1. GUARDING THE STUMP AND WAITING FOR THE RABBIT

Once there was a person who was doing farm work in the fields when a rabbit suddenly ran by and collided with a big tree by the field. The collision killed the rabbit. The person was extremely happy. He picked up the rabbit and took it home. From that day on, he put down his hoe and sat under the tree waiting, expecting that a rabbit would again run by and be killed by that big tree. He waited for a long time but the rabbit never came back. His fields went uncultivated. THE END

守株待兔

从前，有个人在田里种地, 忽然跑来了一只兔子，一头撞在田边的大树上。兔子撞死了， 那个人非常高兴，他把兔子拾起来，带回家去。从这天以后， 他就放下锄头， 坐在大树上等着， 希望再有兔子跑来撞死在大树上。 他等了很长时间，兔子没有再来，他的田地可荒芜了。完了

1. CALLING A DEER A HORSE

After Zhao Gao became Prime Minister in the Qin Dynasty, he thought of any method possible to usurp power. A lot of ministers were not satisfied with him so Zhao Gao decided to get rid of all that opposed him. One day, the ministers had an audience with the Qin Emperor. Zhao Gao at this time had people bring into the palace a deer intended as a gift for the Emperor.

He said to the Emperor: “I’m presenting you with a valuable gift. It is a super horse that is rare in the world. I hope that Your Majesty will accept it.”

The Emperor, laughingly, said: “The Prime Minister is mistaken. This clearly is a deer. How can you say that it is a horse?”

“Please look at it carefully, Your Majesty. It truly is not a deer but a super horse.” Zhao Gao answered.

 “How can a horse have horns?” the Emperor asked.

Zhao Gao said: “This certainly is a horse. If you don’t believe me, Your Majesty, then you can ask the various ministers.”

There was never a doubt from the very beginning whether it was a deer or a horse. However, the ministers all began discussing the issue. Some of them, because they always wanted to fawn upon Zhao Gao, said: “ This certainly is a horse. A few years ago, I also raised this kind of horse.” Some were unwilling to lie but were fearful of punishment by Zhao Gao so they did not state an opinion. There were also a lot of ministers who would not yield to Zhao Gao. They insisted that it was a deer and not a horse.

When the ministers discussed the issue, things now became clear to Zhao Gao. Shortly thereafter, he punished one after another those ministers who spoke the truth and would not agree with him that the deer was a horse. THE END

(NOTE: The Qin Dynasty was 221-206 BCE; Super Horse translates to “a thousand Chinese miles horse”)

指鹿为马

赵高做了秦朝的丞相以后， 千方百计想篡权。不少大臣对赵高很不满， 赵高决心把反对他的人都搞掉。一天，大臣们都来朝见秦王。 这时候，赵高让人把一只鹿牵到宫中，当作礼物送给秦王。他对秦王说：“ 我给您送来了一件珍贵的礼物， 它是一匹世界上少见的千里马。请大王收下。“ 秦王笑着说：“丞相错了，这明明是一只鹿，你怎么说是马呢？” “请大王仔细看看，这确实不是鹿， 是一匹千里马。“ 赵高回答。“马怎么会有角？” 秦王问。赵高说： “这肯定是一匹马，大王不信，可以问问各位大臣。” 是鹿是马，本来是没有疑问的。可是，大臣们却议论起来。有的人一直奉承赵高，就说：“这肯定是马不是鹿，几年以前我也养过这样的吗。” 有的人不愿说假话，但是怕受赵高的迫害，就不表示态度。也有不少大臣不向赵高屈服，他们坚持说那是鹿不是马。在大臣们议论的时候，赵高都清楚了。不久，凡是说了实话，不同意赵高“指鹿为马”的大臣，都一个一个地遭到赵高的迫害。完了

1. THE FOX BORROWS THE TIGER’S MIGHT

A tiger was hungry and was thinking of finding an animal to eat. By coincidence, he ran into a fox. He was just about to pounce on the fox when the fox said in a loud voice: “Humph, you dare to eat me? The Heavens have sent me to be the king of the animals. If you eat me, then the Heavens will not forgive you!” The tiger, seeing that the fox was both thin and small, had trouble believing him. However, because of the fox’s strong manner, it was also risky to outright dismiss what he said. The fox, noticing right away the hesitation in the tiger, sneered and said: “Hey, do you think that I am conning you? If you don’t believe me, then follow behind me and watch. Wherever I go, animals of any size will run away once they see me.” The tiger thought: “This I should see.” Thereupon the fox walked ahead in a haughty manner with the tiger following him closely behind. The deer and the wild sheep in the mountains, upon seeing the fox with the tiger behind him, were so frightened that they ran away. When the tiger saw this he assumed that they were really afraid of the fox, not expecting that they were actually afraid of him. THE END

狐假虎威

一只老虎肚子饿了，想找一只动物吃，恰巧遇见一只狐狸， 老虎刚要扑上去， 没想到狐狸大喝一声， 说：“哼， 你敢吃我，天地派我来当兽王， 你要吃了我，天地可不饶你！” 老虎看着狐狸又瘦又小， 不大相信它的话。可是听它这么大的口气， 又不敢不相信。 老虎犹豫不决的样子， 早让狐狸看出来了。 它冷笑一声， 说：“嘿嘿，你以为我是骗你吗？要是你不信，你就跟在我后边看吧。我走到哪儿， 大小野兽见了我就得逃跑。“ 老虎想：”这倒应该看一看。” 于是狐狸大模大样地在前头走，老虎紧紧地跟在后边。 山上的鹿，野羊，一看见狐狸后头跟着老虎，都吓得逃跑了。老虎看了， 还以为它们真害怕狐狸， 没想到他们正是怕自己。完了