



Meng Chiang-nu and The Dragon

Dr Miss Jyotsna Lal

Associate Prof in Chemistry

Christ Church College ,Kanpur. UP. India. 208001

copyright@Jyotsna Lal 2006



Contents

Chapter 1 The Dragon had a toothache

Chapter 2 The Frog King

Chapter 3 The Dragon and the magic barrel

Chapter 4 Jian Ho turns into a dragon

Chapter 5 Princess Taoqi

Chapter 6 Kai wong

Chapter 7 The Dragon children

Chapter 8 Tien Hou

Chapter 9 The lovers Meng Chiang-nu and Jian Ho

Chapter 10 The Dragon reunion

Chapter 1 The Dragon had a toothache

A poor farmer named Li Tan and his wife lived in Fukien China, he had five children, three lazy daughters, one naughty son Kai Wong and an orphan niece Meng Chiang-nu. The family had only one water buffalo and one small paddy field. Li Tan's wife Su was an invalid. The four lazy daughters spent their whole day singing and drinking tea. They made their cousin Meng Chiang-nu do all the housework and also take care of the water buffalo. The naughty son Kai Wong who played pranks on the people by snatching their straw hats and hanging them on the trees. The only work he did was taking the water buffalo to the forest to graze. One day Kai Wong did not come back from the forest with water buffalo. The lazy daughters ordered Meng Chiang-nu to go and look for their brother. And not come back until she had found him. The orphan girl Meng Chiang-nu went crying into the forest, it was growing dark and she was frightened. Kai Wong and the water buffalo were nowhere to be seen.



Meng Chiang-nu prayed to the Tien Hou the Empress of heaven for protection. The forest was full of wild animals and she was very frightened .

The Empress of heaven was pleased with Meng Chiang-nu, because she knew that Meng Chiang-nu was a hardworking girl. Meng Chiang-nu, had a kind and loving heart so Tien Hou the Empress of heaven gave her the gift of tongues. Now Meng Chiang-nu could speak to the animals. In Fukien, the Yung Mountain range towered to a height of many miles at the peaks.

The northwest part of these mountains, Deep down inside a cavern where the sun has never shone. Neath mountain, rock, and water, lived a giant Dragon all alone, no fire dwelled in his belly inside him is only ice, The coldness coming off him was his only living vice. A length of time uncertain passed since he last fell asleep and cursed will be the fool that wakes him from his slumber deep. It's not that he is evil or that waking makes him mad, but terrorized the people of the region for years. The monster was not pleased with offerings of oxen or sheep. It was roaring and spitting fire and burning the wooden huts. The dragon was wider than the span of ten hands and over seventy feet long. Meng Chiang-nu wandered in the northwest part of these mountains, where the giant dragon lived. Meng Chiang-nu could speak to the animals .



Dragon's eyes, were gold and bright, shining out Into the night. Lighted by
The moon's first kiss scales of green and gold sometimes glittering blue
Fire rising through the mist, people fleeing, full of terror,
Only one girl stands with black hair and soulful eyes
Brave is she, strong and bold..

"Brave are you, don't fear me," asks the dragon

"I will not harm you You may go free."

His golden tears Fell all around.

Dripping softly to the ground.

"Why do you cry, Oh Dragon sir," The maiden asked

To be quite sure. "Oh, maiden, You do not need To know the problems

"But, oh, sweet dragon," She touched his nose

Meng is brave and bold.

The dragon told Meng Chiang-nu , that it was a sick with a toothache and couldnot eat meat .



Meng Chiang-nu could speak to the animals. She asked the animals for help The birds helped by collecting rice grains from the forest .

Bees brought honey from their honeycombs. Butterflies brought sweet nectar from the flowers. Panda bears helped by collecting dry bamboo sticks to make fire , they fashioned a stone bowl for Meng Chiang-nu and brought water to boil the rice.

Meng Chiang-nu was a girl with a kind and loving heart .
Meng Chiang-nu made a huge rice cake for the dragon because
it was a sick with a toothache , it couldnot eat meat
The dragon was hungry ,it was roaring and spitting fire because of the
toothache. The giant dragon was pleased with offerings of rice cake.
It ate up the sweet rice cake and stopped roaring and spitting fire because
of the toothache. The people of Fukien rejoiced and happily began to Make
sweet rice cakes for the giant dragon.
Thanks to Meng Chiang-nu the dragon now wanted to eat only sweet rice
cakes . Upon learning of her kindness and bravery,the King of Fukien
made Meng Chiang-nu his fourth queen and appointed her uncle his
minister, giving the family great riches and position.



=====

Chapter 2

Meng Chiang-nu and The Frog

One day Queen Meng Chiang-nu was walking by the river bank when she saw a frog sitting on a lotus leaf and singing about the emperor and the palace ,his horses and the wedding. Meng Chiang-nu could speak the tongue of animals and knew this was no ordinary frog and decided to make friends with it. Meng Chiang-nu offered the frog a place in the royal palace gardens .The frog happily agreed and began to live in the fountain in the garden



Queen Meng Chiang-nu and her family were very happy but their kingdom of Fukien was small and was invaded by the neighbouring kingdom. So the King called a meeting with his ministers and subjects because their army was very small. The frog also came to the meeting .

No one had a solution then the frog proposed to a plan to fight. Queen Meng Chiang-nu could speak the tongue of animals she explained it to the King who ordered everyone to listen to the frog. The soldiers built a huge coal fire , the frog gobbled up the hot coals. Again and again the soldiers stoked the fire with coals and the frog gobbled up the hot coals.

The frog's belly became bloated up like a huge balloon , it jumped up and sat upon the city gate .The kings army stayed inside the city . The invaders came right upto the city walls but the frog forbade the army to fight back.

The King was very upset but he had agreed to the frogs plan
As soon as the invaders came near the walls the frog ordered the soldiers to open the gate .

The invaders tried to enter the city gate , the frog spat hot coals from its mouth on the invaders who were burnt to death soon the invaders were defeated and the city was saved without any bloodshed .The King made the frog his royal minister as the frog had demanded.



One night Queen Meng Chiang -nu saw the frog shed his skin and become a handsome young man. In the morning he once again became a frog. She told what she saw to the King .

The King called the frog and told Meng Chiang-nu to

question the frog . The frog was very cunning and wicked he told Meng Chiang-nu that his skin coat was very expensive and kept him young.As long as he will wear the frogskin he will never grow old Meng Chiang-nu told the old King what the frog had said. That night the old King hid behind a tree in the garden and saw the frog shed his skin and become a handsome young man. The old King quickly jumped up and picked up the frogskin and wore it. Alas the King became a frog . He had been tricked .



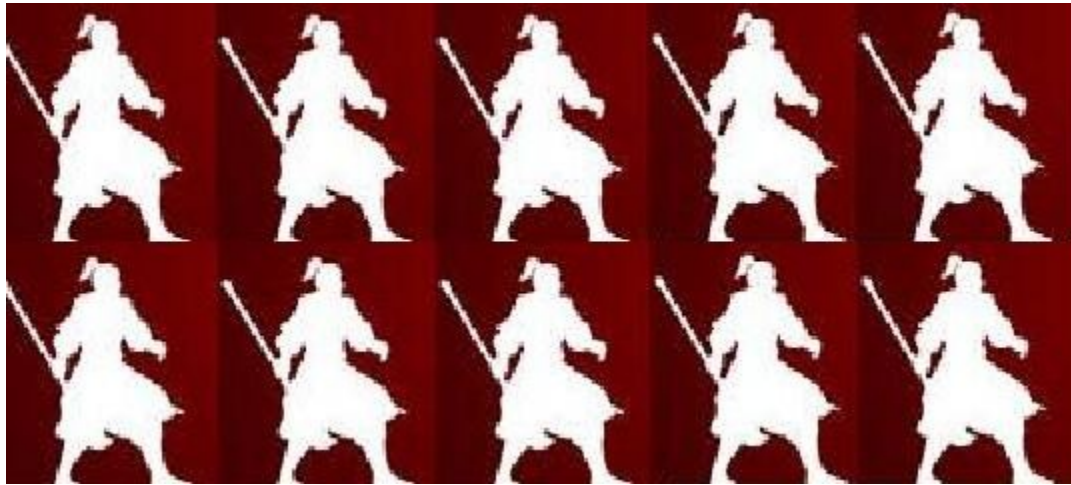
Now the cunning ,wicked FROG became the King after killing the poor king who had turned into a frog . Queen Meng Chiang-nu , the other queens and ministers had no choice .

Chapter 3 Meng Chiang-nu and magic barrel



Now the kingdom of Fukien was ruled by the Frog King and Queen Meng Chiang-nu, the other queens and the ministers had no choice. One day Queen's friend the mighty dragon came to meet her and the Queen told him about the wicked Frog. After listening to her the dragon gave the Frog King a gift. The gift was a magic barrel, the mighty dragon put a rice cake in

the barrel ,immediately the rice cake multiplied into ten rice cakes .
The mighty dragon and the Frog King together ate up the rice cakes.
Then the dragon put a gold coin in the barrel and it multiplied into ten coins .Frog King was very greedy and began putting the gold coins again and again, soon there was a huge pile of gold coins in the palace



The excited Frog King sent for the Queen to show her the magic barrel. Queen Meng Chiang-nu whispered in the Frog King's ear ' If there were ten mighty Frog Kings like you then you could defeat all the neighbouring Kings and become the Emperor '' .
Immediately the Frog King jumped inside the barrel and out of the barrel came ten identical young men . Then another ten came out
All the identical young men began to shout,
“ I am the Emperor ” And the began to fight amongst themselves.
Soon all the identical young men killed each other .
The people of Fukien were freed from the wicked Frog King, the kingdom

of Fukien was ruled by Queen Meng Chiang-nu and the other queens .



The problem was taken care of and mighty dragon must go back to its
lair in the mountains had come ,so the mighty dragon began to pray ,
‘O, Dragon-Maker, who made Shoushu Long , and the open sky,
And gave to me a Shoushu's soul; a Shoushu's urge to fly--
Let me dance with my mate Meng Chiang-nu
In your cloudscapes far beyond Earth's chain,
Let me rejoice in your grandeur, let me not grow vain!
Let me vindicate my honor with my fang and claw,
Let my raging heart show mercy, let heart show no flaw!
Let me have the joy of all the love I've stored for Meng Chiang-nu
And, Lord, should the need arise and I be called to fight,
Dragon-Maker, make me victor, and, God--help Shoushu long !’

Chapter 4 Jian Ho turns into a dragon

The Shoushu long related his lifestory to Meng Chiang nu--

Long ago, near the River Min in the province of Sichuan in China, there lived a woman and her Jian Ho. They were good people, but very poor.

Every day Jian Ho hiked into the countryside to cut grass. This he gathered and sold to the villagers for fodder and fuel. With his small earnings, mother and son managed to survive.

One year a terrible drought struck the land. Life became even harder for the family. The Jian Ho went out as usual every day, gathering what he little he could. He made less and less money. After a while his mother became ill from hunger.

One day Jian Ho was walking beside a dry streambed and came upon the lushest patch of bright green grass he had ever seen. Amazed by his luck, he quickly cut the whole patch, filled his sack and carried it to the village. Jian Ho sold his grass for more money than he had ever made before. Then he returned home and fed his mother a hearty meal.

The next day Jian Ho returned to the same spot in the hills, hoping he might find another green patch. To his astonishment, he saw that the grass he had cut the day before had grown again, just as thick and green. He worked until sunset, and once again traveled to the village and earned enough money to pay for a fine meal.

On the third day Jian Ho again returned to the dry streambed. Again he saw the grass had grown. For five days this went on. Jian Ho and his mother were deeply grateful for the miraculous patch of grass.

But on the sixth day Jian Ho woke and yawned, "Oh, it is so far to walk to my spot." Then he smiled, for he had an idea. He would go to the patch again, but this time he would dig up the magic grass by the roots and bring it back to plant beside their house.

He hiked back into the hills to his patch and worked there for hours, digging up the earth and roots. Suddenly he found, buried in the soil, a beautiful white pearl tinged with pink. Jian Ho held it gently in his palm, watching it gleam in the midday sun. Then he put it in his pocket and finished his work.

That night Jian Ho showed the pearl to his mother. "It's so lovely," she said as she rolled the gem between her fingertips.

"We can sell it!" Jian Ho said happily.

"No, let us keep it for a while," said the mother. "It will be nice to have something so beautiful with us." She put the pearl in the rice jar, and Jian Ho went out to plant his grass.

The next morning Jian Ho awoke early, eager to see his new patch of grass. But when he ran to the window, he saw that the grass was withered and dying. "Oh, I am a fool," he cried. "I have destroyed that which was good. If only I had not been so lazy."

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

