

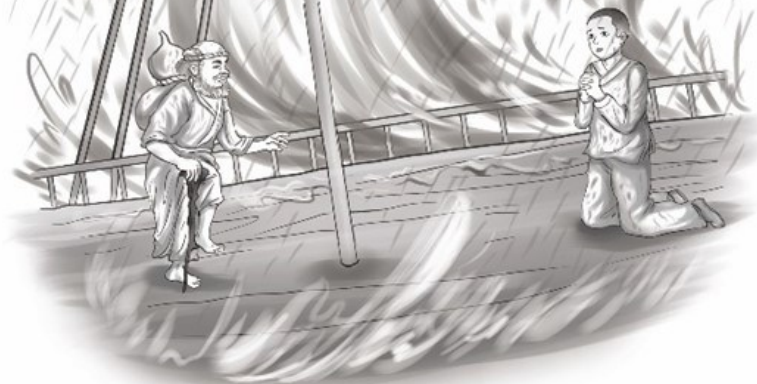
INCLUDES  
FREE AUDIOBOOK

Jeff Pepper and  
Xiao Hui Wang

# THE BALL OF FIRE

火球

A FREE eBook  
FROM IMAGIN8 PRESS



A classic folk tale from the best-selling book "Learn to Read Chinese, Book 1" in Simplified Chinese, pinyin and English, 358 word vocabulary

# The Ball of Fire

A Free Story From Imagin8 Press

A short story from “Learn to Read Chinese, Book 1”  
by Jeff Pepper and Xiao Hui Wang

358 Word Vocabulary  
Includes Chinese, Pinyin and English

Written by Jeff Pepper  
Chinese Translation by Xiao Hui Wang

IMAGIN8  
PRESS



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Based on stories collected and published by Norman Hinsdale Pitman in *A Chinese Wonder Book*, E.P. Dutton & Co, New York 1919.

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# Acknowledgements

We are deeply indebted to the late Norman Hinsdale Pitman, who originally collected this and many other stories and published them in *A Chinese Wonder Book* (1919, E.P. Dutton & Co., New York).

Many thanks to the team at Next Mars Media for their terrific illustrations.

# Audiobook

A complete Chinese language audio version of this book is available free of charge. To access it, go to YouTube.com and search for the Imagin8 Press channel. There you will find free audiobooks for this and all the other books in this series.

For this story, search YouTube for “Imagin8 Press channel” to see all of our free audiobooks. Then select the “Learn to Read Chinese, Book 1” audiobook and start listening at the 23:25 mark.

You can also visit our website, [www.imagin8press.com](http://www.imagin8press.com), to find a direct link to the YouTube audiobook, as well as information about our other books.

## Preface

Believe it or not, it's possible for you to read and understand this story even if you begin not knowing a single word of Chinese! We won't lie to you and say it will be easy, but with time and patience you can do it.

Here's how. You'll notice that the story is shown in two versions: first a paragraph of Chinese characters, followed by a paragraph of phonetic spelling called "pinyin." These two versions are word-for-word identical.

Chinese text looks dense because there are no spaces between the characters, and no capital letters. Also, some Chinese words require a single character, but others are made from two or more characters. So you can't just look at a sentence and recognize where one word ends and the next one begins. But don't worry. Once you learn to recognize the characters, it becomes easy. Remember, a billion and a half people around the world have already learned to read and write this language, so there's no reason why you can't do it too!

Let's do a quick example. Go to the beginning of the story and look at the first line of text. The first sentence is very short: 英罗醒了。 Each Chinese character is one syllable. Look down at the pinyin below it and you'll see that the first four syllables are spelled phonetically as **Yīngluó xǐng le.**

The first two characters are underlined, this tells you that it's a name. Looking down at the pinyin, you'll see that the first character 英 is pronounced **Yīng**, and the next character 罗 is pronounced **luó**. Look up the word **Yīngluó** in the proper names list at the end of the book and you'll see that it's a name: "Yingluo, a boy."

The third character is 醒. Look at the third syllable in the pinyin and you'll see that it's pronounced **xǐng**. Look it up in the glossary and you'll see that it means "to wake up."

The fourth character is 了 and is pronounced **le**. This word does not exist in English, but it shows us one of the ways that Chinese grammar is simpler and easier than English. There are no verb tenses in Chinese, so a verb is the same regardless of whether it describes something happening in the past, the present, the future, and so on. Here, the word 了 tells us that the verb just before it (醒, to wake up) is an action that's already completed, similar to adding "ed" at the end of an English word. So in this case, 醒 plus 了 means "woke up."

So, you've now puzzled out the first sentence in the story: "Yingluo woke up." Not bad!

If you want to double-check to make sure you got the correct meaning, read the English translation at the end of the book. For a simple sentence like this, the English will match the Chinese nearly word for word. Sometimes



the differences in grammar make direct translation difficult, and in those cases, the English will give you just the general meaning of the sentence.

Also, if you want to listen to a native Chinese speaker reading this story out loud (and slowly!), go to YouTube.com and search for “Imagin8 Press channel” to see all of our free audiobooks. Then select the “Learn to Read Chinese, Book 1” audiobook and start listening at the 23:25 mark.

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Folk tales are immensely popular in China. Passed down orally over the centuries from grandparents and parents to children, they serve as an unwritten handbook for living in society. Nearly all Chinese folk tales are about simple people who find themselves in difficult situations. These people are often helped (and occasionally hindered) by talking animals, as well as by powerful gods, wizards and other supernatural beings who actively participate in events here on earth. Within every Chinese folk tale is an underlying moral message derived from one of the three major schools of spiritual thought – Daoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism.

Of the thousands of Chinese folk tales, we’ve selected this one for your enjoyment. The It has an interesting plot line, and deals with relatively simple subject matter that can be told using a limited vocabulary.

The story is based on stories told by Norman Hinsdale Pitman in *A Chinese Wonder Book*, originally published in 1918. Pitman, a native of Michigan, moved to China in 1909 to take a position as professor of English at a small provincial college. In 1912 he became head the English department at Peking Higher Normal College, and later at Pei Yang Universite in Tianjin. He collected and published several collections of folk tales and other Chinese books. Pitman died in 1925 in Tianjin at the age of 48.

Pitman’s versions of these stories are wonderfully written, but they were written over a century ago. He wrote them in English for English-speaking readers, and this unrestricted vocabulary is not quite what we’re looking for in a graded reader such as this. So we have taken the liberty of retelling this story to use just 358 different Chinese words, most of which are in the standard 1200-word HSK4 vocabulary<sup>1</sup>.

Of course, some important words such as “boat” are not included in the HSK4 vocabulary, so we have introduced new words as needed. These new words are defined in endnotes where they are first used.

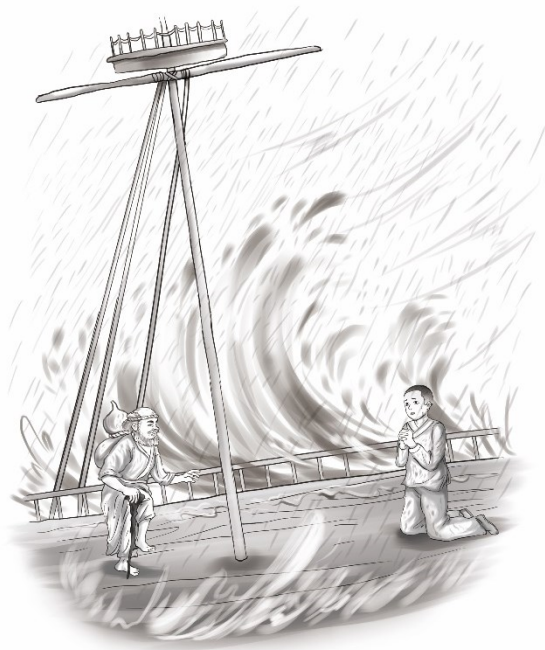
We’ve also made a few other changes to Pitman’s original story. We’ve updated the title: *The Ball of Fire* instead of *The Phantom Vessel*. We’ve tweaked the story a bit to make it more appropriate for a modern audience. And we’ve changed the proper names from the old Wade-Giles

spelling to modern pinyin, so for example the little boy is now named Yingluo, not Ying-lo.

If you like this story, you might want to go back and read Pitman's original, which is in the public domain and available online at [www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/18674](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/18674).

We hope you enjoy this story!

Jeff Pepper and Xiao Hui Wang  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA  
November 2021



# The Ball of Fire

## 火球

### Huǒqiú

英罗醒了。一开始，他不知道自己在哪儿。他又累又冷。然后他想起来了。他在海洋上的一条船上，一个人。

Yīngluó xǐng le. Yì kāishǐ, tā bù zhīdào zìjǐ zài nǎ'er. Tā yòu lèi yòu lěng. Ránhòu tā xiǎngqǐlái le. Tā zài hǎiyáng shàng de yìtiáo chuánshàng, yí gè rén.

两个星期以前，他和父母、哥哥弟弟一起坐上了船。他们计划从中国北方的村庄，往南去上海。船上有两百名客人，全部是他的村庄里的人，还有大概十二名的船员<sup>2</sup>。开始的时候，没有问题。但是很快，天气变得很坏，刮大风下大雨。然后客人和船员开始感觉到很不舒服。然后所有的客人和船员都病

得很严重。过了不久，他们全部都死了。

Liǎng gè xīngqī yǐqián, tā hé fùmǔ, gēgē dìdì yìqǐ zuò  
shàng le chuán. Tāmen jìhuà cóng zhōngguó běifāng de  
cūnzhuāng, wǎng nán qù Shànghǎi. Chuánshàng yǒu  
liǎngbǎi míng kèrén, quánbù shì tā de cūnzhuāng lǐ de  
rén, hái yǒu dàgài shí'èr míng de **chuányuán**. Kāishǐ de  
shíhòu, méiyǒu wèntí. Dànshì hěn kuài, tiānqì biàn dé  
hěn huài, guā dàfēng xià dàyǔ. Ránhòu kèrén hé  
chuányuán kāishǐ gǎnjué dào hěn bù shūfú. Ránhòu  
suǒyǒu de kèrén hé chuányuán dōu bìng dé hěn  
yánzhòng. Guò le bùjiǔ, tāmen quánbù dōu sǐ le.

但是英罗没有生病。他不知道为什么神让他活着。现在他一人在船上。他很害怕，又冷又饿。

Dànshì Yīngluó méiyǒu shēngbìng. Tā bù zhīdào  
wèishénme shén ràng tā huózhe. Xiànzài tā yìrén zài  
chuánshàng. Tā hěn hàipà, yòu lěng yòu è.

由于没有船员活着，所以没有人开这条船，

船在风里转<sup>3</sup>来转去。大浪<sup>4</sup>撞上了甲板<sup>5</sup>，又冷又咸的水打<sup>6</sup>向男孩子。风从东方过来，把船慢慢地开往上海。在很远的地方，英罗可以看到水里黑色的大石头<sup>7</sup>。他知道，如果船撞到石头上，船会掉到海洋底，他会死。所以，他只是坐在甲板上，向神祈祷<sup>8</sup>，把他从这艘死亡<sup>9</sup>之船上带走。

Yóuyú méiyǒu chuányuán huózhe, suǒyǐ méiyǒu rén  
kāi zhè tiáo chuán, chuán zài fēng lí zhuǎn lái zhuǎn qù.  
Dà làng zhuàng shàng le jiǎbǎn, yòu lěng yòu xián de  
shuǐ dǎ xiàng nán hái zi. Fēng cóng dōngfāng guò lái, bǎ  
chuán mànman de kāi wǎng Shànghǎi. Zài hěn yuǎn de  
dìfāng, Yīngluó kěyǐ kàndào shuǐ lǐ hēisè de dà shítou.  
Tā zhīdào, rúguǒ chuán zhuàng dào shítou shàng,  
chuán huì diào dào hǎiyáng dǐ, tā huì sǐ. Suǒyǐ, tā zhǐshì  
zuò zài jiǎbǎn shàng, xiàng shén qídǎo, bǎ tā cóng zhè  
sōu sǐwáng zhī chuán shàng dài zǒu.

在他祈祷的时候，他听到头上有一个声音。  
他抬头看。桅杆<sup>10</sup>的最高点是一个黄色的火

球。太奇怪了，他忘了向神祈祷，他只是看着它。在他看着时，火球变得又大又亮。火球慢慢地走下桅杆。英罗不明白。是不是神听到了他的祈祷，送来火，烧了船？那和他没关系。任何事情都比一个人在海洋上又没有家人都好。

Zài tā qídǎo de shíhòu, tā tīngdào tóushàng yǒu yí gè shēngyīn. Tā tái tóu kàn. **Wéigān** de zuì gāo diǎn shì yí gè huángsè de huǒqiú. Tài qíguài le, tā wàng le xiàng shén qídǎo, tā zhǐshì kàn zhe tā. Zài tā kàn zhe shí, huǒqiú biàn dé yòu dà yòu liàng. Huǒqiú mànman de zǒu xià wéigān. Yīngluó bù míngbai. Shì búshì shén tīngdào le tā de qídǎo, sòng lái huǒ, shāo le chuán? Nà hé tā méiguānxi. Rèn hé shì qing dōu bǐ yí gè rén zài hǎiyáng shàng yòu méi yǒu jiā rén dōu hǎo.

火球到了桅杆底，然后到了甲板。英罗等着甲板开始烧起来。但是甲板没有烧起来。相反，火球没有了，一个小矮人站在他的前



面。那人仔细地看着英罗。

Huǒqiú dào le wéigān dǐ, ránhòu dào le jiǎbǎn. Yīngluó dēngzhe jiǎbǎn kāishǐ shāo qǐlái. Dànshì jiǎbǎn méiyǒu shāoqǐlái. Xiāngfǎn, huǒqiú méiyǒu le, yíge xiǎo ǎi rén zhàn zài tā de qiánmiàn. Nà rén zǐxì de kànzhe Yīngluó.

“是的，你是我要找的男孩子，”小矮人说。“你是英罗，这船上就你一个人还活着。”

“Shì de, nǐ shì wǒ yào zhǎo de nán hái zi,” xiǎo ǎi rén shuō. “Nǐ shì Yīngluó, zhè chuánshàng jiù nǐ yíge rén hái huó zhe.”

英罗大叫，“是的，你这个很笨的小矮人，船上当然就我一个人还活着！”但是他不敢再说任何的话。所以他等着，没有再说话。船继续在风里转来转去，离大黑石头更近了。

Yīngluó dà jiào, “Shì de, nǐ zhège hěn bèn de xiǎo ǎi

rén, chuánshàng dāngrán jiù wǒ yí gè rén hái huózhe!”  
Dànshì tā bù gǎn zàishuō rèn hé de huà. Suǒyǐ tā  
děngzhe, méiyǒu zài shuō huà. Chuán jì xù zài fēng lí  
zhuàn lái zhuǎn qù, lí dà hēi shí tóu gèng jìn le.

“你还记得我吗？”小矮人问。“你以前见过我吗？”

“Nǐ hái jì dé wǒ ma?” Xiǎo ǎi rén wèn. “Nǐ yǐ qián jiànguò wǒ ma?”

“我想我记得你，”英罗说。“你是谁？”

“Wǒ xiǎng wǒ jì dé nǐ,” Yīng luó shuō. “Nǐ shì shuí?”

“一年以前，我经过你的村庄。当时，我穿着要饭人的衣服。我从一家走到另外一家，要些吃的东西。但是没人帮我。一片面包都没有人给我。我开始觉得村庄里没有一个人。但是后来你看到了我。你跑进屋里，拿了一些吃的东西给我。你妈妈看到了，伤害了你。你现在还记得吗？”

“Yì nián yǐqián, wǒ jīngguò nǐ de cūnzhuāng. Dāngshí, wǒ chuānzhe yàofàn rén de yīfú. Wǒ cóng yìjiā zǒu dào língwài yìjiā, yào xiē chī de dōngxi. Dànshì méi rén bāng wǒ. Yípiàn miànbāo dōu méiyǒu rén gěi wǒ. Wǒ kāishǐ juéde cūnzhuāng lǐ méiyǒu yíge hǎorén. Dànshì hòulái nǐ kàndào le wǒ. Nǐ pǎo jìn wū lǐ, ná le yìxiē chī de dōngxi gěi wǒ. Nǐ māmā kàndào le, shānghài le nǐ. Nǐ xiànzài hái jìdé ma?”

“是的，我记得。但是现在我母亲已经死了。我的父亲和哥哥弟弟也都死了。我家里现在只有我一个人了。”

“Shì de, wǒ jìdé. Dànshì xiànzài wǒ mǔqīn yǐjīng sǐ le. Wǒ de fùqīn hé gēgē dìdì yě dōu sǐ le. Wǒ jiǎlǐ xiànzài zhǐyǒu wǒ yíge rén le.”

小矮人继续说，“你以为我只是一个要饭的人。但是现在我告诉你，我的名字叫李铁拐，但是你可能只知道拐杖这个名字。我是八个神里的一个。当人们在谈到西天里的神

的时候，他们会讲我的故事。”

Xiǎo āi rén jìxù shuō, “Nǐ yǐwéi wǒ zhǐshì yí gè yàofàn de rén. Dànshì wǒ xiànzài gàosù nǐ, wǒ de míngzì jiào Lǐ Tiěguǎi, dànshì nǐ kěnéng zhǐ zhīdào Guǎizhàng zhè gè míngzì. Wǒ shì bā gè shén lǐ de yí gè. Dāng rénmen zài tándào xītiān lǐ de shén de shíhòu, tāmen huì jiǎng wǒ de gùshì.”

“是的，” 英罗说，“我听过很多次关于有名的铁拐杖的故事。人们爱你，因为你对人很友好。”

“Shì de,” Yīngluó shuō, “wǒ tīngguò hěnduō cì guānyú yǒumíng de Tiě Guǎizhàng de gùshì. Rénmen ài nǐ, yīnwèi nǐ duì rén hěn yǒuhǎo.”

“是吧，这可能是真的，但是去年，你的家人没有对我很仁慈<sup>11</sup>。当然，你知道，如果你想从神那里得到仁慈，就必须首先给神仁慈。但是你村庄里没有人对我仁慈。为什么

有人会对厉害的铁拐杖仁慈，而没有对低下的要饭人仁慈？我们都是一样的，不是吗？”

“Shì ba, zhè kěnéng shì zhēn de, dànshì qùnián, nǐ de jiārén méiyǒu duì wǒ hěn réncí. Dāngrán, nǐ zhīdào, rúguǒ nǐ xiǎng cóng shén nàlǐ dédào réncí, jiù bìxū shǒuxiān gěi shén réncí. Dànshì nǐ cūnzhuāng lǐ méiyǒu rén duì wǒ réncí. Wèishénme yǒu rén huì duì lièhài de Tiě Guǎizhàng réncí, ér méiyǒu duì dīxià de yāofàn rén réncí? Wǒmen dōu shì yíyàng de, búshì ma?”

英罗哭起来了。“我的父亲和母亲对这个一点都不知道！他们从出生就没有钱，一直都没有钱。人们对他们不仁慈，所以他们学会了对其他人不仁慈。这就是为什么他们没有对你仁慈！”

Yīngluó kūqǐlái le. “Wǒ de fùqīn hé mǔqīn duì zhège yīdiǎn dōu bù zhīdào! Tāmen cóng chūshēng jiù méiyǒu qián, yìzhí dōu méiyǒu qián. Rénmen duì

tāmen bù réncí, suǒyǐ tāmen xuéhuì le duì qítā rén bù réncí. Zhè jiùshì wèishénme tāmen méiyǒu duì nǐ réncí!”

“但是你呢，我的儿子？你的生活和他们的生活一样。像他们一样，你过着困难的生活。但是你帮助了我，虽然他们没有。你怎么学习要对人友好的？”

“Dànshì nǐ ne, wǒ de érzi? Nǐ de shēnghuó hé tāmen de shēnghuó yíyàng. Xiàng tāmen yíyàng, nǐ guòzhe kùnnán de shēnghuó. Dànshì nǐ bāngzhù le wǒ, suīrán tāmen méiyǒu. Nǐ shì zěnme xuéxí yào duì rén yǒuhǎo de?”

英罗没有办法回答这些问题。他只是说，

“铁拐杖，我不明白这些事情。请让我的家人活过来。让他们学习成为好人和仁慈的人！”

Yīngluó méiyǒu bànfǎ huídá zhèxiē wèntí. Tā zhǐshì shuō, “Tiě Guǎizhàng, wǒ bù míngbai zhèxiē shìqing.

Qǐng ràng wǒ de jiārén huó guòlái. Ràng tāmen xuéxí chéngwéi hǎorén hé réncí de rén!”

“我的儿子，这很难。我想我可以做到，但是你必须为我做两件事情。”

“Wǒ de érzi, zhè hěn nán. Wǒ xiǎng wǒ kěyǐ zuò dào, dànshì nǐ bìxū wèi wǒ zuò liǎng jiàn shìqing.”

“我会做任何事情。告诉我！”

“Wǒ huì zuò rènhe shìqing. Gàosù wǒ!”

“首先，你必须告诉我，你父亲和母亲做过的好事情。一件事情就够了。”

“Shǒuxiān, nǐ bìxū gàosù wǒ, nǐ fùqīn hé mǔqīn zuòguò de hǎo shìqing. Yí jiàn shìqing jiù gòu le.”

英罗努力地想。然后他说，“我知道！有一次，我的父亲和母亲去寺庙里烧香，这是给神的礼物。”

Yīngluó nǚlì de xiǎng. Ránhòu tā shuō, “Wǒ zhīdào! Yǒu yíci, wǒ de fùqīn hé mǔqīn qù sìmiào lǐ shāoxiāng, zhè shì gěi shén de lǐwù.”

“我记得。但是为什么他们要烧香呢？那是因为你的哥哥生病了，医生没有办法帮助他。你的父亲和母亲请神帮助他。但是这不是仁慈，而是为他们自己。你的父亲和母亲希望你的哥哥活着，当他们老的时候他就可以照顾他们。”

“Wǒ jìdé. Dànshì wèishénme tāmen yào shāoxiāng ne? Nà shì yīnwèi nǐ de gēgē shēngbìng le, yīshēng méiyǒu bànfǎ bāngzhù tā. Nǐ de fùqīn hé mǔqīn qǐng shén bāngzhù tā. Dànshì zhè búshì réncí, ér shì wèi tāmen zìjǐ. Nǐ de fùqīn hé mǔqīn xīwàng nǐ de gēgē huózhe, dāng tāmen lǎo de shíhòu tā jiù kěyǐ zhàogù tāmen.”

英罗看着他的脚。“是的，你是对的，”他说。

Yīngluó kànzhe tā de jiǎo. “Shì de, nǐ shì duì de,” tā



shuō.

“你还能想到别的吗？”

“Nǐ hái néng xiǎngdào bié de ma?”

“是的，我能。去年，一个人来到我们的村庄。没有人认识他。他在我家门外生病了。我的父亲和母亲照顾了他。”

“Shì de, wǒ néng. Qùnián, yí gè rén lái dào wǒmen de cūn zhuāng. Méi yǒu rén rènshi tā. Tā zài wǒmen jiāmén wài shēngbìng le. Wǒ de fùqīn hé mǔqīn zhàogù le tā.”

“多久？”

“Duōjiǔ?”

“大概一个星期。然后他死了。”

“Dàgài yí gè xīngqī. Ránhòu tā sǐ le.”

“啊。他们用那个人的马和他包里的钱做了

什么？他们有没有试着把它还给他的家人？”

“A. Tāmen yòng nàgè rén de mǎ hé tā bāo lí de qián zuò le shénme? Tāmen yǒu méiyǒu shìzhe bǎ tā huán gěi tā de jiārén?”

“没有，他们说他们要留着它，因为他们照顾了他一星期。”当英罗想起这些，他的脸变红了。

“Méiyǒu, tāmen shuō tāmen yào liúzhē tā, yīnwèi tāmen zhàogù le tā yī xīngqī.” Dāng Yīngluó xiǎngqǐ zhèxiē, tā de liǎn biàn hóng le.

到你父亲和母亲做过的一件好事情吗？”

Tiě Guǎizhàng shuō, “Wǒ de érzi, zài xiǎng xiǎng. Nǐ hái néng xiǎngdào nǐ fùqīn hé mǔqīn zuòguò de yí jiàn hǎo shìqing ma?”

英罗安静了很长时间，想着。“是的，有一件小事情。去年春天，一些鸟在我父亲的花

园里吃东西。我母亲想杀死那些鸟。但是父亲说不要，那些鸟不应该死。他只是对他们大叫，鸟飞<sup>12</sup>走了。”

Yīngluó ānjìng le hěn cháng shíjiān, xiǎngzhe. “Shì de, yǒu yí jiàn xiǎo shìqing. Qùnián chūntiān, yìxiē niǎo zài wǒ fùqīn de huāyuán lǐ chī dōngxī. Wǒ mǔqīn xiǎng shā sǐ nàxiē niǎo. Dànshì fù qīn shuō bú yào, nàxiē niǎo bù yīnggāi sǐ. Tā zhǐshì duì tāmen dà jiào, niǎo fēi zǒu le.”

铁拐杖笑着说，“好，我的儿子！你已经想起了一件真正的好事情。你的父亲和母亲让鸟活着。所以，我会让他们活着。现在，告诉我你的父亲、母亲和哥哥弟弟在哪里。我会帮助他们的，但是请记住你说过要为我做两件事情。你已经做了一件事情。很快，你必须做第二件事情。你必须和你的家人一起留在这儿，而不能和我一起去西天。”

Tiě Guǎizhàng xiàozhe shuō, “Hǎo, wǒ de érzi! Nǐ yǐjīng

xiǎngqǐ le yí jiàn zhēnzhèng de hǎo shìqing. Nǐ de fùqīn  
hé mǔqīn ràng niǎo huózhe. Suǒyǐ, wǒ huì ràng tāmen  
huózhe. Xiànzài, gàosù wǒ nǐ de fùqīn, mǔqīn hé gēgē  
dìdì zài nǎlǐ. Wǒ huì bāngzhù tāmen de, dànshì qǐng  
jìdé nǐ shuōguò yào wèi wǒ zuò liǎng jiàn shìqing. Nǐ  
yǐjīng zuò le yí jiàn shìqing. Hěn kuài, nǐ bìxū zuò dì èr  
jiàn shìqing. Nǐ bìxū hé nǐ de jiārén yìqǐ liú zài zhè'er, ér  
bùnénghé wǒ yìqǐ qù Xītiān.”

对英罗来说，这不是问题。现在他又冷又  
饿，在海洋里的一条船上，他的家人都死  
了。能再一次和家人一起生活，真是太好  
了，很难让人相信，和其他任何事情比，英  
罗更想要这个。“当然可以，”他对铁拐杖  
说，“我很愿意和家人在这里一起生活，不  
去西天。”

Duì Yīngluó lái shuō, zhè búshì wèntí. Xiànzài tā yòu  
lěng yòu è, zài hǎiyáng lǐ de yìtiáo chuánshàng, tā de  
jiārén dōu sǐ le. Néng zài yíqǐ hé jiārén yìqǐ shēnghuó,  
zhēnshi tài hǎo le, hěn nán ràng rén xiāngxìn, hé qítā

rèn hé shì qing bǐ, Yīng luó gèng xiǎng yào zhè ge.

“Dāng rán kě yǐ,” tā duì Tiě Guǎi zhàng shuō, “Wǒ hěn yuàn yì hé jiā rén zài zhè lǐ yī qǐ shēng huó, bú qù Xī tiān.”

然后，英罗穿过甲板，从所有的死了的客人和船员身体上越过。他让铁拐杖看了他的死了的父亲、母亲和哥哥弟弟的身体。铁拐杖用拐杖点了他的每个家人的头。每个人都张开眼睛，看到铁拐杖和英罗站在他们的旁边。他们都非常的害怕。

Ránhòu, Yīng luó chuāng uò jiǎ bǎn, cóng suǒ yǒu de sǐ le de kè rén hé chuányuán shēn tǐ shàng yuè guò. Tā ràng Tiě Guǎi zhàng kàn le tā de sǐ le de fù qīn, mǔ qīn hé gē gē dì dì de shēn tǐ. Tiě Guǎi zhàng yòng guǎi zhàng diǎn le tā de měi gè jiā rén de tóu. Měi gè rén dōu zhāng kāi yǎn jīng, kàn dào Tiě Guǎi zhàng hé Yīng luó zhàn zài tā men de páng biān. Tā men dōu fēi cháng de hài pà.

铁拐杖做完以后，他对他们说，“你们所有的人都听着。一年以前，我经过你们的村

庄，要一点吃的东西。你们帮我了吗？没有，你们没有帮助我。现在你们去了地下。你们已经看到了阎罗王的地方，这是一个完全没有仁慈的地方。你们喜欢那个地方吗？我想你们不会喜欢。好吧，到处都是像你们一样的人！”

Tiě Guǎizhàng zuò wán yǐhòu, tā duì tāmen shuō,  
“Nǐmen suǒyǒu de rén dōu tīngzhe. Yī nián yǐqián, wǒ  
jīngguò nǐmen de cūnzhuāng, yào yìdiǎn chī de dōngxi.  
Nǐmen bāng wǒ le ma? Méiyǒu, nǐmen méiyǒu  
bāngzhù wǒ. Xiànzài nǐmen qù le dìxià. Nǐmen yǐjīng  
kàndào le Yánluó Wáng de dìfāng, zhè shì yí gè  
wánquán méiyǒu réncí de dìfāng. Nǐmen xǐhuān nà gè  
dìfāng ma? Wǒ xiǎng nǐmen bú huì xǐhuān. Hǎo ba,  
dào chù dōu shì xiàng nǐmen yí yàng de rén!”

“所以，为什么你们现在还活着，而不是在阎罗王的地方？是因为这个年轻的男孩子。我告诉你们，这个男孩子对这个世界太好

了。他应该和西天的神生活在一起。但是他告诉我他想帮助你们，即使他很清楚他没有办法和我一起回到西天。所以，他会留在这个世界上，和你们一起住在你们的屋子里。如果你们对他不好，我会马上回到你们的村庄。我会把这个男孩子带回西天，你们都会死，并且回到阎罗王的地方。你们明白吗？”

“Suǒyǐ, wèishénme nǐmen xiànzài hái huózhe, ér búshì zài Yánluó Wáng de dìfāng? Shì yīnwèi zhège niánqīng de nán háizi. Wǒ gàosù nǐmen, zhège nán háizi duì zhège shìjiè tài hǎo le. Tā yīnggāi hé Xītiān de shén shēnghuó zài yìqǐ. Dànshì tā gàosù wǒ tā xiǎng bāngzhù nǐmen, jíshǐ tā hěn qīngchǔ tā méiyǒu bànfǎ hé wǒ yìqǐ huí dào Xītiān. Suǒyǐ, tā huì liú zài zhège shìjiè shàng, hé nǐmen yìqǐ zhù zài nǐmen de wūzi lǐ. Rúguǒ nǐmen duì tā bù hǎo, wǒ huì mǎshàng huí dào nǐmen de cūnzhuāng. Wǒ huì bǎ zhège nán háizi dài huí Xītiān, nǐmen dōu huì sǐ, bìngqiě huí dào Yánluó Wáng de

dìfāng. Nǐmen míngbai ma?”

英罗的父亲、母亲和哥哥弟弟看着铁拐杖，然后看着英罗。他们都点了点头。

Yīngluó de fùqīn, mǔqīn hé gēgē dìdì kànzhe Tiě Guǎizhàng, ránhòu kànzhe Yīngluó. Tāmen dōu diǎnle diǎn tóu.

铁拐杖说，“好吧。现在，我的孩子，拿着我的拐杖。看看周围死了的客人和船员。用拐杖敲打桅杆三遍，对你自己说，‘回来吧，生命。’”

Tiě Guǎizhàng shuō, “Hǎo ba. Xiànzài, wǒ de hái zi, nǎzhe wǒ de guǎizhàng. Kànkàn zhōuwéi sǐ le de kèrén hé chuányuán. Yòng guǎizhàng qiāo dǎ wéigān sān biàn, duì nǐ zìjǐ shuō, ‘Huílái ba, shēngmìng.’”

英罗拿起拐杖，走向桅杆，敲了三遍，他对自己说，“回来吧，生命！”在他周围，客人和船员都张开眼睛，站了起来。



Yīngluó ná qǐ guǎizhàng, zǒuxiàng wéigān, qiāo le sān biàn, tā duì zìjǐ shuō, “Huílái ba, shēngmìng!” Zài tā zhōuwéi, kèrén hé chuányuán dōu zhāng kāi yǎnjīng, zhàn le qǐlái.

铁拐杖对男孩子说，“现在，是时候把这些人送回他们的村庄了。我不希望他们去上海，因为他们还没有准备好和其他人见面。他们必须改变他们的生活，成为好人。把他们带回到他们的村庄。”

Tiě Guǎizhàng duì nán hái zi shuō, “Xiànzài, shì shíhòu bǎ zhèxiē rén sòng huí tāmen de cūnzhuāng le. Wǒ bù xīwàng tāmen qù shànghǎi, yīnwèi tāmen hái méiyǒu zhǔnbèi hǎo hé qítā rén jiànmiàn. Tāmen bìxū gǎibiàn tāmen de shēnghuó, chéngwéi hǎorén. Bǎ tāmen dài huí dào tāmen de cūnzhuāng.”

英罗用拐杖敲打桅杆三遍，他对自己说，“回到村庄！”船马上转方向，好像一只小鸟一样快地飞过海洋，回到了他们的村庄。

当船近岸<sup>13</sup>的时候，铁拐杖变回到一个黄色的火球，走到桅杆的最高点，然后飞向蓝天。船上的所有人都看着火球不见了。

Yīngluó yòng guǎizhàng qiāodǎ wéigān sān biàn, tā duì zìjǐ shuō, “Huí dào cūnzhuāng!” Chuán mǎshàng zhuǎn fāngxiàng, hǎoxiàng yì zhī xiǎo niǎo yíyàng kuài de fēiguò hǎiyáng, huí dào le tāmen de cūnzhuāng. Dāng chuán jìn àn de shíhòu, Tiě Guǎizhàng biàn huí dào yíge huángsè de huǒqiú, zǒu dào wéigān de zuìgāo diǎn, ránhòu fēi xiàng lán tiān. Chuánshàng de suǒyǒu rén dōu kànzhe huǒqiú bùjiàn le.

英罗激动地抱着他的父亲和母亲，他们一起从船上下来，走到岸上。

Yīngluó jīdòng de bào zhe tā de fùqīn hé mǔqīn, tāmen yìqǐ cóng chuánshàng xiàlái, zǒu dào ànshàng.

# The Ball of Fire

Yingluo woke up. At first, he did not know where he was. He was very tired and very cold. Then he remembered. He was on a ship on the ocean, and he was all alone.

Two weeks ago, he had boarded the ship together with his parents and his brothers. They planned to go from their village in northern China southwards to Shanghai. There were two hundred passengers, all from his home village, and also about a dozen crew. The trip started off with no problem. But soon the weather became bad, with high winds and heavy rains. Then the passengers and crew began to feel sick. Then all the passengers and crew became very sick. Soon after that, they all died.

But Yingluo did not get sick. He did not know why the gods had let him live. Now he was alone on the ship. He was scared, cold and hungry.

With no crew alive to sail the ship, the ship just turned around and around in the wind. Huge waves crashed over the deck, hitting the boy with cold salty water. The wind blew hard from east, bringing the boat slowly towards Shanghai. In the distance Yingluo could see big black rocks in the water. He knew that if the ship hit the rocks, it would go to the bottom of the ocean and he would die. So he just sat on the deck and prayed to the gods to take him away from this ship of death.

As he prayed, he heard a sound above his head. He looked up. At the top of the mast was a yellow ball of fire. It was so strange that he forgot about praying to the gods, and he just looked at it. As he watched, the ball of fire became big and bright. Slowly it moved down the mast. Yingluo did not understand. Had the gods heard his prayer and sent fire to burn the ship? That would be ok with him. Anything was better than being alone on the ocean, with no living family.

The ball of fire moved to the bottom of the mast, and then it moved to the deck. Yingluo waited for the deck to start burning. But the deck did not burn. Instead, the ball of fire disappeared, and a little man stood in front of him. The man looked carefully at Yingluo.

“Yes, you are the boy I am looking for,” said the little man. “You are Yingluo, and you are the only person alive on this ship.”

Yingluo wanted to shout, “Yes, you stupid little man, of course I am the only person alive on this ship!” But he was afraid to say anything. So he waited and did not say a word. The ship continued to turn around in the wind, coming closer to the big black rocks.

“Do you remember me?” asked the little man. “Have you ever seen me before?”

“I think I remember you,” said Yingluo. “Who are you?”

“A year ago I walked through your village. At that time I wore the clothes of a beggar. I walked from house to house asking for a little food. But nobody helped me. Nobody even gave me a piece of bread. I began to feel that there was not a single good person in the entire village. But then you saw me. You ran into the house, picked up some food, and gave it to me. Your mother saw this and she hurt you. Do you remember now?”

“Yes, I remember. But now my mother is dead. My father and brothers are also dead. I am the only one in my family now.”

The little man continued, “You thought I was just a beggar. But now I tell you, my name is Li Tieguaì, but you probably know me by the name Iron Staff. I am one of the eight Immortals. People tell stories about me when they speak of the gods of the Western Heaven.”

“Yes,” said Yingluo, “many times I have heard stories of the famous Iron Staff. The people love you because you are so kind.”

“Well, that may be true, but last year your family did not show kindness to me. Of course you know that if you want kindness from the gods, you must first give kindness to the gods. But nobody in your village showed kindness to me. Why would someone be kind to the great Iron Staff but not be kind to the lowly beggar? We are both the same, aren’t we?”

Yingluo began to cry. "My father and mother knew nothing of this! They were born with no money, and they never had any money. People were unkind to them, so they learned to be unkind to other people. That is why they did not show kindness to you!"

"But what about you, my son? Your life was the same as their lives. You have had a hard life just like they were. But you helped me although they did not. How did you learn to look at people with love?"

Yingluo could not answer these questions. He just said, "Iron Staff, I do not understand these things. Please just bring my family back to life. Let them learn how to be good and kind!"

"My son, this is very difficult. I think I can do it, but you must do two things for me."

"I will do anything. Tell me!"

"First, you must tell me something good that your parents did. Just one thing will be enough."

Yingluo thought hard. Then he said, "I know! One time, my parents went to the temple and burned incense, as a gift to the gods."

"I remember that. But why did they burn the incense? It was because your older brother was sick, and the doctors could not help him. Your parents begged the gods to help

him. But this was not kindness, this was selfishness. Your parents wanted your older brother to live so he could take care of them in their old age.”

Yingluo looked at his feet. “Yes, you are right,” he said.

“Can you think of something else?”

“Yes, I can! Last year a man came to our village. Nobody knew him. He became sick in front of our house. My parents took care of him.”

“How long?”

“About a week. Then he died.”

“Ah. And what did they do with the man’s horse, and the money in his bag? Did they try to return it to his family?”

“No, they said they needed to keep it, because they cared for him for a week.” Yingluo’s face turned red as he remembered.

Iron Staff said, “My son, try again. Can’t you think of even one good thing your parents did?”

Yingluo was silent for a long time, thinking. “Well, there is one small thing. Last spring some birds were eating in my father’s garden. My mother wanted to kill the birds. But my father said no, the birds should not die. And he just shouted at them and the birds flew away.”

Iron Staff smiled and said, “Good, my son! You have remembered one true good thing. Your parents let the birds live. And so, I will let them live. Now, show me where your parents and brothers are. I will help them, but remember that you said you would do two things for me. You have already done one thing. Soon you must do the second. You must stay here on earth with your family instead of going with me to the Western Heaven.”

This was no problem for Yingluo. Right now he was cold, hungry, and on a boat in the middle of the ocean with his family all dead. To live again with his family was too good to be true, and Yingluo wanted that more than anything else. “Of course,” he said to Iron Staff, “I will be happy to stay here with my family and not go to the Western Heaven.”

Then Yingluo walked across the deck, past all the dead bodies of the passengers and crew. He showed Iron Staff the bodies of his parents and brothers. Iron Staff touched his staff to the heads of each family member. Each one opened their eyes and saw Iron Staff and Yingluo standing over them. They were all very frightened.

When Iron Staff was finished, he said to them, “Listen, all of you. A year ago I came through your village begging for a little food. Did you help me? No, you did not help me. And now you been to the underworld. You have seen the land of Yama, a place with no kindness at all. Do you



like that place? I think not. Well, it is full of people just like you! “

“So, why are you alive now instead of being in the land of Yama? It is because of this young boy. I tell you, this boy is too good for this world. He should be living with the gods in the Western Heaven. But he has told me that he wants to help you, even if it means he cannot return with me to the Western Heaven. So he will stay in this world, living with you in your house. If you treat him badly, I will come back to your village immediately. I will take the boy back to the Western Heaven with me, and you will all die and go back to the land of Yama. Do you understand?”

Yingluo’s parents and brothers looked at Iron Staff, then at Yingluo. They all nodded their heads.

Iron Staff said, “All right. Now, my child, take my staff. Look around at the dead bodies of the passengers and crew. Strike the mast three times with the staff, and say to yourself, ‘Return to life.’ ”

Yingluo took the staff, walked to the mast, and hit it three times, saying to himself, “Return to life!” All around him, the passengers and crew opened their eyes and stood up.

Iron Staff said to the boy, “Now, it is time to return these people back to their village. I do not want them to go to Shanghai because they are not ready to meet with other

people. They must change their lives and become good people. Bring them back to their village.”

Yingluo hit the mast three times with the staff, saying to himself, “Return to the village!” Instantly the ship turned, and flew as fast as a bird across the ocean and back to their village. When the ship came close to shore, Iron Staff changed back into a yellow ball of fire, went to the top of the mast, and flew off into the blue sky. All the people on the ship watched the ball of fire until it vanished.

Yingluo embraced his parents, and together they walked off the ship and onto the shore.

## Proper Nouns

These are all the Chinese proper nouns used in this book.

### **Chinese -- Pinyin -- English**

李铁拐 -- Lǐ Tiěguǎi -- Li Tieguai, one of the Eight

Immortals in Chinese mythology

上海 -- Shànghǎi -- Shanghai, a city

铁拐杖 -- Tiě Guǎizhàng -- Another name for Lǐ Tiěguǎi

阎罗王 -- Yánluó Wáng -- Yama, Lord of the Underworld

英罗 -- Yīngluō -- Yingluo, a boy

西天 -- Xī Tiān -- Western Heaven

# Glossary

These are all the Chinese words (other than proper nouns) used in this book.

## Chinese -- Pinyin -- English

- 啊 -- a -- ah, oh, what  
爱 -- ài -- love  
矮 -- ǎi -- short  
岸 -- àn -- shore  
安静 -- ānjìng -- quiet, peaceful  
吧 -- ba -- (indicates assumption or suggestion)  
把 -- bǎ -- (measure word for gripped objects)  
把 -- bǎ -- (preposition introducing the object of a verb)  
把 -- bǎ -- to hold, to guard, a bundle  
八 -- bā -- eight  
白 -- bái -- white  
百 -- bǎi -- hundred  
办法 -- bànfǎ -- method  
帮(助) -- bāng (zhù) -- to help  
包 -- bāo -- to wrap, bag  
抱(住) -- bào (zhù) -- to hold, to carry  
北方 -- běifāng -- north  
笨 -- bèn -- stupid, a fool  
比 -- bǐ -- compared to, than  
变 -- biàn -- to change  
遍 -- biàn -- times  
别的 -- biéde -- other  
病 -- bìng -- disease  
并且 -- bìngqiě -- and

必须 -- bìxū -- must, have to  
不 -- bù -- no, not, do not  
不仁 -- bù rén -- heartless  
不知 -- bù zhī -- don't know  
不久 -- bùjiǔ -- not long ago, soon  
成(为) -- chéng (wéi) -- to become  
吃饭) -- chī (fàn) -- to eat  
船 -- chuán -- boat  
穿(着) -- chuān (zhuó) -- to wear  
船员 -- chuán yuán -- crew  
穿过 -- chuānguò -- to pass through  
春天 -- chūntiān -- spring  
出生 -- chūshēng -- born  
慈 -- cí -- kindness  
从 -- cóng -- from  
村(庄) -- cūn (zhuāng) -- village  
大 -- dà -- big  
打 -- dǎ -- to hit, to play  
大概 -- dàgài -- perhaps  
带 -- dài -- to bring  
但(是) -- dàn (shì) -- but, however  
当 -- dāng -- when  
当然 -- dāngrán -- certainly  
当时 -- dāngshí -- then  
到 -- dào -- to arrive, towards  
道 -- dào -- path, way, Dao, to say  
到处 -- dào chù -- everywhere  
地 -- de -- land  
的 -- de -- of

得 -- dé -- (particle showing degree or possibility)  
得很 -- dé hěn -- very  
得到 -- dédào -- to get  
的话 -- dehuà -- if  
等 -- děng -- to wait  
地 -- dì -- land, ground, earth  
第 -- dì -- (prefix before a number)  
底 -- dǐ -- bottom  
点 -- diǎn -- point, hour  
点头 -- diǎntóu -- to nod  
掉 -- diào -- to fall, to drop, to lose  
弟弟 -- dìdì -- younger brother  
地方 -- dìfāng -- place  
地下 -- dìxià -- underground  
东 -- dōng -- east  
东西 -- dōngxī -- thing  
都 -- dōu -- all  
对 -- duì -- correct, towards someone  
多 -- duō -- many  
多久 -- duōjiǔ -- how long?  
饿 -- è -- hungry  
而是 -- ér shì -- instead  
而且 -- érqiě -- and  
儿子 -- érzi -- son  
方向 -- fāngxiàng -- direction  
飞 -- fēi -- to fly  
非常 -- fēicháng -- very  
飞过 -- fēiguò -- fly over  
风 -- fēng -- wind

父母 -- fùmǔ -- parents  
父亲 -- fùqīn -- father  
改(变) -- gǎi (biàn) -- to change  
敢 -- gǎn -- to dare  
感觉 -- gǎnjué -- to feel  
高 -- gāo -- high, tall  
告诉 -- gàosù -- to tell  
个 -- gè -- (measure word, generic)  
哥哥 -- gēge -- older brother  
给 -- gěi -- to give  
更 -- gèng -- watch (2-hour period)  
够 -- gòu -- enough  
刮 -- guā -- to blow  
拐杖 -- guǎizhàng -- staff, crutch  
关于 -- guānyú -- about  
国 -- guó -- country  
过 -- guò -- to pass, (after verb to indicate past tense)  
过来 -- guòlái -- to come  
故事 -- gùshi -- story  
还 -- hái -- still, also  
还给 -- hái gěi -- give back  
害怕 -- hàipà -- fear  
海洋 -- hǎiyáng -- ocean  
孩子 -- háizi -- child  
好 -- hǎo -- good  
好像 -- hǎoxiàng -- to like  
和 -- hé -- and, with  
黑色 -- hēi (sè) -- black  
很 -- hěn -- very

红 -- hóng -- red  
后来 -- hòulái -- later  
话 -- huà -- word, speak  
坏 -- huài -- bad  
黄(色) -- huáng (sè) -- yellow  
花园 -- huāyuán -- garden  
回 -- huí -- to return  
会 -- huì -- will, to be able to  
回答 -- huídá -- reply  
活 -- huó -- to live  
火 -- huǒ -- fire  
记(得) -- jì (dé) -- remember  
家 -- jiā -- family, home  
甲板 -- jiǎbǎn -- deck  
件 -- jiàn -- (measure word for clothing, matters)  
见(面) -- jiàn (miàn) -- to see, to meet  
讲 -- jiǎng -- to speak  
叫 -- jiào -- to call, to yell  
脚 -- jiǎo -- foot  
家人 -- jiārén -- family, family members  
激动 -- jīdòng -- excited  
计划 -- jìhuà -- plan  
近 -- jìn -- close  
进 -- jìn -- to enter  
即使 -- jíshǐ -- even though  
就 -- jiù -- just, right now  
继续 -- jìxù -- to carry on  
觉得 -- juéde -- to feel  
开 -- kāi -- to open



开往 -- kāi wǎng -- bound for  
开始 -- kāishǐ -- start  
看 -- kàn -- to look  
可能 -- kěnéng -- maybe  
客人 -- kèrén -- guest  
可以 -- kěyǐ -- can  
哭 -- kū -- to cry  
快 -- kuài -- quick  
困难 -- kùnnán -- difficulty  
来 -- lái -- to come  
蓝(色) -- lán (sè) -- blue  
浪 -- làng -- wave  
老 -- lǎo -- old  
了 -- le -- (indicates completion)  
累 -- lèi -- tired  
冷 -- lěng -- cold  
离 -- lí -- away from, to leave  
里(面) -- lǐ (miàn) -- inside  
脸 -- liǎn -- face  
亮 -- liàng -- bright  
两 -- liǎng -- two  
厉害 -- lìhài -- great  
另外 -- lìngwài -- other, another, in addition  
留 -- liú -- to keep  
礼物 -- lǐwù -- gift  
吗 -- ma -- (indicates a question)  
马 -- mǎ -- horse  
妈妈 -- māmā -- mother  
慢 -- màn -- slow

马上 -- mǎshàng -- right away  
没 -- méi -- no, not have  
每 -- měi -- every  
没关系 -- méiguānxì -- it's ok, no problem  
没有 -- méiyǒu -- no, not have  
们 -- men -- (indicates plural)  
门 -- mén -- door  
名 -- míng -- first name, name  
明白 -- míngbái -- clear  
母亲 -- mǔqīn -- mother  
拿 -- ná -- take  
那 -- nà -- that  
拿起 -- ná qǐ -- pick up  
哪儿 -- nǎ'er -- where  
那里 -- nàlǐ -- there  
哪里 -- nǎlǐ -- where  
南 -- nán -- south  
男 -- nán -- male  
难 -- nán -- difficult  
那些 -- nàxiē -- those ones  
呢 -- ne -- (indicates question)  
能 -- néng -- can  
你 -- nǐ -- you  
年 -- nián -- year  
年轻 -- niánqīng -- young  
鸟 -- niǎo -- bird  
努力 -- nǔlì -- work hard  
旁(边) -- páng (biān) -- beside  
跑 -- pǎo -- to run

片面 -- piànmiàn -- one-sided  
钱 -- qián -- money  
前面 -- qiánmiàn -- front  
敲打 -- qiāodǎ -- to beat up  
祈祷 -- qídǎo -- prayer  
奇怪 -- qíguài -- strange  
起来 -- qǐlái -- (after verb, indicates start of an action)  
情 -- qíng -- affection  
请 -- qǐng -- please  
清楚 -- qīngchǔ -- clear  
其他 -- qítā -- other  
球 -- qiú -- ball  
去 -- qù -- to go  
全部 -- quánbù -- all, entire  
去年 -- qùnián -- last year  
然而 -- rán'ér -- however  
让 -- ràng -- to let, to cause  
然后 -- ránhòu -- then  
人 -- rén -- person, people  
仁慈 -- réncí -- kindness  
任何 -- rènhé -- any  
认识 -- rènshí -- to understand  
如果 -- rúguǒ -- if, in case  
三 -- sān -- three  
杀 -- shā -- to kill  
上 -- shàng -- on, up  
上当 -- shàngdàng -- fooled  
伤害 -- shānghài -- harm  
烧 -- shāo -- to burn

谁 -- shéi -- who  
神 -- shén -- god  
生病 -- shēngbìng -- sick  
生活 -- shēnghuó -- life  
生命 -- shēngmìng -- life  
声音 -- shēngyīn -- sound  
什么 -- shénme -- what  
身体 -- shēntǐ -- body  
十 -- shí -- ten  
是 -- shì -- is, yes  
试 -- shì -- to taste, to try  
时(候) -- shí(hòu) -- time, moment, period  
事(情) -- shì(qíng) -- thing  
石(头) -- shí(tou) -- stone  
时间 -- shíjiān -- time, period  
世界 -- shìjiè -- world  
首先 -- shǒuxiān -- first  
舒服 -- shūfú -- comfortable  
水 -- shuǐ -- water  
说(话) -- shuō(huà) -- to say  
死 -- sǐ -- dead, to die  
寺(庙) -- sì(miào) -- temple  
死亡 -- sǐwáng -- die  
送(给) -- sòng(gěi) -- to give a gift  
艘 -- sōu -- ship  
虽然 -- suīrán -- although  
所以 -- suǒyǐ -- so  
所有 -- suǒyǒu -- all  
他 -- tā -- he

它 -- tā -- it  
太 -- tài -- too  
抬头 -- táitóu -- to look up  
谈 -- tán -- to talk  
天气 -- tiānqì -- weather  
条 -- tiáo -- (measure word for narrow, flexible things)  
铁 -- tiě -- iron  
听 -- tīng -- to listen  
头 -- tóu -- head  
外 -- wài -- outside  
往 -- wǎng -- to  
忘(记) -- wàng(jì) -- to forget  
完全 -- wánquán -- completely  
为 -- wèi -- for  
桅杆 -- wéigān -- mast  
为什么 -- wèishénme -- why  
问 -- wèn -- to ask  
问题 -- wèntí -- problem, question  
我 -- wǒ -- I, me  
屋(子) -- wū(zì) -- house, room  
下 -- xià -- down, under  
咸 -- xián -- salty  
像 -- xiàng -- like, to resemble  
向 -- xiàng -- towards  
想 -- xiǎng -- to want, to miss, to think of  
香 -- xiāng -- incense  
相反 -- xiāngfǎn -- on the contrary  
想起 -- xiǎngqǐ -- to recall  
现在 -- xiànzài -- now

笑 -- xiào -- to laugh  
小 -- xiǎo -- small  
些 -- xiē -- some  
喜欢 -- xǐhuān -- to like  
信 -- xìn -- letter  
醒 -- xǐng -- to wake up  
星期 -- xīngqī -- week  
希望 -- xīwàng -- to hope  
学会 -- xuéhuì -- learn  
学习 -- xuéxí -- to learn  
眼(睛) -- yǎn (jīng) -- eye  
严重 -- yánzhòng -- serious  
要 -- yào -- to want  
要饭 -- yàofàn -- to beg for food  
也 -- yě -- and also  
一 -- yī -- one  
一点 -- yīdiǎn -- a little  
衣服 -- yīfú -- clothing  
一个人 -- yīgè rén -- alone  
以后 -- yǐhòu -- after  
已经 -- yǐjīng -- already  
应该 -- yīnggāi -- should  
因为 -- yīnwèi -- because  
一起 -- yìqǐ -- together  
以前 -- yǐqián -- before  
医生 -- yīshēng -- doctor  
以为 -- yǐwéi -- to think, to believe  
一样 -- yīyàng -- same  
一直 -- yīzhí -- always

用 -- yòng -- to use  
又 -- yòu -- again, also  
有 -- yǒu -- to have  
友好 -- yǒuhǎo -- friendly  
有名 -- yǒumíng -- famous  
有人 -- yǒurén -- someone  
由于 -- yóuyú -- due to  
雨 -- yǔ -- rain  
远 -- yuǎn -- far  
愿意 -- yuànyì -- willing  
越过 -- yuèguò -- over  
再 -- zài -- again  
在 -- zài -- in, at  
怎么 -- zěnmě -- how  
站 -- zhàn -- to stand  
长 -- zhǎng -- to grow  
张开 -- zhāng kāi -- open  
找 -- zhǎo -- to search for  
照顾 -- zhàogù -- to take care of  
着火 -- zháohuǒ -- on fire  
着 -- zhe -- (indicates action in progress)  
这 -- zhè -- this  
这儿 -- zhè'er -- here  
这里 -- zhèlǐ -- here  
真 -- zhēn -- true, real  
真正 -- zhēnzhèng -- real  
这些 -- zhèxiē -- these  
只 -- zhǐ -- only  
之 -- zhī -- of

只 -- zhī -- (measure word for animals)  
知道 -- zhīdào -- to know  
周围 -- zhōuwéi -- around  
住 -- zhù -- to live, to hold  
转 -- zhuǎn -- to turn  
转来转去 -- zhuàn lái zhuàn qù -- go around  
撞 -- zhuàng -- collide  
准备 -- zhǔnbèi -- ready, prepare  
自己 -- zìjǐ -- oneself  
仔细 -- zǐxì -- careful  
走 -- zǒu -- to go, to walk  
最 -- zuì -- the most  
做 -- zuò -- to do  
坐 -- zuò -- to sit  
做完 -- zuò wán -- done



## About the Authors



Jeff Pepper (author) is President and CEO of Imagin8 Press, and has written dozens of books about Chinese language and culture. Over his thirty-five year career he has founded and led several successful computer software firms, including one that became a publicly traded company. He's authored two software related books and was awarded three U.S. patents.



Dr. Xiao Hui Wang (translator) has an M.S. in Information Science, an M.D. in Medicine, a Ph.D. in Neurobiology and Neuroscience, and 25 years experience in academic and clinical research. She has taught Chinese for over 10 years and has extensive experience in translating Chinese to English and English to Chinese.

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<sup>1</sup> HSK stands for Hànyǔ Shuǐpíng Kǎoshì (汉语水平考试), the standard test of Mandarin Chinese language proficiency used by the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. There are several different levels, from the beginning 150-word HSK1 to the advanced 5000-word HSK6 level.

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|------------------|-------------------------|
| <sup>2</sup> 船员  | chuányuán – crew        |
| <sup>3</sup> 转   | zhuǎn – to turn         |
| <sup>4</sup> 浪   | làng – a wave           |
| <sup>5</sup> 甲板  | jiǎbǎn – deck of a ship |
| <sup>6</sup> 打   | dǎ – to hit             |
| <sup>7</sup> 石头  | shítou – rocks          |
| <sup>8</sup> 祈祷  | qídǎo – to pray         |
| <sup>9</sup> 死亡  | sǐwáng – death          |
| <sup>10</sup> 桅杆 | wéigān – mast of a ship |
| <sup>11</sup> 仁慈 | réncí – kind, kindness  |
| <sup>12</sup> 飞  | fēi – to fly            |
| <sup>13</sup> 岸  | àn – shore              |