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Thomas Vieira

Tales from the Zuozhuan



*for seven musicians
and narrator*

2021

Thomas Vieira

Tales from the Zuozhuan:

I. The Exile of Chong'er

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Spring in Jiang

4"

Gong



mf

The twenty-first year, spring, the royal first month. A Jin leader went to the aid of Song.

In summer, in the fourth month, it did not rain.

In autumn, in the eighth month, our lord swore a covenant with the Prince of Yu after extinguishing Guo.

In winter, Chong'er came home from the royal hunt.

二十一年春王正月。晋国国君去帮助宋国。

夏四月，大旱。

秋八月，晋献公灭掉虢国后，与虞国国君立约。

冬天，重耳从皇家狩猎场回到晋国。

Double Ears

By spring, life was back to normal for Chong'er — playing his dizi flute, studying with Tutor Yuan, and finding trouble with his brother, Shensheng.

Chong'er liked spending time with Shensheng most of all.

As heir to the throne of Jin, Shensheng was under much pressure. Time with Chong'er was distracting and fun.

And musical. Always musical with Chong'er. His name meant "Double Ears", a name their father Lord Xian had given him.

到了春天，重耳的生活又恢复了正常——吹笛子，跟着师傅杜原款学习，找哥哥申生的麻烦。

重耳最喜欢和申生在一起。

作为晋国的继承人，申生承受着很大的压力。申生和重耳在一起的时光既放松又愉快。

还充满着音乐。申生总是能听到重耳的音乐声。他的名字意为“双耳”，这是他们的父亲晋献公给他取的名字。

The image features two large, bold, black Chinese characters, '重' (Chong) and '耳' (er), written in a traditional cursive or brush-stroke style. The characters are positioned side-by-side, with '重' on the left and '耳' on the right. The ink is applied with varying degrees of pressure, creating thick, expressive strokes and some internal shading. The background is plain white, making the black ink stand out sharply.

Oracle Bone Divination

Earlier, Lord Xian had wanted to take the Xirong beauty Li Ji as wife.

He divined about this by turtle shell, and the result was unlucky. Then he divined by milfoil, and the result was lucky.

The lord planned to follow the milfoil, but the diviner warned him, "Milfoil divination lacks where the turtle shell excels. You should follow the turtle shell. Otherwise great misfortune will come!"

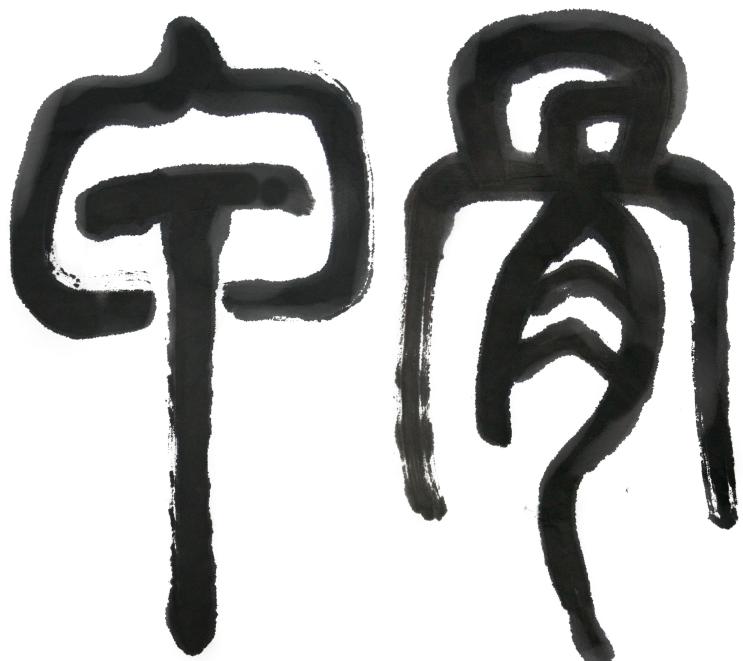
Lord Xian ignored the diviner and took Li Ji as wife. She bore Xiqi and Zhuozi, and began plotting against Shensheng, to install her own son on the throne...

当初，晋献公想把西戎美人骊姬立为夫人。

便用龟甲来占卜，结果不吉利。然后用蓍草占卜，结果吉利。

晋献公说：“照占筮的结果办。”卜人警告他：“占筮不灵验，龟卜很灵。不如照龟卜的结果办。否则大祸临头！”

晋献公不听卜人的话，把骊姬立为夫人。骊姬生了奚齐和卓子，并开始密谋反对申生，让她自己的儿子登上王位.....



Palace Intrigue

Li Ji conspired with the lord's most trusted advisers, Entertainer Shi and the Two-Wu Clique. They tricked Lord Xian to send Shensheng, Chong'er, and their brother Yiwu away to other cities. Only Li Ji's children remained in the capital.

Then Li Ji tricked Shensheng to offer a dream sacrifice for his mother and send the ritual meat and wine to his father.

Li Ji secretly poisoned the meat — when the lord offered some to the earth it boiled up. A dog tasted it and died. A servant tasted it and also died. Lord Xian was furious. Li Ji convinced him that Shensheng had tried to poison him.

He killed his sons' tutor, Yuan, and sent men to capture Shensheng.

骊姬与晋献公最信任的谋士，中大夫士蒍以及双五党派（梁五与东关嬖五）密谋。他们骗晋献公将申生、重耳和他们的弟弟夷吾送去外城。都城里只剩下骊姬的孩子。

骊姬骗申生说：“国君梦见了你母亲，你一定要赶快去祭祀她。”申生把祭祀的酒肉带回来献给了他的父亲。

骊姬在肉中下了毒药献给晋献公，晋献公洒酒祭地，地上的土凸起成堆。拿肉给狗吃，狗被毒死。给宫中廝役尝，廝役也死了。晋献公大怒。骊姬说服了晋献公，说申生想毒害他。

晋献公杀了申生的师傅杜原款，并派人去抓申生。



Shensheng's Choice

Shensheng fled to the New City. He called for the person he trusted most, Chong'er: "Come to the New City, at the North gate, when the night is most still."

They met under cover of darkness. Shensheng felt he could not tell his father the truth, that Li Ji had deceived him — this would break his father's heart. And he could not continue to run — he would appear guilty to all. Chong'er could not understand. Shensheng should do what is right, what is true, even if that meant hurting their father.

Shensheng thanked Chong'er for his council, and warned him of the danger — he was next in line for the throne. With tears in their eyes they said goodbye. They both knew it would be their last.

In the twelfth month, on the wushen day, Shensheng hanged himself at the New City.

申生逃往新城。他写了一封信给自己最信任的人重耳：“速来新城。在最夜深人静的时辰在北门见面。”

重耳在夜色的掩护下抵达。他的思绪在飞驰。他们的父亲怎么会相信这个可怕的女人而不是他自己的儿子？

申生觉得自己不能把实情告诉父亲，骊姬欺骗了自己——这会让父亲心碎。而且他不能继续逃跑——所有人都会觉得他有罪。重耳无法理解申生的想法。申生应该做正确的事情，还原事实真相，即使这意味着伤害自己的父亲。

申生感谢重耳与他密会，并警告他有危险——他是下一个继承王位的人。他们含着泪说再见。申生和重耳都知道这将是他们两最后一次的见面。

十二月戊申日，申生在新城上吊自杀。



Five Worthy Sage-Advisers

As spring turned to summer, and summer faded to autumn, Chong'er's life was upside-down. He was still living in the walled city of Pu on the outskirts of Jin, far away from the capital.

His best friend, his brother, the one person who truly understood him, was gone.

Fortunately, he had his sage-advisers with him. Five worthy gentlemen at his side, his trusted companion-ministers. He was closest to Hu Yan, with his always wise council.

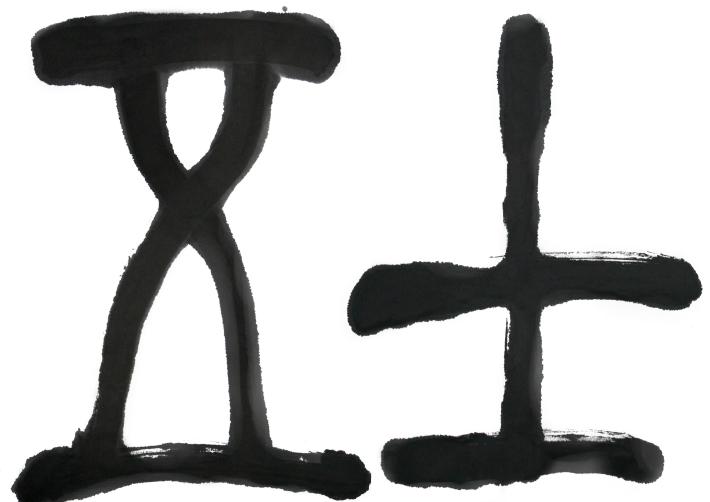
They must have seen something in Chong'er that he himself could not yet — a glimmer of his destiny.

春去夏来，夏去秋来，重耳的人生发生了天翻地覆的变化。他还住在远离都城的晋郊外的蒲城。

他最好的朋友，他的哥哥，一个真正了解他的人，已经不在了。

幸运的是，他身边有很多贤明的谋士。他身边有五位贤明的谋士，是他信赖的同伴-大臣。他与狐偃最亲近，狐偃议事睿智。

他们一定在重耳身上看到了他自己还没有看到的东西——他命运的一丝曙光。



Flight from Jin

Back in the capital, Li Ji and the Two-Wu Clique continued to slander the remaining noble sons — they convinced Lord Xian that Chong'er and his brother Yiwu were plotting to usurp the throne.

So the lord sent assassins against his own blood. To the walled city of Pu, he sent the Eunuch Pi, who they called Leather Slippers.

Chong'er was playing his dizi flute when he heard someone behind him. He lept up and jumped over the city wall, narrowly escaping the assassin's blade. Leather Slippers sliced at Chong'er but only got his sleeve. It fell to the stone as Chong'er slipped away.

Chong'er and his five sage-advisers fled from Jin.

回到都城，骊姬和双五党派继续诽谤剩下的两位王族公子——他们让晋献公相信重耳和夷吾密谋篡位。

于是晋献公派了刺客来对付他的血亲。到了蒲城城墙，晋献公派出了一个叫勃鞮的宦官，此人外号履鞮。

重耳正在吹笛子，听到身后有人。他一跃而起，跃过城墙，侥幸躲过刺客的刀锋。勃鞮追赶，只斩下重耳的衣袖。重耳溜走，他跳落到了石头上。

重耳和他的五位谋士逃离晋国。



Autumn with the Red Di

The twenty-second year, autumn, the royal eighth month.

Chong'er and his sage-advisers traveled north to the tribe of the Red Di. This was Chong'er's mother's tribe.

He couldn't believe what had happened this year. His world was on fire — Li Ji had turned his father against him, Shensheng was dead, and he was living in a strange land of strange people with strange customs.

Chong'er wasn't sure what would happen next, but he was thankful to have Hu Yan and the others with him. Little did he know just how important they would become...

二十二年秋王八月。

重耳和他的谋士北上，来到了翟国。这是重耳母亲的故国。

他无法相信这一年发生的事情。他的世界处于一片火海—骊姬背叛了他的父亲，申生死了，他来到了一个陌生的土地，陌生的人，陌生的风土人情。

重耳不知道接下来会发生什么，但他很庆幸有狐偃等人在身边。他几乎不知道这五位谋士会变得多么重要.....

