

(1) The Wishing Tree

A traveler was walking on a hot day. He was feeling tired, thirsty, and hungry.

He needed a spot to sit in the shade to rest for a while. He saw a big tree. When he arrived at the tree he felt relieved and said to himself, "Now, I need water to drink." He found a bottle full of cold water on the ground right in front of him. He sat down and started drinking the water. After, he wished "I want something to eat." Immediately, a dishes of food appeared before him. He was under the shade of a magical tree.

The magic tree granted wishes. Whoever was under it would have whatever they wished for!

The traveler enjoyed the good food. Then, he felt tired. He wished for a nice bed. The bed appeared. He stretched himself comfortably on the soft bed. His legs were sore, because he had walked for so long. He hoped that someone would massage his feet. Yes, his wish came true and a young woman appeared next to his feet. She started massaging his feet and legs. He soon went to sleep.

After a long time he woke up. The woman was still sitting beside him. He now wondered. "How can this be? Can I have things, I wish for, by asking for them? Is it some kind of trick played by a demon?" Just then a demon appeared in place of the nice woman ! The demon was laughing at him. The traveler worried to himself, "Is he going to eat me up?" Then, the demon started leaping at him, with his mouth open. The scared traveler got up and ran away.

He ran and ran for a long time. When he looked back there was no demon. "What was all this? Did these things really happen? Or was it all just a dream?" the traveler started wondering. "Maybe what I thought came true, not only wishes."

He shrugged his shoulders and resumed his journey.

(2) The Giving Student

Lin Piao often didn't go to class. One day the teacher decided to expel him. So the teacher sent for the young man. Lin arrived just as the teacher was about to go for lunch.

"Is this the time to come?" said the teacher, sternly.

"I'm sorry, Sir," said Lin, "but I got to school very late today. You see, I found a lump of gold in our field."

"A lump of gold!" said the teacher, his eyes popping out. "Oh, my, what are you going to do with it?"

"I decided I will build a palace, then I will buy several acres of land and several heads of cattle," said the student. "I also decided to give you a small sum for the trouble you have taken in educating me."

The teacher was pleased and invited Lin to eat with him. The young man devoured the food but the teacher hardly touched his food. He was wondering how much Lin would give him and if it would be enough to buy that small paddy field he had always wanted.

"I hope you've kept the gold in a safe place," he said, coming out of his trance.

"I never got a chance to do that," said Lin. "It went away the moment my mother shook me awake."

"What!" screamed the teacher. "You mean it was all a dream?!"

The young man nodded.

"I'm happy you remembered me in your dream," he said, "I hope you remember me when you really get some gold. Now, please leave."

It was only when the young man had left that the teacher remembered why he had sent for him.