Owl's Fables
Volume II

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 Spider and the Fly

A spider once encountered a fly trapped in another spider' s web. "How careless of you," said the spider as it approached. "You must learn to avoid traps."

The fly buzzed weakly, pleading for help. But instead of releasing it, the spider spun a new web over the trapped fly. "Now you are doubly caught," it said, "and that makes you mine."

"You' re cruel," said the fly. "You do the same to others."

The spider paused, then whispered, "No, I do worse."

Moral: Those who criticize others' missteps may be hiding their own web of deceit.

0.1.1 中文版本 (Mandarin Translation)

一只蜘蛛遇到了一只被另一只蜘蛛的网困住的苍蝇。"你真不小心，"蜘蛛走近时说道，"你必须学会避开陷阱。"

苍蝇虚弱地嗡嗡作响，恳求帮助。但蜘蛛并没有放它，而是又在被困的苍蝇身上织了一个新网。"现在你被双重困住了，"蜘蛛说，"这意味着你是我的。"

"你太残忍了，"苍蝇说，"你对别人也做同样的事。"

蜘蛛停顿了一下，低声说："不，我做得更坏。"

道德: 批评别人错误的人，可能隐藏着自己编织的欺骗之网。

0.1.2 拼音版本 (Pinyin Transliteration)

Yī zhī zhīzhū yù dào le yī zhī bèi lìng yī zhī zhīzhū de wǎng kùn zhù de cāngyíng. "Nǐ zhēn bù xiǎoxīn," zhīzhū zǒu jìn shí shuōdào, "nǐ bìxū xué huì bì kāi xiànjǐng."

Cāngyíng xūruò de wēngwēng zuòxiǎng, kěnqiú bāngzhù. Dàn zhīzhū bìng méiyǒu fàng tā, ér shì yòu zài bèi kùn de cāngyíng shēnshàng zhīle yī gè xīn wǎng. "Xiànzài nǐ bèi shuāngchóng kùn zhùle," zhīzhū shuō, "zhè yìwèi zhe nǐ shì wǒ de."

"Nǐ tài cánrěn le," cāngyíng shuō, "nǐ duì biérén yě zuò tóngyàng de shì."

Zhīzhū tíngdùnle yīxià, dīshēng shuō: "Bù, wǒ zuò dé gèng huài."

Dàodé: Pīpíng biérén cuòwù de rén, kěnéng yǐn cángzhe zìjǐ biānzhī de qīpiàn zhī wǎng.

0.2 The Lantern and the Firefly

A firefly admired a lantern that burned brightly in the night. "How grand you are," said the firefly, "to shine so long and steady."

The lantern replied, "My light is not my own; it comes from the flame within."

Envious, the firefly asked, "Could I take your flame to burn as you do?"

The lantern flickered. "You could try," it said, "but beware: what burns within me also consumes me."

Later, the villagers found the firefly, still glowing faintly, its wings charred black.

Moral: Some lights are not meant to be borrowed.

0.2.1　中文版本 (Mandarin Translation)

一只萤火虫欣赏着一盏夜晚明亮燃烧的灯笼。"你真是太宏伟了,"萤火虫说,"能发光如此长久且稳定。"

灯笼回答道:"我的光并非属于我;它来自内心的火焰。"

心生嫉妒,萤火虫问:"我可以借用你的火焰像你一样燃烧吗?"

灯笼闪烁了一下。"你可以试试,"它说,"但小心: 在我体内燃烧的东西也会吞噬我。"

之后,村民们发现那只萤火虫,仍然微弱地发光,翅膀被烧焦变黑。

道德: 有些光并不适合借用。

0.2.2 拼音版本 (Pinyin Transliteration)

Yī zhī yínghuǒchóng xīnshǎngzhe yī zhǎn yèwǎn míngliàng ránshāo de dēnglóng. "Nǐ zhēn shì tài hóngwěi le," yínghuǒchóng shuō, "néng fāguāng rúcǐ chángjiǔ qiě wěndìng."

Dēnglóng huídá dào: "Wǒ de guāng bìng fēi shǔyú wǒ; tā láizì nèixīn de huǒyàn."

Xīn shēng jìdù, yínghuǒchóng wèn: "Wǒ kěyǐ jiè yòng nǐ de huǒyàn xiàng nǐ yīyàng ránshāo ma?"

Dēnglóng shǎnshuòle yīxià. "Nǐ kěyǐ shìshì," tā shuō, "dàn xiǎoxīn: zài wǒ tǐnèi ránshāo de dōngxī yě huì tūnshì wǒ."

Zhīhòu, cūnmínmen fāxiàn nà zhī yínghuǒchóng, réngrán wēiruò de fāguāng, chìbǎng bèi shāojiāo biàn hēi.

Dàodé: Yǒuxiē guāng bìng bù shìhé jiè yòng.

0.3   The Goat and the Bridge

A goat came to a narrow bridge and found another goat approaching from the opposite side. "Step aside," said the first goat, "lest one of us falls."
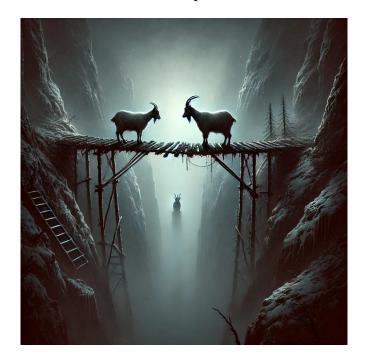
The second goat refused. "We are equals. Why should I step aside?"

They argued until a third goat emerged from below the bridge. "There is no need for quarrel," it said, climbing onto the bridge.

The two goats looked at each other, confused. "How did you get here?"

The third goat smiled. "There are paths you will never see—until you fall."

Moral: Pride blinds us to the paths beneath our feet.

0.3.1 中文版本 (Mandarin Translation)

一只山羊来到了一座狭窄的桥，发现另一只山羊从对面走来。"让开，"第一只山羊说，"否则我们其中一个会掉下去。"

第二只山羊拒绝了。"我们是平等的，我为什么要让开？"

它们争论不休，直到第三只山羊从桥下走出来。"不必争吵，"它说，爬上了桥。

两只山羊相视而立，迷惑不解。"你是怎么来的？"

第三只山羊笑了笑。"有些路你永远也看不见——直到你跌倒。"

道德: 骄傲使我们看不见脚下的路。

0.3.2   拼音版本 (Pinyin Transliteration)

Yī zhī shānyáng lái dào le yīzuò xiázhǎi de qiáo, fāxiàn lìng yī zhī shānyáng cóng duìmiàn zǒu lái. "Ràng kāi," dì yī zhī shānyáng shuō, "fǒuzé wǒmen qízhōng yī gè huì diào xiàqù."

Dì èr zhī shānyáng jùjuéle. "Wǒmen shì píngděng de, wǒ wèishéme yào ràng kāi?"

Tāmen zhēnglùn bùxiū, zhídào dì sān zhī shānyáng cóng qiáo xià zǒu chūlái. "Bùbì zhēngchǎo," tā shuō, pá shàngle qiáo.

Liǎng zhī shānyáng xiāngshì ér lì, míhuò bùjiě. "Nǐ shì zěnme lái de?"

Dì sān zhī shānyáng xiàole xiào. "Yǒuxiē lù nǐ yǒngyuǎn yě kàn bùjiàn——zhídào nǐ diédǎo."

Dàodé: Jiāo'ào shǐ wǒmen kàn bùjiàn jiǎoxià de lù.

0.4 The Clockmaker and the Sparrow

A sparrow watched a clockmaker repair an ancient clock in the town square. "How clever you are," said the sparrow, "to fix something so broken."

The clockmaker smiled. "It is my craft to make things tick again."

The sparrow tilted its head. "And what happens when it cannot be fixed?"

The clockmaker's smile grew wider. "Then I wind it backward."

When the townspeople gathered that evening, they found the clock ticking in reverse—and all their shadows facing east.

Moral: Sometimes, fixing what is broken creates something worse.

0.4.1 中文版本 (Mandarin Translation)

一只麻雀看着钟表匠在镇广场上修理一只古老的钟。"你真聪明，"麻雀说，"能修好这么破旧的东西。"

钟表匠微笑着回答："这是我的工艺，让东西重新运转。"

麻雀歪着头问："那如果修不好呢？"

钟表匠的笑容更大了："那我就让它倒转。"

当天晚上，镇上的人们聚集在一起，发现钟表倒计时——而他们所有的影子都朝着东方。

道德: 有时，修复破损的东西会造成更糟糕的结果。

0.4.2 拼音版本 (Pinyin Transliteration)

Yī zhī máquè kànzhe zhōngbiǎo jiàng zài zhèn guǎngchǎng shàng xiūlǐ yī zhī gǔlǎo de zhōng. "Nǐ zhēn cōngmíng," máquè shuō, "néng xiū hǎo zhème pòjiù de dōngxī."

Zhōngbiǎo jiàng wēixiào zhe huídá: "Zhè shì wǒ de gōngyì, ràng dōngxī chóngxīn yùnzhùn."

Máquè wāi zhe tóu wèn: "Nà rúguǒ xiū bù hǎo ne?"

Zhōngbiǎo jiàng de xiàoróng gèng dà le: "Nà wǒ jiù ràng tā dào zhuǎn."

Dāngtiān wǎnshàng, zhèn shàng de rénmen jùjí zài yīqǐ, fāxiàn zhōngbiǎo dào jìshí——ér tāmen suǒyǒu de yǐngzi dōu cháo zhe dōngfāng.

Dàodé: Yǒu shí, xiūfù pòsǔn de dōngxī huì zàochéng gèng zāogāo de jiéguǒ.

0.5   The River and the Stone

A stone sat in a riverbed for centuries, unmoving, while the water rushed around it. One day, the river spoke. "Why do you resist me?"

The stone replied, "Because I endure while you erode."

The river laughed. "Endurance is no virtue. Watch what it brings you."

The stone remained silent, even as the river wore it down to nothing. Years later, the river dried up, leaving a hollow where the stone once was.

Travelers whispered of the strange emptiness, for no grass grew there, and no water returned.

Moral: To endure too long is to be hollowed out.

0.5.1 中文版本 (Mandarin Translation)

一块石头静静地躺在河床上，几百年来不曾动弹，而水流则绕过它奔流。一天，河水开口了。"你为什么抵抗我？"

石头回答："因为我能忍耐，而你在侵蚀我。"

河水笑了。"忍耐并非美德。看它带给你什么。"

石头依然保持沉默，尽管河水将它一点一点磨蚀。多年后，河水干涸，留下了一个空洞，原来石头所在的地方。

旅行者们低语着，谈论着那奇异的空虚，因为那里没有草长出，也没有水再流回来。

道德： 忍受得太久，终究会被掏空。

0.5.2 拼音版本 (Pinyin Transliteration)

Yī kuài shítou jìng jìng de tǎng zài héchuáng shàng, jǐ bǎi nián lái bùcéng dòngtán, ér shuǐliú zé rào guò tā bēnliú. Yītiān, héshuǐ kāikǒu le. "Nǐ wèishéme dǐkàng wǒ?"

Shítou huídá: "Yīnwèi wǒ néng rěnnài, ér nǐ zài qīnshí wǒ."

Héshuǐ xiàole. "Rěnnài bìngfēi měidé. Kàn tā dàigěi nǐ shénme."

Shítou yīrán bǎochí chénmò, jǐnguǎn héshuǐ jiāng tā yīdiǎn yīdiǎn móshí. Duōnián hòu, héshuǐ gānhé, liúxiàle yīgè kòngdòng, yuánlái shítou suǒzài de dìfāng.

Lǚxíng zhěmen dīyǔzhe, tánlùn zhe nà qíyì de kòngxū, yīnwèi nàlǐ méiyǒu cǎo zhǎngchū, yě méiyǒu shuǐ zài liú huílái.

Dàodé: Rěnshòu dé tài jiǔ, zhōngjiù huì bèi tāo kōng.