



6. 人和蛇, The Man and the Serpent (rén hé shé)

yī gè xiāng xià rén de ér zǐ bù xiǎo xīn cǎi dào le yī tiáo shé de wěi bā ,
一个乡下人的儿子不小心踩到了一条蛇的尾巴，

A Countryman's son by accident trod upon a Serpent's tail,

shé lì jí zhuǎn shēn yǎo sǐ le zhè gè hái zǐ 。
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which turned and bit him so that he died.

tā fù qīn zài fèn nù zhī xià ná zhe fǔ tóu zhǎo dào shé ,
他父亲在愤怒之下拿着斧头找到蛇，

The father in a rage got his axe, and pursuing the Serpent,

kǎn diào le tā de wěi bā 。
砍掉了它的尾巴。

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cut off part of its tail.

zhī hòu , shé wéi le bào fù nóng fū qù yǎo tā de niú , dǎo zhì nóng fū sǔn shī cǎn zhòng 。
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So the Serpent in revenge began stinging several of the Farmer's cattle and caused him severe loss.

suí hòu , nóng fū jiù xiǎng , zuì hǎo de fāng fǎ shì yù shé hé hǎo 。
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Well, the Farmer thought it best to make it up with the Serpent,

suǒ yǐ nóng fū dài le shí wù hé táng guǒ děng lǐ wù dào tā de zhù chù 。
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and brought food and honey to the mouth of its lair,

tā duì shé shuō : “ ràng wǒ men wàng jì guò qù bìng bǐ cǐ ráo shù bā ,
他对蛇说：“让我们忘记过去并彼此饶恕吧，

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and said to it: "Let's forget and forgive;



yě xǔ nǐ duì wǒ ér zǐ de chéng fá hé duì niú qún de bào fù shì duì de ,
也许你对我儿子的惩罚和对牛群的报复是对的，
perhaps you were right to punish my son, and take vengeance on my cattle,

dàn wǒ wéi ér zǐ bào chóu yě méi yǒu cuò 。
但我为儿子报仇也没有错。
but surely I was right in trying to revenge him;

jì rán dà jiā dōu gè yǒu suǒ wéi , xiàn zài dào bù rú ràng wǒ men zài chéng wéi
i péng yǒu bā ?
既然大家都各有所为，现在倒不如让我们再成为朋友吧？
now that we are both satisfied why should not we be friends again?"

” shé huí dā shuō : “ bù 、 bù kě néng , jiāng nǐ de lǐ wù ná zǒ
u ,
蛇回答说：“不、不可能，将你的礼物拿走，
"No, no," said the Serpent; "take away your gifts;

nǐ yǒng yuǎn wàng bù liǎo nǐ ér zǐ de sǐ , wǒ yě wú fǎ wàng jì wǒ shī qù
de wěi bā ” 。
你永远忘不了你儿子的死，我也无法忘记我失去的尾巴” 。
you can never forget the
death of your son, nor I
the loss of my tail."

gù shì shì shuō : kě
yǐ yuán liàng shāng hà
i , dàn wú fǎ wàng jì
guò qù 。
故事是说：可以原谅伤
害，但无法忘记过去。
Injuries may be forgiven,
but not forgotten.

