Owl's Fables
Volume I

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 Owl and the Field Mouse

A field mouse approached an owl perched silently in the forest. "You are wise," said the mouse. "Tell me how to live a long and safe life."

The owl turned its head slowly. "Stay hidden, move swiftly, and always be watchful."

The mouse thanked the owl and followed the advice faithfully. It darted from shadow to shadow, avoiding danger at every turn. Years passed, and the mouse grew old, its fur thin and its movements slow.

One moonlit night, the owl returned. "Did my wisdom serve you well?"

"Yes," the mouse replied. "I am still alive."

"Good," said the owl, "for I have been watching."

The owl spread its wings, and the shadows consumed the mouse.

Moral: Some advice comes with a price.

0.1.1 中文版本 (Mandarin Translation)

田鼠走近一只安静栖息在森林中的猫头鹰。"你很聪明，"田鼠说，"告诉我怎样才能过上长寿而安全的生活。"

猫头鹰慢慢转动头。"保持隐蔽，迅速行动，时刻保持警觉。"

田鼠感谢猫头鹰，并忠实地遵循了这些建议。它从一个阴影跳到另一个阴影，避免每一次的危险。岁月流逝，田鼠变老了，皮毛变得稀薄，动作也变得缓慢。

一个月光皎洁的夜晚，猫头鹰再次出现。"我的智慧对你有帮助吗?"

"是的，"田鼠回答，"我还活着。"

"好，"猫头鹰说，"因为我一直在观察。"

猫头鹰展开翅膀，阴影吞噬了田鼠。

道德: 一些建议是有代价的。

0.1.2 拼音版本 (Pinyin Transliteration)

Tián shǔ zǒu jìn yī zhī ān jìng qīxī zài sēnlín zhōng de mātóuyīng. "Nǐ hěn cōngmíng," tián shǔ shuō, "gàosù wǒ zěn yàng cái néng guò shàng chángshòu ér ānquán de shēnghuó."

Mātóuyīng màn man zhuǎn dòng tóu. "Bǎochí yǐnbì, xùnsù xíngdòng, shíkè bǎochí jǐngjué."

Tián shǔ gǎnxiè mātóuyīng, bìng zhōngshí dì zūnxúnle zhèxiē jiànyì. Tā cóng yī gè yīnyǐng tiàodào lìng yī gè yīnyǐng, bìmiǎn měi yī cì de wēixié. Suìyuè liúshì, tián shǔ biàn lǎo le, pímáo biàn dé xībào, dòngzuò yě biàn dé huǎnmàn.

Yī gè yuèguāng jiǎojié de yèwǎn, mātóuyīng zàicì chūxiàn. "Wǒ de zhìhuì duì nǐ yǒu bāngzhù ma?"

"Shì de," tián shǔ huídá, "wǒ hái huózhe."

"Hǎo," mātóuyīng shuō, "yīnwèi wǒ yīzhí zài guānchá."

Mātóuyīng zhǎn kāi chìbǎng, yīnyǐng tūnshīle tián shǔ.

Dàodé: Yīxiē jiànyì shì yǒu dàijià de.

0.2   The Mirror and the Crow

A crow found a mirror discarded in the woods. Seeing its reflection, the crow marveled at its black feathers. "How sleek and beautiful I am!" it croaked.

The mirror replied, "Indeed, you are magnificent. But there is more to you than you see."

Intrigued, the crow asked, "What do you mean?"

The mirror's surface rippled, revealing a pale, brittle skeleton beneath the crow's feathers. "This is also you," the mirror whispered.

Startled, the crow shattered the mirror with its beak, but its reflection lingered in every shard.

Moral: True beauty reveals more than we wish to see.

0.2.1 中文版本 (Mandarin Translation)

一只乌鸦在树林中发现了一面丢弃的镜子。看到自己的倒影，乌鸦惊叹于它的黑色羽毛。"我多么光滑、美丽！"它叫道。

镜子回答说："的确，你是壮丽的。但是你看到的不仅仅是你的一部分。"

乌鸦好奇地问："你是什么意思?"

镜子表面微微波动，露出了乌鸦羽毛下的苍白脆弱的骨架。"这也是你，"镜子低语道。

乌鸦吃惊地用喙打破了镜子，但它的倒影依然停留在每一片碎片上。

道德: 真正的美丽揭示了我们不愿看到的更多。

0.2.2 拼音版本 (Pinyin Transliteration)

Yī zhī wūyā zài shùlín zhōng fāxiànle yī miàn diūqì de jìngzi. Kàn dào zìjǐ de dǎoyǐng, wūyā jīngtàn yú tā de hēisè yǔmáo. "Wǒ duōme guānghuá, měilì!" tā jiàodào.

Jìngzi huídá shuō: "Díquè, nǐ shì zhuànglì de. Dànshì nǐ kàn dào de bù jǐn jǐn shì nǐ de yī bùfèn."

Wūyā hàoqí dì wèn: "Nǐ shì shénme yìsi?"

Jìngzi biǎomiàn wēiwēi bōdòng, lùchūle wūyā yǔmáo xià de cāngbái cuìruò de gǔjià. "Zhè yě shì nǐ," jìngzi dī yǔ dào.

Wūyā chījīng de yòng huì dǎpòle jìngzi, dàn tā de dǎoyǐng yīrán tíngliú zài měi yī piàn suìpiàn shàng.

Dàodé: Zhēnzhèng de měilì jiēshìle wǒmen bù yuàn kàn dào de gèng duō.

0.3 The Candle and the Moth

A moth was drawn to the light of a candle burning brightly in the dark. "Your glow is enchanting," said the moth, circling closer.

The candle replied, "Do not mistake my warmth for kindness."

"But you bring comfort to the night," the moth said, spiraling nearer.

"Then come closer, little one," the candle whispered. "Let me share my glow."

The moth obeyed and was consumed in a sudden flare of heat. The candle burned lower, a faint whisper escaping its flame: "Comfort is a fleeting gift."

Moral: Some warmth is meant only to be watched.

0.3.1 中文版本 (Mandarin Translation)

一只飞蛾被黑暗中燃烧的蜡烛光吸引。"你的光芒真迷人,"飞蛾说,围绕着蜡烛飞近。

蜡烛回答道:"不要误把我的温暖当作善意。"

"但是你给夜晚带来安慰,"飞蛾说,螺旋着飞近。

"那就更近点,亲爱的小家伙,"蜡烛低语道,"让我分享我的光辉。"

飞蛾听从了,突然被一股热浪吞噬。蜡烛燃烧得更低,火焰中传来微弱的低语:"安慰是短暂的礼物。"

道德: 有些温暖仅仅是用来观赏的。

0.3.2 拼音版本 (Pinyin Transliteration)

Yī zhī fēi'é bèi hēi'àn zhōng ránshāo de làzhú guāng xīyǐn. "Nǐ de guāngmáng zhēn mírén," fēi'é shuō, wéirào zhe làzhú fēi jìn.

Làzhú huídá dào: "Bùyào wù bǎ wǒ de wēnnuǎn dàngzuò shànyì."

"Dànshì nǐ gěi yèwǎn dàilái ānwèi," fēi'é shuō, luóxuán zhe fēi jìn.

"Nà jiù gèng jìn diǎn, qīn'ài de xiǎo jiāhuo," làzhú dī yǔ dào, "ràng wǒ fēnxiǎng wǒ de guānghuī."

Fēi'é tīngcóngle, túrán bèi yī gǔ rè làng tūnshì. Làzhú ránshāo dé gèng dī, huǒyàn zhōng chuán lái wēiruò de dīyǔ: "Ānwèi shì duǎnzàn de lǐwù."

Dàodé: Yǒuxiē wēnnuǎn jǐn jǐn shì yòng lái guānshǎng de.

0.4   The Carpenter and the Tree

A carpenter found an old, gnarled tree in the forest.   "This wood is too twisted for use," he said and began to chop it down.

The tree creaked as the axe bit into its bark.   "Why do you cut what does not serve you?" it asked.

"To clear space for something better," the carpenter replied.

The tree fell with a final groan, its roots tearing into the earth. Years later, the carpenter returned to find the soil barren and lifeless.

"I made space," he muttered, "but for nothing to grow."

Moral: Removing what seems useless may leave a void.

0.4.1 中文版本 (Mandarin Translation)

一位木匠在森林中发现了一棵古老的、扭曲的树。"这木材太扭曲了，无法使用，"他说着，开始砍伐它。

树发出嘎吱声，斧头劈进了树皮。"为什么要砍掉那些对你没有用的东西?"它问道。

"为了腾出空间，容纳更好的东西，"木匠回答。

树发出最后一声呻吟，根部撕裂了大地。多年后，木匠回来发现土壤贫瘠而死气沉沉。

"我腾出了空间，"他说，"但没有什么能在这里生长。"

道德: 移除看似无用的东西可能会留下空洞。

0.4.2 拼音版本 (Pinyin Transliteration)

Yī wèi mùjiàng zài sēnlín zhōng fāxiànle yī kē gǔlǎo de, niǔqū de shù. "Zhè mùcái tài niǔqūle, wúfǎ shǐyòng," tā shuōzhe, kāishǐ kǎn fá tā.

Shù fāchū gāzhī shēng, fǔtóu pī jìnle shùpí. "Wèishéme yào kǎn diào nàxiē duì nǐ méiyǒu yòng de dōngxī?" tā wèn dào.

"Wèile téng chū kōngjiān, róngnà gèng hǎo de dōngxī," mùjiàng huídá.

Shù fāchū zuìhòu yī shēng yín, gēnbù sīlièle dàdì. Duō nián hòu, mùjiàng huílái fāxiàn tǔrǎng pínxí ér sǐqì chénchén.

"Wǒ téng chūle kōngjiān," tā shuō, "dàn méiyǒu shénme néng zài zhè lǐ shēngzhǎng."

Dàodé: Yíchú kànshì wúyòng de dōngxī kěnéng huì liú xià kōngdòng.

0.5 The Fisherman and the Starfish

A fisherman walked along the shore at dawn, finding a starfish stranded in the sand. "Poor creature," he said, tossing it back into the sea.

The next morning, he returned to find dozens more starfish washed ashore. He threw as many as he could back into the waves, but the tide only brought more.

By the third day, the beach was thick with starfish, their stillness unnerving. The fisherman stood paralyzed as they turned their many arms skyward, their surfaces glistening faintly in the light.

He never went to the shore again.

Moral: Acts of kindness can awaken what lies dormant.

0.5.1 中文版本 (Mandarin Translation)

一位渔夫在黎明时分沿着海岸走，发现一只海星被困在沙滩上。"可怜的生物，"他说着，将它扔回大海。

第二天早上，他回来发现更多的海星被冲上海滩。他尽可能地将它们扔回大海，但潮水又带来了更多的海星。

到第三天，沙滩上布满了海星，它们静止的样子让人不安。渔夫愣住了，看到它们把许多手臂转向天空，表面在光线下微微闪烁。

他再也没有走到海滩。

道德: 善意的行为能唤醒沉睡的东西。

0.5.2 拼音版本 (Pinyin Transliteration)

Yī wèi yúfū zài límíng shífēn yánzhe hǎi' àn zǒu, fāxiàn yī zhī hǎixīng bèi kùn zài shātān shàng. "Kělián de shēngwù," tā shuōzhe, jiāng tā rēng huí dàhǎi.

Dì èr tiān zǎoshang, tā huílái fāxiàn gèng duō de hǎixīng bèi chōng shàng hǎitān. Tā jǐn kěnéng de jiāng tāmen rēng huí dàhǎi, dàn cháoshuǐ yòu dàilái le gèng duō de hǎixīng.

Dào dì sān tiān, shātān shàng bù mǎnle hǎixīng, tāmen jìngzhǐ de yàngzi ràng rén bù' ān. Yúfū lèng zhùle, kàn dào tāmen bǎ xǔduō shǒubì zhuǎn xiàng tiānkōng, biǎomiàn zài guāngxiàn xià wēiwēi shǎnshuò.

Tā zài yě méiyǒu zǒu dào hǎitān.

Dàodé: Shànyì de xíngwéi néng huànxǐng chénshuì de dōngxī.