

Mr Dongguo
and



The Wolf



With special thanks to:

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without whom this story would never have been told



Once upon a time, in a place called Zhongshan, lived a man named Mr. Dongguo. One day, Dongguo met a wounded wolf.

“Kind-hearted sir, there is a crowd of people chasing me and I am badly wounded!” he said. “If you save my life, I will do anything to repay you.”

Although Dongguo knew that wolves were not to be trusted, he felt sorry for the wolf. Out of sympathy, he emptied a bag and hid the wolf in it.

After a while, a horde of hunters came, and they asked Dongguo whether he had seen a wounded wolf. Dongguo shook his head. It wasn't until the hunters were long gone that Dongguo opened the bag and let the wolf out. But once the wolf was out, he jumped at Dongguo with sharp teeth and glaring eyes and said, "I am starving and I am going to eat you."

Shocked and furious, Dongguo asked the wolf, "Why? I just saved your life!"

"Aha! I lied. I am famished and you are going to be my lunch." said the wolf,

showing his red tongue and sharp white teeth.

Although Dongguo was scared, he said to the wolf, “In my village, there is a saying. When you have a problem, you should ask three old beings for advice. I cannot understand why you want to eat me after I saved your life. So, why don’t we go and ask. If they all agree that you should eat me, then I guess I will have to accept my misfortune.”

The wolf agreed. They walked for a long time, but there was nobody on the

road. The wolf felt so hungry that he could not take it any longer. He pointed at an old and shrivelled apricot tree and said to Dongguo, “Let’s ask this apricot tree!”

The old apricot tree listened to the whole story and said in a hoarse voice, “When I was young, my branches were strong and my leaves were lush. My master enjoyed sitting under my shadow on hot summer days and every autumn I grew many big sweet apricots for my master. But I am old now. I cannot grow anything, so my master told me that he

would cut me down and burn me as firewood. I think human-beings are heartless creatures. The wolf should eat you.”

The wolf couldn't wait to eat Dongguo. He opened his mouth and leapt towards Dongguo while the old apricot tree was still talking. “Wait!” Dongguo protested. “We need another two answers before we can decide!”

They walked for a long time until they met an old buffalo. Again, Dongguo told it what had happened and asked for advice.



The old buffalo wagged its tail slowly and sighed, “I used to be strong and powerful. I dedicated myself to ploughing for my master every day. However, my master planned to kill me for food because I am old and useless now. In my opinion, humans are ungrateful brutes and you are one of them. Saving the wolf didn’t cost you much. You should be eaten.”

Dongguo saw the saliva dripping from the wolf’s mouth. “Wait,” he cried before the wolf jumped at him. “We need to

consult one more.” He was sweating out of fear.

Again, they walked for a long time until they met an old man. Dongguo told him what had happened and asked him for advice.

“Sorry, what did you say? I am too old to hear you clearly. Could you please say it again?” The old man put his ear in front of Dongguo’s mouth. Dongguo repeated himself, more loudly this time.

“No,” the old man shook his head, “this isn’t working. Why don’t you show me? Then I can see what happened.”

As the old man didn’t understand, the wolf didn’t want to waste more time and agreed immediately. He couldn’t wait to eat Dongguo, so he slipped into the bag very quickly.

“Oh, I see. Did you tie the bag?” The old man asked.

Dongguo nodded.

“In that case, could you tie it again? I would like to see how you tied the bag.”

Dongguo did as the old man asked.

“Haha!” The old man laughed. “The wolf can’t come out. You are safe now.”

Dongguo was relieved and said to the man, “Thank you for saving me!”

The old man smiled. “There is nothing wrong with my ears. It was just a trick to cheat the wolf.”

The wolf tried to escape from the bag but failed. He started to cry. “Please let me go, Dongguo. I will repay you, I promise.”

“You scoundrel!” Dongguo shouted angrily. “I won’t believe you anymore. You will be trapped in the bag forever and starve to death!”

The moral of the story:

The story reveals the bad side of human beings through the eyes of animals. It shows what people should try and better about themselves. Also, wisdom is important: it is the wisdom of the old man that finally defeats the cunning and ungrateful wolf.

The next inspirational fable in the popular Traditional Tales series is here! Mr Dongguo and the Wolf is a Chinese classic, passed down from mother to child for generations. It follows the adventures of Mr Dongguo, an unlucky man who will eventually learn an



As with all the Traditional Tales, this will be appreciated by young and old alike and gives a fascinating insight into Chinese culture.



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