

**M401**  
**The wise toad.**

*Told by Wang Ming-ji*

They say that a crow happened to meet a toad. The crow said, "Toad, I am going to eat you!" The toad replied, "Very well, but my flesh is bitter. If you are going to eat me you ought to carry me over yonder, to the stream, to the edge of the pool, wash me in the water and then you can eat me". The crow answered the toad, "Toad, I am going to eat you, so there!" The toad said, "Before you eat me let me tell you a story, please!" Then the toad continued,

"Toads do not eat salt  
So toads' eyes bulge!"

The crow said,

"Crows keep black sheep,  
So crows' capes are black!"

The crow stretched his head up and laughed, "ha, ha!" like this. The toad jumped suddenly away and dropped into the pool. The crow made as though he would wade into the water to look for the toad, but he could not find him. The crow just stretched his head up and cawed,

"ah, ah, be-la-la!  
ah, ah, be-la-la!"