

# Owl's Fables

## The Snake That Shed No Skin

Lessons you wish weren't true



The **owl speaks** when dusk is deep,  
Where **truths** are sown, but none dare reap.  
A **tale** once told will **haunt the mind**,  
For those who **look**, but **still are blind**.

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## 0.1 The Snake That Shed No Skin

There was once a snake who never shed its skin.

Other snakes in the marsh would molt, leaving behind brittle husks, growing stronger and sleeker each time. But this snake remained unchanged, its scales gleaming like polished stone. It slithered with an eerie smoothness, its eyes always watching.

“Why do you not shed like the rest of us?” a younger snake asked.

The old snake coiled itself, smiling in the way only a serpent can. “Because I have no need to. I do not grow old, nor do I grow weak.”

The others were envious. They had seen how shedding left them vulnerable—soft and slow until their new skin hardened. This snake never had such weakness.

One by one, the young snakes came to it.

“Teach us,” they pleaded. “Teach us how to never shed.”

And so, the old snake whispered its secret.

It told them to drink from the dark pool at the heart of the marsh, a place where even the moon refused to cast its light. It told them that the water would make them strong, unchanging like itself.

Many listened. They drank from the dark pool.

At first, nothing changed.

Then, their scales hardened, their movements grew stiff. They could not molt, could not grow. They became brittle, their once-flexible bodies cracking like old bark.

And in time, they could no longer move at all.

One by one, they lay still, their shimmering scales now just empty shells.

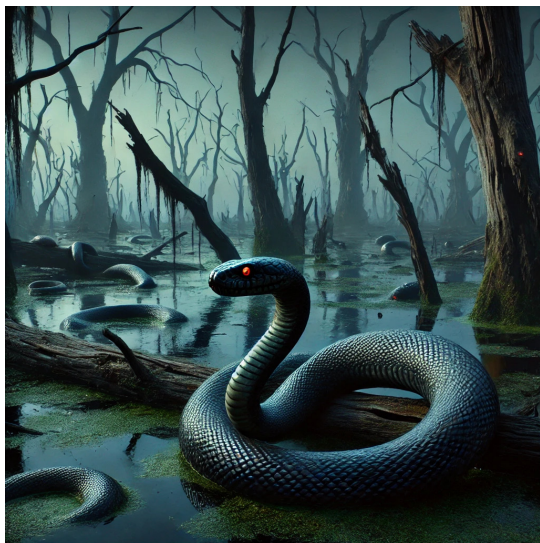
The old snake slithered through the marsh, weaving between the statues of those who had trusted it.

It never shed.

It never aged.

It had never needed to.

**Moral:** *That which does not change does not grow. That which does not grow is already dead.*



### 0.1.1 中文版本 (Mandarin Translation)

从前有一条蛇，它从不蜕皮。

沼泽里的其他蛇都会蜕皮，留下干枯的旧壳，每次蜕变都会变得更强壮、更光滑。但这条蛇始终没有改变，它的鳞片像打磨过的石头一样闪闪发光。它滑行得异常流畅，眼睛总是在注视着。

“你为什么不像我们一样蜕皮？”一条年轻的蛇问道。

老蛇盘起身体，以只有蛇能做到的方式微笑着。“因为我不需要。我不会变老，也不会变弱。”

其他蛇都很羡慕。它们知道蜕皮会让自己变得脆弱——在新皮变硬之前，它们会变得柔软而迟缓。而这条蛇从未有过这种弱点。

一条接一条的年轻蛇向它靠近。

“教教我们，”它们恳求道，“教我们如何永不蜕皮。”

于是，老蛇低声告诉它们秘密。

它告诉它们去沼泽中心的黑暗池塘饮水，那是一个连月光都不愿照耀的地方。它说，那水会让它们变得强大，不会改变，就像它自己一样。

许多蛇听从了它的话。它们喝了黑暗池塘的水。

起初，什么都没有改变。

然后，它们的鳞片变得坚硬，动作变得迟缓。它们无法蜕皮，无法成长。它们变得脆弱，曾经柔韧的身体像老树皮一样开裂。

渐渐地，它们再也无法动弹。

一条接一条，它们静静地躺在那里，闪闪发光的鳞片如今只是空壳。

老蛇在沼泽中游走，穿梭于那些信任它的雕像之间。

它从未蜕皮。

它从未衰老。

它从来不需要。

**道德：**无法改变的东西无法成长。无法成长的东西，早已死亡。



## 0.1.2 拼音版本 (Pinyin Transliteration)

Cóngqián yǒu yītiáo shé, tā cóng bù tuìpí.

Zhǎozé lǐ de qítā shé dūhuì tuìpí, liúxià gānkū de jiù ké, měi cì tuìbiàn dōu huì biàn de gèng qiángzhuàng, gèng guānghuá. Dàn zhè tiáo shé shǐzhōng méiyǒu gǎibiàn, tā de línpiàn xiàng dǎmó guò de shítou yīyàng shǎnshǎn fāguāng. Tā huáxíng de yìcháng liúchàng, yǎnjīng zǒng shì zài zhùshìzhe.

“Nǐ wèishéme bù xiàng wǒmen yīyàng tuìpí?” Yītiáo niánqīng de shé wèndào.

Lǎo shé pán qǐ shēntǐ, yǐ zhǐyǒu shé néng zuò dào de fāngshì wēixiǎozhe. “Yīnwèi wǒ bù xūyào. Wǒ bù huì biànlǎo, yě bù huì biànrùo.”

Qítā shé dōu hěn xiànmù. Tāmen zhīdào tuìpí huì ràng zìjǐ biàn de cuìruò—zài xīn pí biàn yìng zhīqián, tāmen huì biàn de róuruǎn ér chípǎn. Ér zhè tiáo shé cóngwèi yǒuguò zhè zhǒng ruòdiǎn.

Yītiáo jiē yītiáo de niánqīng shé xiàng tā kàojìn.

“Jiāojiāo wǒmen,” tāmen kěnníu dào, “jiāo wǒmen rúhé yǒng bù tuìpí.”

Yúshì, lǎo shé dīshēng gàosù tāmen mìmi.

Tā gàosù tāmen qù zhǎozé zhōngxīn de hēi’ àn chítáng yǐnshuǐ, nà shì yīgè lián yuèguāng dōu bù yuàn zhàoyào de dìfāng. Tā shuō, nà shuǐ huì ràng tāmen biàn de qiángdà, bù huì gǎibiàn, jiù xiàng tā zìjǐ yīyàng.

Xǔduō shé tīngcóngle tā de huà. Tāmen hēle hēi’ àn chítáng de shuǐ.

Qǐchū, shénme dōu méiyǒu gǎibiàn.

Ránhòu, tāmen de línpiàn biàn de jiānyìng, dòngzuò biàn de chípǎn. Tāmen wúfǎ tuìpí, wúfǎ chéngzhǎng. Tāmen biàn de cuìruò, céngjīng róurèn de shēntǐ xiàng lǎo shùpí yīyàng kāiliè.

Jiànjiàn de, tāmen zài yě wúfǎ dòngtán.

Yītiáo jiē yītiáo, tāmen jìngjìng de tǎng zài nàlǐ, shǎnshǎn fāguāng  
de línpiàn rújīn zhǐshì kōngké.

Lǎo shé zài zhǎozé zhōng yóuzǒu, chuānshuò yú nàxiē xìn rèn tā de  
diāoxiàng zhī jiān.

Tā cóngwèi tuìpí.

Tā cóngwèi shuāilǎo.

Tā cónglái bù xūyào.

**Dàodé:** *Wúfǎ gǎibiàn de dōngxī wúfǎ chéngzhǎng. Wúfǎ chéngzhǎng  
de dōngxī, zǎoyǐ sǐwáng.*