

M404

The toad and the tiger.

Told by Yang Ya-go.

The toad wanted to go to Sichuan. As he went he met a tiger who asked him, "Where are you going?" The toad said, "I am going to Sichuan". The tiger said, "You idiot! How can you possibly get to Sichuan?" The toad said, "Well then, come let us two compete in jumping over the gully". The tiger said to the toad, "You jump on ahead". But the toad said, "You are big, you must jump first, on ahead". So the tiger jumped ahead, but the toad held on to his tail. When the tiger had jumped over the gully, he called, "Come on!" But the toad said, "I am here already".

The toad said to the tiger, "Well then, let us two go in search of game to eat, and then demonstrate our success by throwing up". The tiger went everywhere in search for half a day, but did not find anything at all to eat. He ate just a bit of grass. For his part, the toad found a patch of yellow mushrooms. There he ate, and he ate a lot. When the tiger arrived back, the toad said, "You throw up first". The tiger said, "No, you should throw up". But the toad replied, "You are big, you must throw up first". The tiger urged and urged until he was tired, but all that came forth was a bit of grass. The toad threw up the yellow mushrooms, a great deal indeed. The tiger said, "What is this?" The toad said, "These are your mother and father's eyes!" The tiger was afraid and fled.