

M416

## The rang gets food by deception.

*Told by Yang Xiu-gong.*

They tell a story that, once upon a time a young couple were going to visit their mother and father-in-law. The wife said, "People are saying that, up there in the pass, the monkeys are dying off like anything. My mother is very fond of monkey, so let us take a big one and carry it along for her to boil and eat". Now the rang overheard this, and running quickly went and lay down up there in the pass. When the couple reached the pass where the monkeys were dying, beginning from the bottom of the valley until they came right out at the top they turned the monkeys over, but every one was decayed. The rang alone was good. The wife said, "Each of these monkeys is decayed. Let us just take this rang and carry it along for my mother to boil and eat". So they took the rang, put it into the basket and carried it along.

Inside the basket the rang took the meal cakes and ate them. He would eat one and throw another on the lower or higher side of the road. Then he took the eggs, eating one and throwing another on the lower or higher side of the road. Thus they went on until they had nearly reached the parents' home, then the rang jumped out of the basket and ran on. He took mother-in-law's skirt and gown and, putting them on, went and lay down on mother-in-law's bed. When the daughter arrived, she went and said to mother-in-law, "When we reached the pass where the monkeys were dying, we were going to take one of them and bring it along for you to boil and eat. We turned every one over and had a look, but every one was decayed. There was only a rang there that was good, so we picked it up to bring, but that damned rang, that cunning rang took and ate the food! All that remains are these two meal cakes and these two eggs. Please accept them and eat them". The rang remained lying on mother-in-law's bed until he heard mother-in-law calling to the pig. Then he got up and ran away.

Later the rang went back to the road where he had thrown the meal cakes and the eggs. The rang took a stick and each time he poked on the lower side of the road he got a meal cake, and each time he poked on the higher side of the road he got an egg. A Chinese took the stick with which the rang had been poking, but every time he poked on the lower side of the road he got a lump of dung, and every time he poked on the higher side of the road he got another lump of dung!