take the rabbit out of the fire and took him to the Thirty-Three Heaven Devas(三十三重天界). In order to praise the spirits, the rabbit devoted himself to rescuing people. He used the rabbit's silhouette to decorate the place where The Jade Emperor lived 《The Most Honourable Palace 尊勝宮》 and 《Good Deeds Hall 善法堂》. Then he took the rabbit to roam about in the moon palace and kept his silhouette in the moon.

Until now, every time the moon rises up on the fifteenth of the lunar calendar, people always can see the silhouette of the rabbit on the moon.



The master wild goose hunter

There was a king who liked to eat wild geese very much. He had to eat one everyday. He considered the hunting of wild geese to be a big affair of state, and he especially created the position of Master Wild Goose Hunter to help him to catch the big wild ones.

On this day, the king commanded his vassal to promulgate a decree to recruit hunters to be The Master Wild Goose Hunters again. There was a young and capable hunter who saw this placard. He thought: "Compared with working hard all my life with old woods in the remote mountain. I had better go to the imperial palace to see some thing different in the world." He thought about this, he visited the king's representative and registered himself for the job.





The young hunter was really sharp. His skill in catching wild geese was really excellent. So he won recognition from the king very quickly. The king gave him a lot of gold, silver and precious gems. Even the government officials and people of the same occupation all treated him with respect and greeted him with esteem. This made The Master Wild Goose Hunter become conceited and complacent.

It was a warm autumn. The sun was beautiful and the breeze was gentle. The king of the wild geese led five hundred big wild geese on a journey to look for food. It was nice to see a flock of geese flying in a wedge carefree and leisurely and to look at them together in a beautiful azure cloudy sky.

But, on the ground, the hunting master just used a pair of alert and resourceful eyes to keep a close watch on them; looking attentively at their every act and every move. The hunter had already made preparation and was ready to shoot.

The sharp-witted wild goose king felt there was something wrong; he hurriedly cried one sound: “Danger! Climb!” The flock of wild geese shifted to turn round and flew up at high speed. But the wild goose king who flew in the front couldn’t climb high enough in time; he flew into the net which was opened and set by the hunting master all of a sudden. He tried to escape by flapping his wings desperately. But the hunting master had already run to the front of the net and caught hold of the wild goose king.

The five hundred geese in the sky saw this situation and started crying in fear and uttering sad calls. They circled around in the sky without stopping and refused to leave. Suddenly a big wild goose rushed out from this flock; he flew to the wild goose king recklessly.

The Master Wild Goose Hunter was frightened. He thought: “This is called –falling into a snare—isn’t it? No wonder he doesn’t want his life anymore?”

At this time the bows on the left and right sides all shot their arrows at the same time. One arrow shot into

the goose. He uttered a sad call and blood poured out. His body swayed for few times; but still persistently risked his life by flying to the wild goose king.

The hunting master saw this situation, and an incomprehensible dreadful feeling attacked his mind suddenly. He firmly pulled the wild goose king towards the direction to the imperial palace and scampered. He ran and turned his head---- that injured wild goose still went in hot pursuit without giving up.

The hunting master rushed into the gate and hid in the house. The injured goose followed him; and flew around in the sky above the house. His mouth was still bleeding; but he refused to leave. By dusk, the goose still flew and still cried.

At the end The Master Wild Goose Hunter was fighting against his conscience. He held the wild goose king with his two hands and lifted up high to the sky; then let go his hands and said: "Go on ! You go together!" So the wild goose king spread his wings and soared high.

The injured wild goose saw the king was released and out of the danger. He was really in high glee and exerted all his strength to flutter his wings. These two flew around the hunting master's house and circled around for three times. Then they flew side by side back to the flock of the wild geese.

The Master Wild Goose Hunter was executed for letting go of the goose. He was taken into custody by the bodyguard to the king. He had no fear and didn't beg for his life but wanted for the judgment peacefully. The king felt very surprised and asked him: "Surely it doesn't mean you are not afraid of death? Do you admit that you are guilty?"

The hunting master was excited as soon as he asked by the king: "I admit my guilt. I am guilty!" Thereupon he spoke out circumstantially and tears dropped with voice---in deep grief about the process of catching and releasing the goose. The king and people around were all be moved. Then the king helped the hunting master up by himself. He ordered the bodyguard to untie him and commanded not to catch the wild geese there any more.



The water pot beside the righteous well

A long time ago, there was a country called Vnranasi (波羅奈), on the bank of the Ganges River. A Brahman in the country practiced Buddhism, to build up merits and virtues and be happy in doing good things and donating to charities. He put

the fund to recruit laborers and purchase the material to build a well in the wilderness to provide the water for the passer-by. Afterward people all called this well “the righteous well”.

One day, a group of thirsty foxes came near to the well to drink water. But they could not lift it up, so they paced about in an agitated state of mind.

These foxes suddenly found there was some water silting up beside the stage of the well. Although it was very foul. The foxes were very thirsty and didn't care



weather the water was clean or not. Then they acted like bees pressing forward in swarms drinking in desperation.

Only one, the fox king was the exception. He stood far aside. He looked at the way the foxes were drinking. He said scornfully: "Hum! I am not going to drink this filthy dirty stinky water!" Thereupon the fox king looked all around thinking of other ways to get the clean water.

Suddenly he saw fourteen water pots made of tiles, had been put on the stage of the well in order to let a passer-by to have a drink of water. He ran happily there immediately.

The fox king pushed his whole head into the pot; and exerted all his strength to stretch his neck and put



out his tongue to lick greedily. After he licked it empty, he lifted the pot over his head and used all his strength to throw it to the ground in cold blood with a crash, the pot broke to pieces immediately.

“Ha! Ha!” The fox king held his belly laughing boisterously for few seconds triumphantly; and went towards to the second pot.

All the foxes were astonished at the fox king’s behavior. They thought their king must be too thirsty to become muddle-headed and hurried over to stop him.

“My dear king, please regain your senses!”

“My dear king, what are you doing?”

“These pots are utensils for the Brahman to practice charity and do good work. If you destroy them, it’s the same as destroying good conduct, isn’t it? Surely this doesn’t mean my dearest king wants to get rid of good and replaces it all with bad?”

“Please stop right now!”

The fox king said with smile: “I have not gone crazy. I just want to get rid of the good conduct of the Brahman, to prevent him from establishing the merits and virtues. Hum! What’s the “righteous well”? I just want to be an inhumane and unjust person. Let’s see what he can do to me!”

The fox king would not listen to the protests from the other foxes. After licking it empty, he threw one after another until they were all broken. Then he strode away his head in the air.

The Brahman had kept watch near by and saw the whole thing. After waiting until the foxes were far away, he used wood to remake fourteen sturdy and durable water pots and put them beside the stage of the well. To prevent these wood pots from being destroyed again, the Brahman held a stick in his hand and kept watch in the dark around the righteous well day and night.

After few days, as expected the fox king returned with a pack of foxes came to the well to drink water. Like last time, the fox king started to throw the pots as soon as he finished drinking the water.

“Why? This is strange! Why don’t they break into pieces?” The fox king saw every pot was undamaged; no breaks or leak. He stamped with rage.

At this time the Brahman who hid aside rushed out; he held the stick up and hit him straight on the head. The fox king didn’t take precautions against it and died immediately.

The penitence of the fox

One day, a fox was chased by a lion in a mountain. During the chase he fell into a deep well in the hill. His chest was smashed and his heart was burst. He lay there dying gradually.

The Jade Emperor(帝释天) saw this. He came to the place where the fox was laying and pulled the fox out of the well.

The fox said to the Jade Emperor: “Please don’t rescue me! If you save my life, there is no chance for me to transmigrate to the heaven after I die. My sins are very serious!”



Then the fox told his story:

Once upon a time, the people of An-Tle-Lo country (安陀羅國) and Mo-Lo-Po-Ye country (摩羅婆耶國) were foes. They attacked each other year after year; but the battles never ended in either victory or defeat. One day, the king of An-Tle-Lo country called all the subjects together to discuss how to take Mo-Lo-Po-Ye country by storm.

His subjects suggested: "I have heard that the king of Po-Lo-Nine-Po-Tle-Mo country (波羅奈波頭摩國) loves pretty woman very much. We can think of a way to use him to help us."





The king of An-Tle-Lo country heard and thought this idea made senses. So he presented one hundred pretty women to the king of Po-Lo-Nine-Po-Tle-Mo country according to the subject's plan.

The king of Po-Lo-Nine-Po-Tle-Mo country was very happy to receive one hundred pretty women. He agreed to help by dispatching troops immediately and attacked Mo-Lo-Po-Ye country together with An-Tle-Lo country.

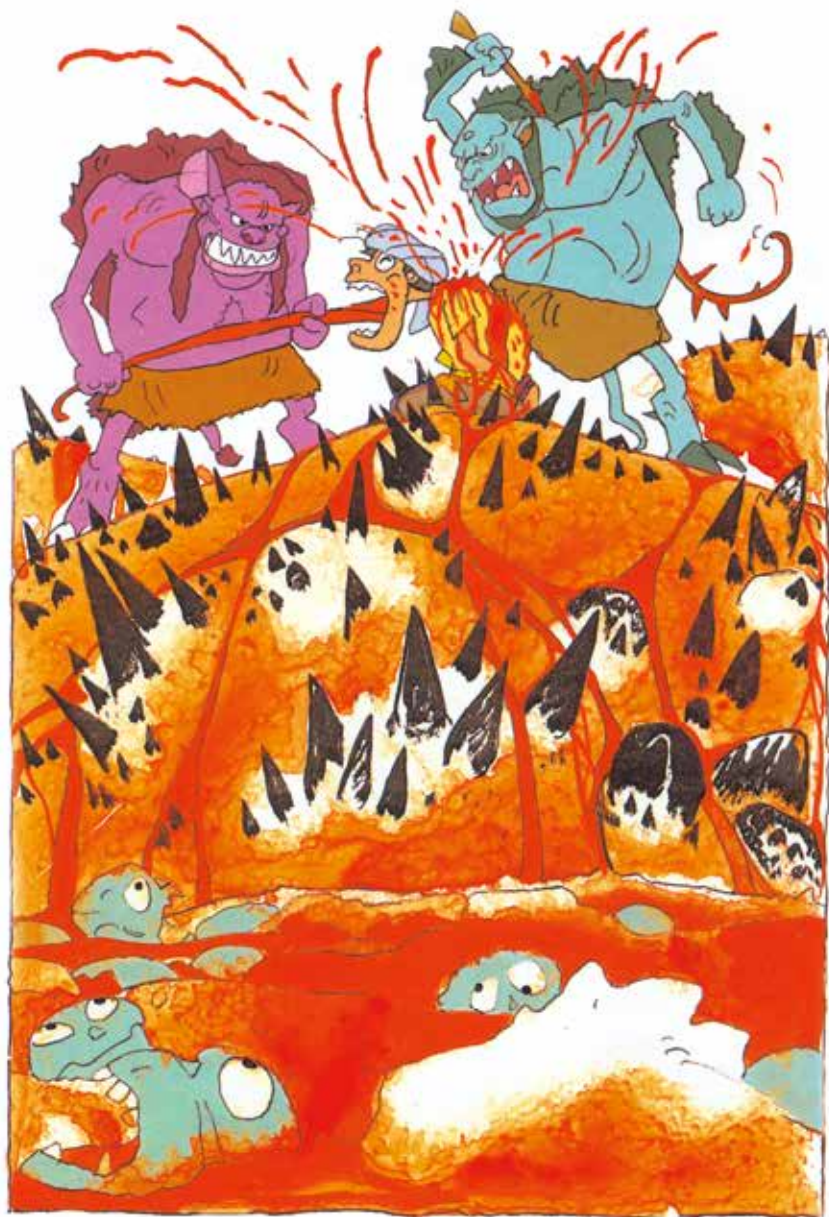
In the end the Allied Forces won the bottle. But their constitution was greatly undermined with heavy casualties. The king of Po-Lo-Nine-Po-Tle-Mo country faced so many pretty women having fun and good time with them all day long. He did not govern the affairs of state at all. He lived an immoderate life.

The subjects had no one to lead them. They staged one armed rebellion one after another and plundered the people's money. Even the God of Heaven(天公) did not make things easy for them. Not only did he cause floods but also droughts and many natural calamities and man-made misfortunes happened together. This caused great hardship and starvation everywhere.

However Mo-Lo-Po-Ye country after losing the battle, they rehabilitated their homeland. They resumed their spirits slowly and became a strong prosperous country over time. Then they came to invade and attack Po-Lo-Nine-Po-Tle-Mo country, because this country was their No. 1 enemy. But at this time the armed forces of Po-Lo-Nine-Po-Tle-Mo country were too weak to withstand an attack. And as a result was destroyed all at once.

After the king of Po-Lo-Nine-Po-Tle-Mo country died, he transmigrated to hell. Because his sin was serious, he was often beaten cruelly by ghosts. He confessed to the Buddha sincerely, practiced Buddhism and cultivated himself according to the Buddhist doctrine again. For a short time, he transmigrated again.

He transmigrated into a hungry ghost. He confessed his sins, and practiced the Buddhist doctrine all the time. Afterwards he transmigrated into a fox. But still didn't



forget the Buddhist doctrine and practiced the ten meritorious acts.

The fox said to the Jade Emperor: "I was the king of Po-Lo-Nine-Po-Tle-Mo country in the past! I committed so many misconducts and karma, had been suffered for several lifetimes. After I die, then I can reject this body and transmigrate to Heaven after another seven days. So please do not save my life!"

After the fox had been dead for seven days, as expected he transmigrated to The Four Heavens of The Four Deva Kings (四天王天宮).





A clever black moled cow

There was an old lady who raised a calf. Although she was not rich she still saved money for food and expenses to buy good forage to feed the calf all day long. She loved the calf in the same way as cared for her daughter. Because this calf's whole body was black; people called him "The black moled cow".

Several years passed, the calf grew up to be a strong big bull. The black moled bull was not only docile and kindhearted; but also very clever. When at home, he saw the hard-working busy woman, his heart was touched and he thought: "The old lady's life is poor; but she toils

and toils and strives to save money for food and expenses to raise me. Exactly the same as she brings up her own children. Now I am fully grown. I should make the efforts to work; to earn some money for her to live on a good life.”

One day, a businessman drove five hundred ox carts filled up with goods pass by. He wanted to take the cargo across the big river beside the village to do business on the opposite bank. When the fleet came to the ford and prepared to cross the river. Because the cargo was very heavy and the ground was all muddy. There wasn't one cow who could pull the wagons to another side of the river in these five hundred ox carts. Thereupon the businessman parked his fleet on the side of the ford; and looked for the new way to cross the river.



At this time the black moled bull was drinking water on the river side. The businessman's son saw him. He thought: "What a big fit healthy strong good bull! If we want to move the cargo to the other side, it can be done if we have him. But I don't know who is his owner?" So the businessman's son asked the shepherd on the road side:

"Is this your bull?"

The shepherd answered: "No. How could I be so lucky to have this good bull?"

The son asked again: "Who owns that bull? I would like to hire and pay him money to pull my cargo to the other side."

The shepherd said: "The owner is not here. If you need, pull him then! Please pay him after he finishes work. He will give the money to his owner by himself."

The businessman's son was very happy to hear that. So he used the rope to get through and tied the black mole bull's nose and pulled him towards to the ford. After he used great efforts for a long time; but the black moled bull still didn't walk. He just used his black shining eyes and stared at the son. The way he look seemed to say: "Tell me how much wages then I will go to do the job."

The businessman's son saw and understood what he meant; so he said to him: "If you pull all these five hundred

ox carts to the opposite side. I will pay you two cents for per ox cart. The total will be one thousand cents. Is this ok for you?”

After hearing the price, the black moled bull nodded his head then started to move his feet.

When he arrived on the side of the ford, people hitched the black bull up with an ox cart. They saw it was so easy for him to pull the wagon; and pulled the wagon to the opposite bank at one go. In just a little while later, all the wagons were pulled over there.

The son of the businessman saw that all the wagons were pulled over. He thought: “If I only pay him five hundred cents, he would not know. Then we can save some money.” So he packed these five hundred cents with a strip of cloth hanging it on the neck of the black moled bull.

The black moled bull knew the businessman was paying less money than he deserved. So he ran to the front of the fleet blocking the way and stared at the father and son of the businessmen.

The businessman saw this and thought. My son must have paid less money to the bull. So he asked his son. His son was so ashamed to admit it. He hurriedly went forward to take the moneybag from the black moled bull’s neck and



added another five hundred cents in it. He added the money and thought at the same time: "How did this bull even know I paid him less money? It's odd!"

After the businessman's son put the money in; the black moled bull gave way and stepped aside. Then he turned round and ran towards into the village.

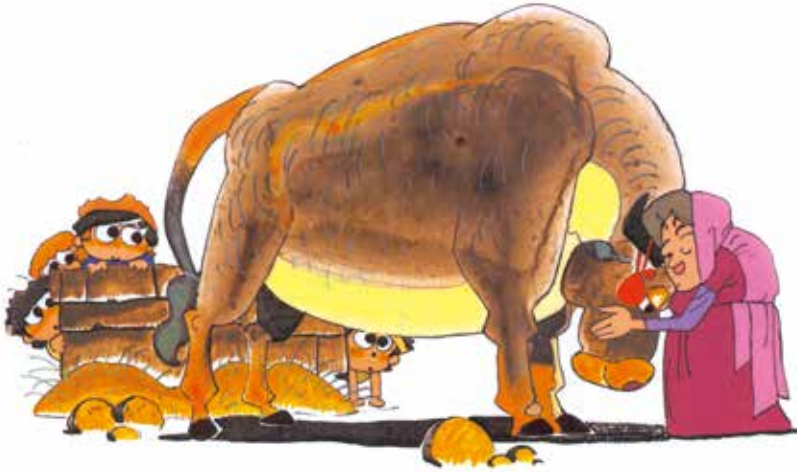
The black moled bull arrived home. The old lady saw a bag hanging on the bull's neck. She took it down opening and looking at it. It was one thousand cents. So he asked the black moled bull: "What happened? Where did the money come?"

The black moled bull just swung his tail; and nuzzled the old lady.

The old lady still couldn't understand, so she went to ask the shepherd. The shepherd told the old lady about the whole thing. The old lady heard and felt very touched. She came to beside the black moled bull holding his neck and said:

"My dear child! I never think about wanting you to earn money for me to live on! Why do you want to do such hardwork? What should I do if you become too tired because of exhaustion?"

The black mole bull leaned on the old lady's chest meekly. His eyes showed a happy and gratifying look.



After the old lady got this money, she didn't need to worry about how to live on anymore. She loved the black moled bull more, and often gave him a warm hot shower; using the spice to smear his whole body and fed him the best forage. The black moled bull and the old lady depended on each other for a living for several years. He left the old lady's home, only when the old lady died.

After the black moled bull died, because of the good deeds he had done; he transmigrated to a holy and beautiful paradise.



Do not sneer at other people

A long time ago, there was a group of businessman wanting to do business in another country and they took a dog to keep company with them while they traveled.

On this day the businessmen came to the front of a desert. They were terribly tired and hadn't eaten on the way. So they sat on the road side to take a rest one after another, and prepared to cross the desert in one go.

That dog also hadn't eaten for several days. Everybody was tired and exhausted from hurrying on with their journey, so no one paid any attention to him. The dog

saw everybody resting, so he took a piece of meat in his mouth from the traveling bag, when no one noticed and prepared to sneak away, to enjoy a good meal. After he had sneaked behind a stone, he was discovered by the businessmen.

They were very angry. There wasn't much food left, and the dog had also stolen a piece of meat. Thereupon everybody all rushed forward; surrounded the dog and gave him a sound thrashing. The dog was badly beaten and lost a leg; and he was covered with cuts and bruises. He lay prone on the ground and couldn't move anymore. The businessmen thought he was already dead, so they threw him on the side of the road and went onwards.

At this time the Buddha passed from Heaven and saw the struggling dog. His natural sympathy was touched. So he changed into a monk and went into the town asking for alms. Then he flew back to the dog's side and slowly fed him bit by bit, and helped to cure the wound on his leg, he also taught him about the Buddha dharma. After he learnt of the Buddha dharma, the dog became livelier; and wagged his tail to the Buddha continuously.

Several years passed, the dog died and transmigrated into Brahman's home in the Sravasti city (舍衛國).



On this day the Buddha came to the Sravasti city (舍衛國). He asked for alms along the street and came to the front door of the Brahman's home. The Brahman saw it was the Buddha approaching, so felt very happy. He quickly invited the Buddha into his house and gave him a lot of food.

The Buddha asked the Brahman: "I have heard that you have a very adorable son. Can you let me to have a look at him?"

The Brahman answered: "Yes, I do have a son, and his name is Ging-Tee(均提). Although now he is still young, he is clever and quick-witted and also good at understanding what people want and their thoughts. In the future when he grows up I will definitely take him to your place to be converted to Buddhism." The Buddha saw he was very pious, so he agreed to the proposal.

Later Ging-Tee grew to seven years old, the Brahman sent him to the Buddha's place to visit the Buddha. The Buddha took Ging-Tee in and accepted him as his disciple and taught him about the Sutra and the Buddhist doctrine. Ging-Tee was very clever and so realized the true meaning very quickly. Also, because he practiced the Buddhist doctrine with great concentration, he later became an Arhan.

After Ging-Tee realized the truth, he used his supernatural power to recall his previous life. He found out that before, he was a starving dog at death's door, and only survived because the Buddha saved him. He then transmigrated to be a person, and soon reached the spiritual state of an immortal through practicing Buddhism. Later he became a Buddha in his future world. So Ging-Tee thought: "The reason I could extricate myself from the abyss of misery is because of the bounties bestowed by the Buddha. I will use all I have to enshrine and worship the Buddha!"

Buddha said to Ananda(阿難): "In the past at the time of the Kasyapa Buddha(迦葉佛). There was a Buddhist monk, with a pleasant voice, who had become a monk when he was young. Everyone loved to listen when he chanted the Sutra. There was another old monk, he couldn't see clearly and spoke with a blurred voice. It was

very unpleasant to the ear when he chanted the Sutra. But his charitable and pious deeds of practicing Buddhist doctrine were very profound and so he had already realized the truth and became an Arhan.”

The young monk thought of his own pleasant voice, and so looked down on the old monk and sneered at his voice just like that of a howling dog. The old monk heard him and said “Don’t you know that although my voice doesn’t sound as nice as yours; I have reached the spiritual state of an immortal by practicing Buddhism and become an Arhan.”



The young monk was terrified after he heard that, and reproached himself for his extreme behaviour. He apologized and confessed his sin to the old monk immediately.

He got retribution because of his hurtful words. Five hundred years later he became a dog. Afterwards he met me so he could extricate himself from the abyss of misery and transmigrate to be a human being; he converted to Buddhism and reached the spiritual state of an immortal by practicing Buddhism and, in the end became a Buddha. That young monk is now Ging-Tee.

A sinner can also ask for, and obtain Buddhist doctrine

Once upon a time there was a monster python in the Sravasti city (舍衛國). He was exiled to a barren mountain and field, by his king. Every time a person was given the death penalty, the prisoner would be sent to the monster python's place. The monster python killed people by spraying poison gas from his mouth, and seventy two thousand people had been killed in this way.





Later, in the Sravasti city there appeared an extremely ferocious lion. This lion hurt people and livestock everywhere. It even ate the most experienced hunter in country. No one dared deal with it anymore.

While the king was in a quandary, he had one idea. One of his subjects suggested: "Perhaps the monster python has the ability to subdue the lion. My dear Majesty there is no harm in trying it." The king thought this probably was a good way, so he ordered his people to return to the monster python and then lead it to the place where the lion stayed.

The lion pounced on the monster python as soon as he saw it. The monster python immediately sprayed a burst of poison gas, which the lion had no time to avoid. He fell down on the ground after he inhaled the gas; lifted his four paws up then died. After that, the monster python was sent back to his home again.

Later the monster python got old and became seriously ill. He was going to die. The Buddha felt very sorry for him. He had poisoned seventy-two thousand people. His sin was very serious. The Buddha worried he would fall into purgatory as soon as he died and would never be able to free himself from misery. So The Buddha told Sariputra(舍利弗):

“Go to admonish and warn him one time; let him lighten his sin!”

The monster python sprayed a burst of poison gas as soon as he saw Sariputra. Due to Sariputra’s love, kindness and a bright intelligent heart, the gas did not hurt him. After he got through it, Sariputra’s face was still glowing with health and with an easy grace. The monster python sprayed three jets of poison gas continuously but it still didn’t hurt Sariputra. Then the Python realized he was a monk with supernatural power.

*A sinner can also ask for, and
obtain Buddhist doctrine*



At this time, the monster python showed a little in the way of good intentions. He started looking up and down at Sariputra with an affectionate look. Afterwards Sariputra went back to the monastery. The monster python died same evening.

After the monster python died, the Mo-Jay king went to visit the Buddha for a special purpose. He asked the Buddha: “Where will the monster python’s soul now?”

The Buddha said unhurriedly: “We should let his soul be born to The First ethereal Heaven of The Realm of Sensuous Desire(欲界第一重天).”

The Mo-Jay king(摩竭王) felt very surprised, and said: “The monster python had committed a great sin by killing seventy-two thousand people with poison gas. How can he transmigrate to Heaven?”

The Buddha explained patiently: “Because he used his affectionate heart to look up and down at Sariputra many times. That’s why he can transmigrate to The First ethereal Heaven. After he shared and finished of happiness allotted by destiny, he will transmigrate to The Second ethereal Heaven(第二重天). In the end he will become the Silent Buddha(辟支佛)then he will go to Nirvana(涅槃).”

The Mo-Jay king was still not reconciled. He asked again: “So you mean, the sin of poisoning seventy-two thousand people nor longer needs to be repaid?”

The Buddha said: “A great sin like that needs to be paid back without doubt. Just sooner or later. When he becomes the Silent Buddha, the colour of his body will be exactly the same as the colour of gold. One day he will sit under a tree to practice the Buddhist doctrine on the road side. There will be a crowd of seventy-two thousand soldiers who will pass by. The rank-and-file soldiers will see him and think he is a golden man. So each one holding a sword or an axe will cut one piece of his skin off. When they hold it in their hands they will discover it’s a human’s skin. They will pile up those pieces of skin together again. In a previous life, those seventy-two thousand soldiers were the seventy-two thousand people who were killed by the monster python’s gas in the Sravasti city (舍衛國).”



The Buddha added: “If one sinner or an evil person meets a monk who has reached a very high state in practicing Buddhism. Even though this sinner or evil person has committed horrible crimes; he also can be forgiven and have their sin removed by meeting a monk who has reached a very high state in practicing Buddhism. They can also ask for and obtain the Buddhist doctrine and reach a high state by practicing Buddhism.”

The Mo-Jay king listened and said to the Buddha: “I will be careful and bear this in my mind.” Then he said good-bye to the Buddha and returned home.



Bodhi-seeds of compassion

- ◎Our lives is like a flower, Love and Compassion are the nectar.
- ◎Skillfully, you should use your eyes contact and soft gestures to express your inner love and compassion.
- ◎Transform your desires into contentment, transform your contentment to gratitude, then turn it into Love and Compassion.
- ◎Threat yourself as the manifestation of Love and Compassion. When you are filled with Love and Compassion, you are akin to a bright light that shines on others around you.
- ◎True love and true compassion is a kind of response-ability. Love and Compassion are combination of sympathy, care, intimacy and responsibility.
- ◎Love and Compassion are the best medicine of anger and pain.
- ◎The spirit of compassion is the basis of all virtuous actions.

©Love and Compassion must embrace all and include all, even a tiny little ant is not excluded.

©The opposite of attachment is hatred – but Love and Compassion transcend these dualistic oppositions.

©To be compassionate is to give up one self, to always adjust oneself in the flow of becoming one with others. It is a humanistic action that scarifies one's benefits for the sake of all beings.

©Patience is power, compassion is best weapon.

©Selfishness is suffering and compassion is Bliss.

©Love and Compassion give you the energy to save and help, but enmity only attracts curses and blames.

©The practice of compassion lies within the non-dual engaged actions between you and others. In other words, let-go your ego and serve others selflessly.

©What's the difference between mundane love and compassion? Compassion is simply the purest kind of authentic love.

©Compassion without actions is simply pointless.

DEDICATION OF MERIT

May the merit and virtue
accrued from this work
adorn Amitabha Buddha's Pure Land,
repay the four great kindnesses above,
and relieve the suffering of
those on the three paths below.

May those who see or hear of these efforts
generate Bodhi-mind,
spend their lives devoted to the Buddha Dharma,
and finally be reborn together in
the Land of Ultimate Bliss.
Homage to Amita Buddha!

NAMO AMITABHA

南無阿彌陀佛

財團法人佛陀教育基金會 印贈

台北市杭州南路一段五十五號十一樓

Printed and donated for free distribution by

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Printed in Taiwan

6,500 copies; July 2012

EN315 - 10479

