



17. 木匠和蛇, The Woodman and the Serpent (mù jiàng hé shé)

zài yī gè hán lěng de dōng tiān ,
在一个寒冷的冬天，
One wintry day

mù jiàng lí kāi tā gōng zuò de dì fāng zhǔn bèi huí jiā ,
木匠离开他工作的地方准备回家，
a Woodman was tramping home from his work

zài tú zhōng tā kàn dào yī gè hēi sè de dōng xī tǎng zài xuě dì lǐ 。
在途中他看到一个黑色的东西躺在雪地里。
When he saw something black lying on the snow.

tā zǒu jìn yī kàn , fā xiàn hǎo xiàng shì yī tiáo dòng jiāng de shé 。
他走近一看，发现好像是一条冻僵的蛇。
When he came closer he saw it was a Serpent to all appearance dead.

yú shì , tā jiāng shé jiǎn qǐ lái fàng jìn zì jǐ wēn nuǎn de huái lǐ ,
于是，他将蛇捡起来放进自己温暖的怀里，
But he took it up and put it in his bosom

biàn jí cōng cōng gǎn zhe huí jiā 。 dāng tā jìn dào jiā mén ér zhī hòu ,
便急匆匆赶着回家。当他进到家门儿之后，
to warm while he hurried home. As soon as he got indoors

mù jiàng bǎ shé fàng zài bì lú biān ,
木匠把蛇放在壁炉边，
he put the Serpent down on the hearth before the fire.

hái zǐ men kàn zhe shé màn màn de sū xǐng guò lái 。
孩子们看着蛇慢慢的苏醒过来。
The children watched it and saw it slowly come to life again.

qí zhōng yī gè xiǎo hái ér wān shēn qù mō tā ,
其中一个小孩儿弯身去摸它，
Then one of them stooped down to stroke it,

nà shé jiù tái qǐ tóu tǔ chū xìn zǐ hé dú yá xiǎng yǎo sǐ tā 。
那蛇就抬起头吐出信子和毒牙想咬死他。

but the Serpent raised its head and put out its fangs and was about to sting the child to death.

yú shì , mù jiàng zhuā qǐ fǔ tóu bǎ shé kǎn wéi liǎng duàn ér 。
于是，木匠抓起斧头把蛇砍为两段儿。

So the Woodman seized his axe, and with one stroke cut the Serpent in two.

tā tàn xī shuō : “ ài , è rén shì bù huì zhī ēn tú bào de ” 。
他叹息说：“唉，恶人是不会知恩图报的”。

"Ah," said he, "No gratitude from the wicked."

