

M402
The raven and the toad.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

A raven went and met a toad. The raven wanted to eat him, but the toad said, “If you want to eat my flesh, it is very bitter, so you will need to wash it with water”. The toad continued, “Raven, you had better carry me to the stream and wash me in the water there”. The raven carried the toad and reached the water’s edge. He was about to eat him when the toad said, “Before you eat me, let me tell you a story”. The toad went on,

“Ravens do not keep black sheep,
Yet ravens wear black capes.
Toads eat no salt,
Yet toads’ eyes bulge”.

The raven laughed, looking up at the sky, and the toad jumped over the edge into the pool of water. The raven searched for the toad, cawing,

“Ah, ah, be-la-la!”