



Protection for Living beings





Protection for Living beings

Writing and Illustrations

cherishing Life

Cultivating a Good Heart

and Respecting All Living Things

Animals in Harmony with Humans V.

Sympathetic to their Suffering



Introduction

A highly regarded monk, Master Hong Yi (1880-1942), also named Li Su Tong, was a pioneer of Chinese culture art. His works of poetry, drama, and music combined with teachings of Buddhism have been enjoyed and respected for years in Asia.

In 1928, his student Feng Zi Kai (1898-1975), a monk and artist, committed to illustrating a book of protection for living beings to honor his teacher's birthday. Ten years later, on Hong Yi's fiftieth

birthday, the first edition was finished. It contained fifty of Master Hong Yi's stories. On Hong Yi's sixtieth birthday, Feng Zi Kai released another illustrated edition with sixty more works by Master Hong Yi. Then Hong Yi passed away, but his loyal student continued his work and published seventy writings seventy years after Master Hong Yi's birth. This continued until the one hundred anniversary of Hong Yi's birth when the sixth edition was published containing one hundred more works by Hong Yi. Feng Zi Kai did not have the opportunity to see his works published be-

fore he passed away, however, he has inspired others to this type of work.

While studying in Japan, Feng Zi Kai was enamored with the style of a Japanese Artist's work. His name was Zu Jiu Men Er and he had a tremendous influence on his paintings. A Nobel prize winning artist from India, Tagor (1861-1941) stated that Feng Zi Kai's "combination of poems and illustrations is an extraordinary creation. " Living in a chaotic and destructive time, Feng Zi Kai persevered and devoted forty-six years of his heart and mind to create Protection for All Living Beings.

Here is presented the most memorable thirty-three of these writings translated into English. It is hoped these works can help us reflect on and return to a simpler and more nurturing mindset, providing for a more compassionate embrace and dignified view of all living things.

——— Ven. shih, Wu Jin

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1. The Dutiful Crows

The crow, the crow sings to me.

The crow, the crow is really filial.

The elder crows can fly no more
and call for the young crows.

The young crows leave for food
and return everyday.

They will feed the elders first
because the elders used to feed them.

反哺



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 5

2. A Compassionate Heart

Once upon a time, there was a king named Mong-Sun. One day, he was out hunting and caught a live baby deer. He placed it in his carriage and continued his hunt. On the way back to the palace, the mother deer followed behind Chin's carriage crying. Chin Shi-Bah was a kind and compassionate person. He could not bear to part this mother and son. He stopped the carriage and let the little deer go.

母鹿道呼



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 6

3. A Mother's undying Love

A hunter shot a bear in the woods. Surprisingly, the bear was sitting still. The hunter came close to see how this could have happened and he saw the dead bear holding a big stone. Underneath were three cubs playing in the water. Then he came to realize that if the mother bear had dropped the stone, those three cubs could have been killed. Afterwards, he never hunted again.

已死的母熊



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 2

4. Respectful Burial

Long ago, in the town of Hwyne, lived a family who had just killed the dog they raised. They cooked and ate the dog leaving a pile of bones on the ground. The three puppies howled with sorrow then dug a hole. They carried their mother's bones with their teeth and buried them in a hole. The people of Hwyne were touched by this and word soon spread throughout whole town.

葬母



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

5. A Cat's loyalty

Wang's father, a Jiang Ning county official, had a seventy-year-old concubine who adored cats and raised thirteen of them. She treated them as her own children and even gave each of them a name. They would come when she called them by name. In the year of Chien Long during the Ching dynasty, the old madam died. The thirteen cats surrounded her coffin with grief. They wouldn't eat nor would they drink. They all died after three days.

猫殉主



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 6

6. A Crippled Dog

This is a special dog. He moves very slowly. Take a close look., one leg is paralyzed. He must have been beaten for stealing food. We regard ourselves as the most intellectual beings in the universe and look down on dogs as animals. The dog is hurt because he is not a human being. Doesn't that show the cruelty of the human-mind?

跛
狗

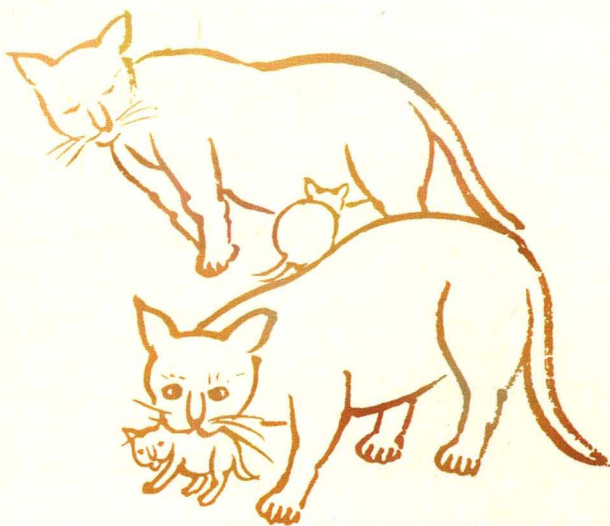


• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 5

7. Adopting Kittens

In the Tang dynasty, a family of Wang who lived in Bei-Ping had two cats and both had kittens at the same time. Unfortunately, one cat died right after giving birth to the kittens. The kittens still tried to suck on mother's milk. The other cat was also feeding her kittens. She heard the cry of those orphan kittens and went searching for them. She found them nearly dead from hunger. She then took them one by one to her nest and fed them like her own.

托
孤



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 5

8. The Devoted Donkey

At the end of the Ming dynasty, a barbarian named Lee Tzu-Chen took over the Si-Chuan Province with his tribes. The general of the Province had all his family jump into a well followed by himself. It is said even servants must die for their country. It is considered patriotic behavior. When the general and his family committed suicide, a donkey that belonged to the general was there as well. It panicked but in the end to follow its master.

白
爐
狗
主



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

9. Making Right a Wrong

We are not saints. And no doubt we do make mistakes, just like a white cloth that gets dirty. We must admit our mistakes and correct our wrong doings, just like we wash out the dirt on the cloth. As long as kindness is in mind, everything that we touch in the universe will become beautiful.

懺悔



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 1

10. Treasure Life

Escape from a mundane place.

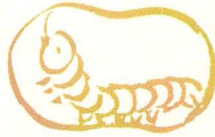
Look down on killing even more.

Make a shirt from the fibers of lotus.

The soft feeling on my skin is the same.

Free the silkworms and free my sin.

Pity them because each of them is a living being.



一方絲羅巾
千百春
醫命

• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 5

11. Emerging Beauty

See the ugly restless worms but don't harm the larvae.

They become beautiful butterflies when the spring comes and add beauty to the sky!



蜕化



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 5

12. Instinct for Survival

We all know the meaning of "cherish living things, and, living things have a natural instinct for surviving". Live stock flop helplessly when they see a butcher with a knife in his hand. Tears run down pigs' faces when they hear a price has been offered on their heads. They all know well what fate is lying ahead. They can't express their fear for they are speechless, not being able to communicate to humans.

人之初
性本善



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 3

13. Returning a Favor

Long ago there was a farmer who lived in a rural area of Hwa-Jung County. One day a big elephant lied down on the yard and it looked to be in great pain. The man found a big wooden stick stuck in its foot. He took out the stick and took care of the wound. After the wound was healed, the elephant carried the farmer and went to the mountains to dig out the precious ivory for the man. The man then realized that the elephant was showing its gratitude towards him.

酬謝



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

14. Release the Fish

Lee Chun-Yuan was just about to kill a fish. Then, he recalled a dream which he had the night before: A conservatively dressed woman said to him: "I am carrying over five thousand babies in my abdomen. If I am alive, they will all be alive; if I die, they will all die. Please have mercy on me and let me be!" Lee Chun-Yuan let the fish go and decided never to kill again. Not too long after, he found a precious pearl in the stream.



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 6

15. Identifying the Murderers

In Chu State, there was an old monk killed by robbers in a temple. His disciples fled to report the incident. The monk's dog followed behind. When they passed a tavern, a group of people were drinking and dining. Suddenly, the dog ran in and bit a man's leg. Just then, an official saw the dog's action and thought there must be some reason for it. Therefore, he handcuffed and arrested the men. They admitted their guilt after being interrogated.

緝獲兇手



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

16. The Cooperation of Ants

I am sure that we all have seen the marvel of ants transporting the food. They show so much devotion to each other as a team. It doesn't matter how tough and complex the terrain is, they still keep themselves in line. Through ups and downs they never give up being in the team. The determination in fulfilling the goals and the spirit of sacrificing for the good of all really deserves respect and praise.

運糧



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 2

17. Consideration for Others

There was a family with thirteen generations who lived together under one roof in the town of Deh-Ann of the province of Chiang. Over seven hundred people resided together without any servants. They worked in perfect harmony. After a hard day's work, they would gather in one room and the children in another. They had more than one hundred dogs that shared a big manger. During mealtime, if one dog was missing, the others would all wait till he or she showed up.

一犬不至
群犬不食

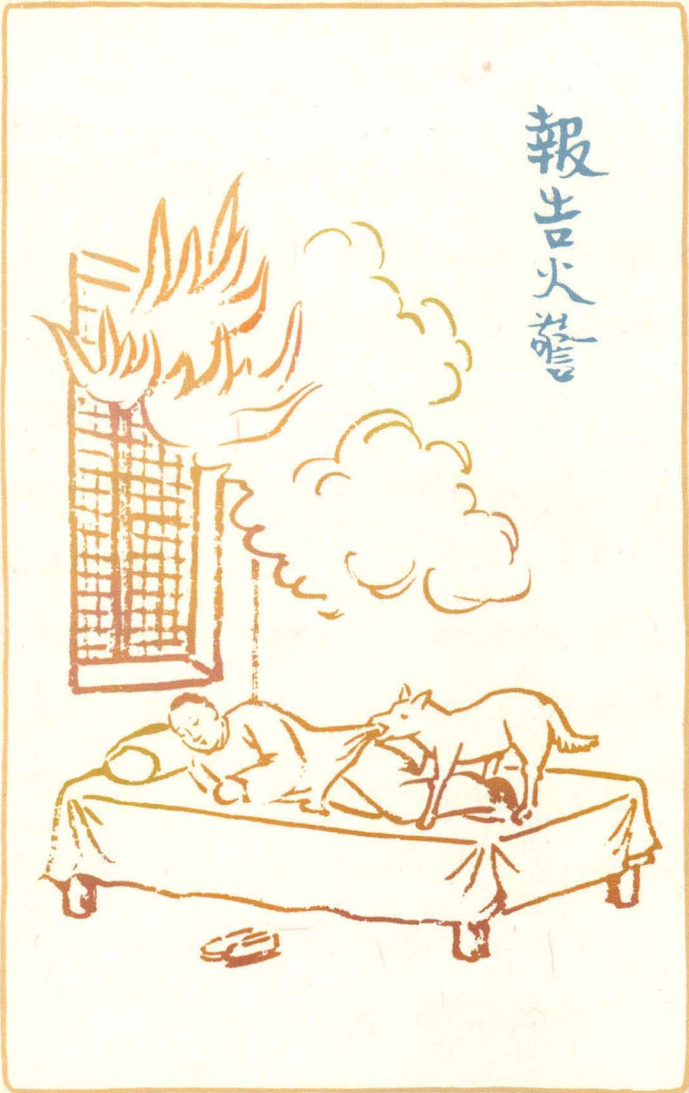


• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 6

18. The Fire Alarm Dog

Lu Ming-Yen saw a pitiful looking dog that was nearly dead from hunger. So he took him home and kept him. One day, Lu fell asleep on his bed from being drunk. Just then, a fire started from next door and rapidly spread to his house. The dog got on the bed and barked in his ear but with no effect. The dog then dragged him out of bed until he awoke. The bedroom door was already on fire and the house was full of smoke. If there had been even the slightest delay, Lu's life certainly would have been taken by the fire.

報告火警



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

19. Pleading for Life

A butcher named Ann who was living in Bing Province had a female goat and a baby goat. Just when he was tightening up the female goat's hoofs, the baby goat got down on his knees in tears. The butcher, amazed at what he had seen, dropped the knife and went out to get his assistant. When he returned with his assistant, they saw the baby goat lying on top of the knife. Listening to his conscience, he released the female goat and let both mother and baby goat go free into the wild.

為母之命



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

20. The Education of Children

To wish our children to carry on their life with a goodness of heart, we should educate them when they are young. Our first impressions have long lasting implications and prejudice is very difficult to alter, and often affects the rest of their lives. We must therefore be consistent in guiding our children. We must continuously teach them to be compassionate toward all people they come in contact with and toward all things. They will naturally grow up with a fine and caring personality.

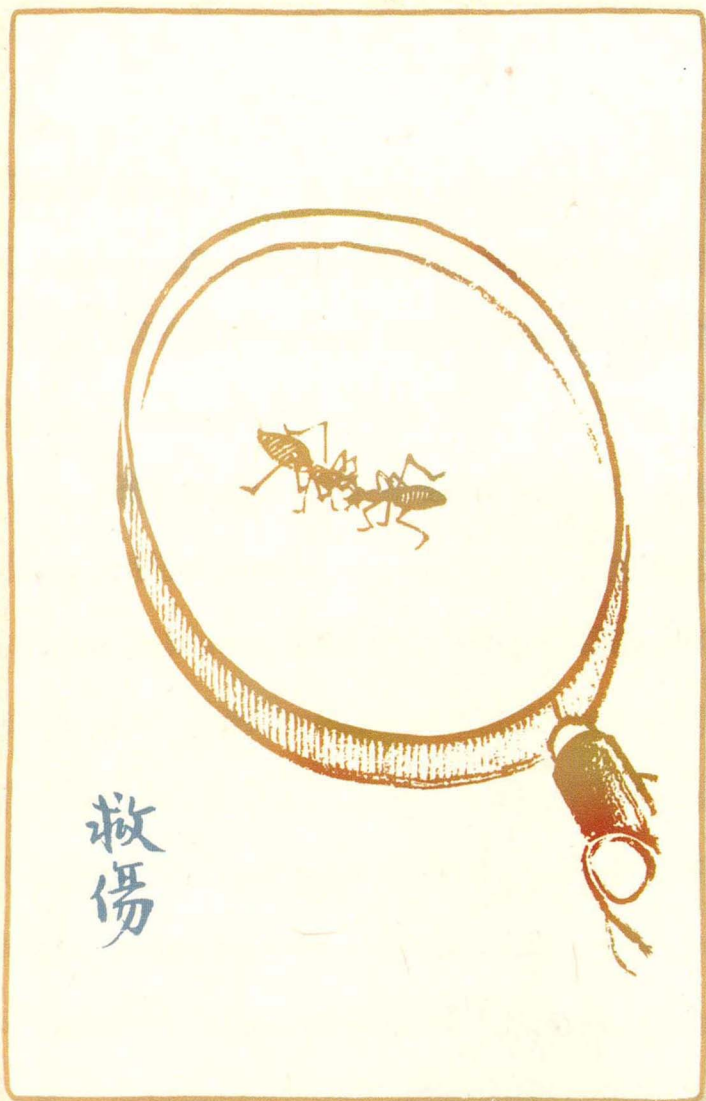
見戲



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 1

21. The Spontaneous

I had just finished my new poem. Putting down my pen and musing freely, I spotted something moving on the corner of my desk. It looked like an ant but it was not, nor was it a fly. I took a closer look. A fascinating picture appeared in front of my eyes. Two ants were helping a wounded ant. They carried its legs struggling towards the corner of the wall. I gain a great deal of respect to seeing such little insects understand the sense of helping others in time of need. And I believe that all living souls have the same spontaneous nature.



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 5

22. Adoption

A boy named Chang Yuan couldn't bear to see a pitiful looking dog wandering on a street, so he took it home. "What do you want it for? Get it out of the house!" said his uncle. Chang Yuan replied with respect: "How could we not care for this living soul? Don't you treasure yours as well? You can't help if it dies from natural causes, but he has been discarded. Watching him die from hunger is an unconscionable thought. So I want to adopt this poor dog." After listening to his statements, the uncle finally agreed to let him keep the dog.

牧養



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

23. Brotherly Love

In a place called Hsian-Shi, Tong-Yung had two dogs, one was white, the other with spots. They were from the same mother and both of them were smart. The white dog became blind and lost the ability to eat in the house. Tong then laid some hay outside of the house for the white dog. The spotted dog would bring food and feed the blind dog. He even slept outside with him each night till the white dog died. Tong buried the dog underneath the hill. The spotted dog would run back and forth to the cemetery everyday with grief.

盲犬待哺



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 6

24. Meeting Once Again

In ancient times, there was a soldier named Lu. He raised two cranes in his office, and they were gentle birds. One day, one of the cranes died from being teased by someone. The other one wouldn't eat or drink feeling sad for his friend's death. He finally accepted a little food from Lu who was trying so hard to comfort him. Then, Lu said to him: "Do you want to go? Go ahead, I will not stop you". He flew around the top of Lu's head, then into the sky. Three years passed, Lu was sick and frag-

舊雨重逢



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

ile from his old age. Without any children, he went back to his hometown and lived alone in a small house by a stream. One day in autumn, he was walking around in the woods with a cane. Suddenly, he heard a crane's twitter on top of his head. Lu looked up and said: "Crane! Are you my old friend from the Chen State? If you are, then you should come down right away!" The crane came down and pulled Lu's shirt by its beak with passion. After a few years, Lu passed away. The crane consequently also died from sadness.

The relatives buried the crane next to his master so that they could live together forever.



25. A Dog to the Rescue

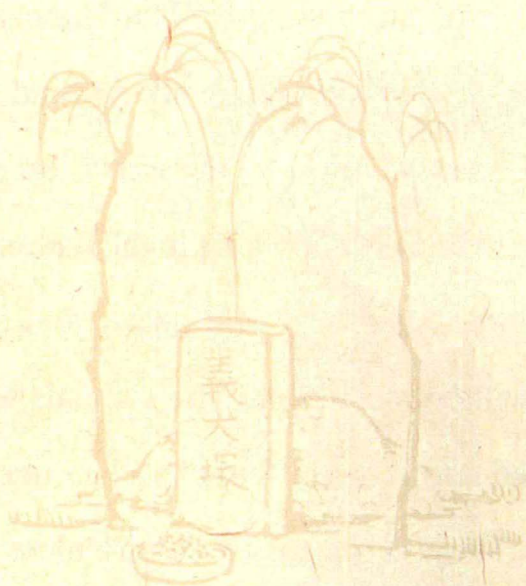
In the Wu dynasty, a man, Ji Hsin-Tsuen had a dog named Woo-Long which followed Ji wherever he went. One day, he attended his friend's party out of town and got drunk. On the way back, he fell asleep in a hay loft. Ironically, an official named Deng was hunting with his crew. They burned the hay loft to get the animals out of the habitat. The dog saw the fire but he couldn't wake his master up. So he jumped into a stream and ran back and forth to wet the hay. Still unable to put out the fire, he

清明



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

then rolled himself on the hay. Finally, the fire ceased and saved his master from burning to death. When the man woke up, he saw the loft was gone and his dog was wet and dead from burns he received. He figured out what the dog had done for him. The official asked Ji why he was weeping. After hearing such a touching story, Deng put a vestment on the dog and buried him in the same manner in which humans were put to rest in those times. Even today, the tomb still exists.



26. Skilled at Ending Life

The Zeng-Tsung king was Emperor and compassionate. One day while reading in the garden he was upset by a story he came across. The story stated: "The Chou-Kao Emperor was taking a walk around the Nan-Chuan pavilion by the water. He saw two wild ducks swimming in the water. He then took out a bow and arrow and shot both without hesitation. The officials were amazed and thought that it was an uneasy feat . They came up to congratulate the Emperor and said: "Your majesty's shoot-

送
傷
生
藝



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

ing skill is the greatest. Hurrah for the King!" Zeng-Tsung closed up the book and said to his officials: "I despise those who kill freely because they think they are good at it. I often told my chefs who have been working for me for the past fifteen years, " do not kill animals for food unless it is necessary. I hate terrorizing living beings."



27. Stealing Beauty

There was a beautiful princess from the Wei dynasty who liked to dress up fancy. She had an embroidered gown with a feather on it. The sparkling shine made her look like a fairy. One day, the king saw her in this dress and spoke to her in a serious tone: "Take off this gown right now and never ever wear anything with a feather." The princess laughed and replied: "How many feathers do we need for a dress?" The king said: "You are the princess of the country. I am afraid that the royal families will all take after your example. Even

雙棲
翡翠



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

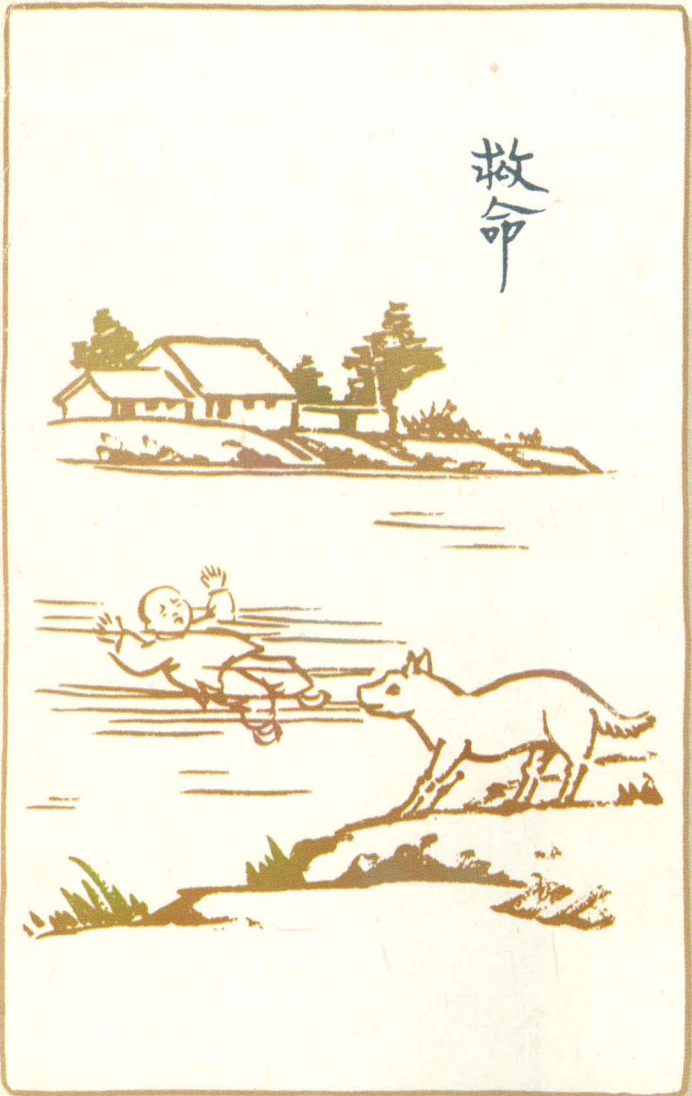
more, the common people will do the same as well. The merchants will do anything they can to catch birds for the feathers as long as there is money to be made. If so, the countless lives would be taken because of you. The sin would be unimaginable.



28. Live Saver

There was a poor family named Yen living in Hu State in the Zhe-Chiang Province. One day, the Yen couple went out to work and left their five-year-old daughter home alone. The little girl played by the pond in front of the house. However, she carelessly fell in the pond. Their dog jumped into the water and pulled her out of the pond. But the little girl had drunk so much water that she was unconscious. The dog then ran to the place where the father worked. When he saw the dog, he knew something was wrong at home. He rushed

救命



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

back and luckily was able to save his child
in time.





29. The Vegetarian

A traveler came to his friend's house for a night. His friend greeted him with warmth and specified that he was going to kill a chicken for dinner. A compassionate thought came to the traveler, as he said: "Oh, please don't kill the chicken. I am a vegetarian." During the night, the traveler heard the cry of the chicken. He thought there was a weasel after it. He got up quickly and checked. Just then, a wall collapsed on the bed. The master came to see what happened. He was ter-

我樂善



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 6

rified that the traveler might be dead under the rubble. The guest room was right next to the chicken cage, and the chicken sensing the trouble beforehand had warned this nice man. Both the traveler and the chicken saved each other's life.



30. A Lifetime of Service

Lu Kee was born in the time of the Jing dynasty. He had a dog named Yellow-ear which he adored very much. Lu Kee stayed in the city for a long period of time and missed his family very much. One day, he was whispering to his dog jokingly : "Can you be my messenger?" The dog wagged his tail agreeing . So Lu Kee wrote a few words then tied the letter on the dog's neck. Usually, it would take thirty days for the round trip to Lu Kee's hometown, but it only took Yellow-ear twenty days to do

靈犬



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 5

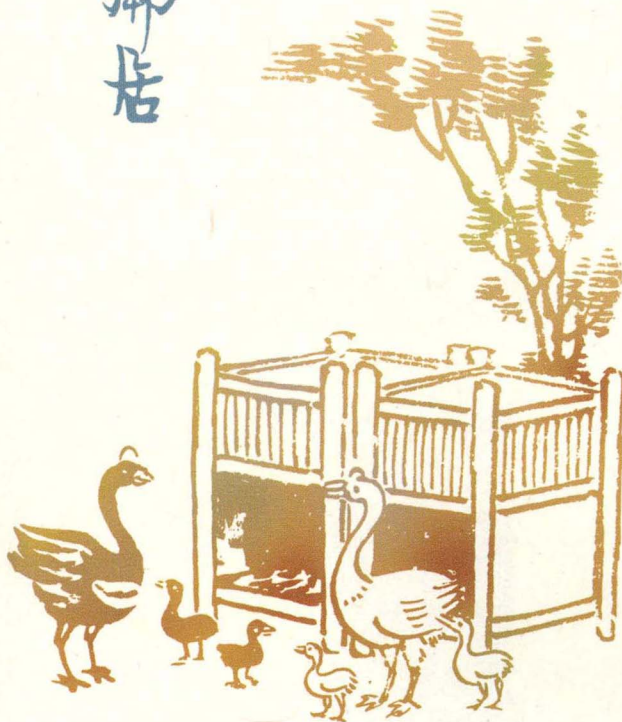
so. Afterwards, Yellow-ear carried on the job till he passed away. Lu Kee gave Yellow-ear a special burial and erected a monument to show his gratitude for Yellow-ear's loyalty.



31. Looking Out for Neighbors

Chen-Si was from the province of Chang. He raised two geese, one is black and the other is white. The two nests were right next to each other and both of the geese bred their own babies. One day, the black goose died, and all the baby black geese cried that they lost their mother and no one could lead the way anymore. However, the white goose would go next door to call out the black baby geese every morning and lead them to the field for food with her own babies. At night, she would settle the black baby geese back to their nest then

鄰居



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

her own. People who had seen this all highly praised what the righteous white goose had done.



32. Mercy For Life

In the town of Chang of Hsiou-Ning County, there was a hunter named Chang Wu. One time, he was chasing a doe. This doe had two babies with her, and, therefore, could not run fast to avoid the hunter. She knew that they would die eventually. Then she saw the loose soil of a field. She quickly covered the baby deer in the soil, made herself an easy target, and got caught in the net. At the same time, Chang Wu's mother saw what had happened and felt touched. She ran to her son immediately

折箭
焚弓



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 4

and told him the whole story. Chang Wu then regretted that he had previously killed so many animals. He set the mother free, who, in turn, found her baby. Finally, he destroyed all his hunting nets, bows and arrows, and never hunted again.





33. A Dying Dog

Once there was a merchant who had gone out to collect debts with his dog. They had a little rest on the way home. After a while, he began his journey again. Suddenly, the dog barked and held on to the merchant's leg with his teeth. The merchant got very angry and hurt the dog badly. The dog was wounded severely and could only ran away. The merchant walked for a long way before he realized that he had left his money pouch at the place they were resting. "The dog's barking was to re-

垂死的犬



• Abstract from "Protection for Living beings" series 2

mind me of my money pouch. How could I hurt such a loyal dog mindlessly?" Rushing back to the spot, the merchant found his wounded dog lying on top of the money pouch. After seeing his master, the dog gave a long howl and died.



STORIES OF RESPECT FOR ALL LIVING BEINGS

- | | | |
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