

附：英译中材料

蜘蛛阿南西和会说话的甜瓜

Anansi and¹ the talking melon

Retold by Eric A. Kimmel



(1)

One fine morning Anansi the Spider sat high up in a thorn tree (刺树, cì shù) looking down into Elephant's garden (园子). Elephant was hoeing (锄, chú) his melon patch (甜瓜地). The ripe melons seemed to call out to Anansi, "Look how sweet and juicy we are! Come eat us!"

Anansi loved to eat melons, but he was much too lazy to grow them himself. So² he sat up in the thorn tree, watching and waiting, while the sun rose high in the sky and the day grew warm.



By the time noon came, it was too hot to work. Elephant put down his hoe(锄头, chútóu) and went inside his house to take a nap.

This was the moment Anansi had been waiting for. He broke off (折断, zhéduàn) a thorn and dropped down into the melon patch. He used the thorn to bore a hole in the biggest, ripest melon.

(2)

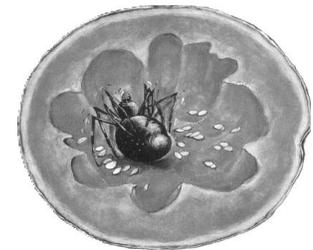
Anansi squeezed(挤, jǐ) inside and started eating. He ate and ate until he was round as a berry (浆果, jiāngguǒ).

"I'm full," Anansi said at last. "Elephant will be coming back soon. It is time to go."

But when he tried to squeeze through the hole, Anansi got a surprise (大吃一惊). His body was too big to get out of the melon!

"I can't get out!" Anansi cried. "I will have to wait until I am thin again."

Anansi sat down on a pile(堆, duī) of melon seeds and waited to get thin. Time passed slowly.



¹ The word "and" seems to have same meaning as the Chinese word "和". However, "和" is much less frequently used in Chinese than "and" in English. For example, in this story the word "and" appears 20 times. When translated into English, only five of them (see those underlined with a straight line like "and") need to use "和". For the other 15 times (those underlined with a saw-tooth line like "and"), we use other words like "又", or, for most cases, simply add a comma to serve the function of "and".

² The situation of the word "so" and "所以" is similar to that of "and" and "和" —— "所以" is much less frequently used in Chinese than "so" in English. In this story "so" appears five times. Only this first "so" needs to be translated as "所以" (since its mood is close to "therefore"). For the other four times we need to use other Chinese words, or simply eliminate it.

(3)

Just then he heard Elephant returning to the garden. Anansi had an idea. "When Elephant gets closer, I will say something. Elephant will think the melon is talking. What fun!"

Elephant walked over to the melon patch. "Look at this fine melon. How big and ripe it is!" he said, picking(摘,zhāi) it up.

"Ouch(哟,yo)!" cried Anansi.

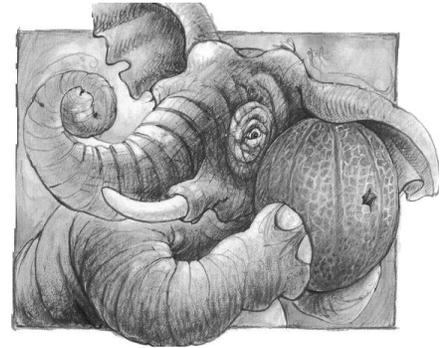
Elephant jumped. "Aah! Who said that?"

"I did. The melon," Anansi said.

"I didn't know melons could talk," said Elephant.

"Of course we do. We talk all the time. The trouble is (问题是), you never listen."

"I can't believe my ears!" Elephant exclaimed. "A talking melon(会说话的甜瓜)! Who could believe it? I must show this to the king." Elephant ran down the road, carrying the melon with Anansi inside. Along the way he ran into(遇到了,yùdào) Hippo(河马).



(4)

"Where are you going with that melon?" Hippo asked.

"I'm taking it to the king," Elephant told him.

"What for? The king has hundreds of melons."

"He doesn't have one like this," Elephant said. "This is a talking melon."

Hippo didn't believe Elephant. "A talking melon? How ridiculous it is (多傻 shǎ 呀)! That's as ridiculous as (傻 shǎ 得像)..."

". . . a skinny hippo," the melon said.

Hippo got so angry his face turned red. "Who said that? Did you say that, Elephant?"

"It wasn't me. It was the melon," Elephant said. "I told you it talks. Do you believe me now?"

"I do!" Hippo exclaimed. "I want to go with you. I want to hear what the king says when you show him this talking melon."

"Come along, then(那么, 跟我来)," said Elephant. So Elephant and Hippo went down the road together, carrying the melon.

(5)

By and by, they ran into Warthog(野猪). "Where are you taking that melon?" Warthog asked them.

"We're taking it to the king," Elephant and Hippo told him.

"What for? The king has hundreds of melons," Warthog said.

"He doesn't have one like this," Hippo replied. "This melon talks. I heard it."

Warthog started to laugh. "A talking melon? How ridiculous it is! That's as ridiculous as..."

"A handsome(英俊,yīngjùn) warthog," said the melon. Warthog got so angry he shook all over (气得浑身发抖,hún shēn fā dǒu). "Who said that? Did you say that, Elephant? Did you say that, Hippo?"

"Of course not!" Hippo and Elephant told him. "The melon talks. Do you believe us now?"



"I do!" cried Warthog. "Let me go with you. I want to see what the king does when you show him this talking melon."

Along the way, they met Ostrich (鸵鸟, tuóniǎo), Rhino(犀牛, xīniú), and Turtle(乌龟, wūguī). They didn't believe the melon could talk either until they heard it for themselves. Then they wanted to come along too.

(6)

The animals came before the king. Elephant placed the melon at the king's feet.

The king looked down. "Why did you bring me a melon?" he asked Elephant. "I have hundred of melons growing in my garden."

"You don't have one like this," Elephant said. "This melon talks."

"A talking melon? I don't believe it. Say something, melon."

The melon said nothing.

The king grew impatient (不耐烦, búnàifán).

"Melon, if you can talk, I want you to say something. I command(命令, mìnglìng) you to speak."

The melon did not make a sound.

The king was even more impatient. "Oh, this is a stupid melon!"

Just then the melon spoke. "Stupid, am I? Why do you say that? I'm not the one who talks to melons!"

The animals had never seen the king so angry. "How dare this melon insult (侮辱, wūrǔ) me!" He shouted. The king picked up the melon and hurled(仍, rēng) it as far as he could.

(7)

The melon bounced and rolled(滚, gǔn) all the way to Elephant's house. KPOM(嘭, pēng)! It smacked into (撞到, zhuàngdào)the thorn tree and burst into pieces. Anansi picked himself up from among the bits of melon rind.

Now that he was thin again, and he was hungry. Anansi climbed the banana tree. He settled himself in the middle of a big bunch of bananas and started eating.

Elephant returned. He went straight to the melon patch.

"You melons got me in trouble(惹麻烦, rě máfan) with the king!" Elephant said. "From now on, you can talk all you like. I'm not going to listen to a word you say!"

"Good for you, Elephant!" Anansi called from the bananas. "We bananas should have warned (警告, jǐnggào) you. Talking melons are nothing but trouble.

