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The Miao lad who went to carry an idol from Sichuan.

Told by Yang Xiu-gong

They tell a story that, once upon a time, there was a Miao lad who was going to carry an idol from Sichuan. When he arrived he went to sleep in the temple. He slept until midnight when a small idol brought a copper coin to him. The idol said, "Don't go carrying me away. You take this coin and go and cure people's diseases". The next day the lad got up, and having the coin, he came away.

As he was coming he saw an ant, dead in the road. He took his coin, waved it over the ant and said, "I call on you to get up", and the ant got up. He went on and saw a snake which someone had killed. He took his coin and waved it and the snake got up. He came on and saw a man whom the Chinese had killed beside the road. He took the coin and waved it and the man got up. So the Miao lad arrived home.

On one occasion, where the Miao lad lived, there was a wealthy family with a fine daughter who had been taken ill and died. Someone went and told the wealthy man, who came and said, "Miao lad, if you will arrange to bring my daughter who has died, back to life, I will give her to you to be your wife". The Miao lad went with him, took his coin and waved it, and the girl got up and walked. But the wealthy family, not only did not give the girl to him, but took him, and beat him until he was very nearly dead, and went and buried him.

After this the ant which was dead and had been called back to life, brought his friends and scooped out a hole to carry rice for him to eat. The snake, which he had cured and revived, went and bit the daughter of the rich family, and she became ill to the point of death. So the wealthy man went and got people to dig out the Miao lad whom he had beaten nearly to death and had buried, wanting him to come and cure her again. He said, "If you will come and cure her this time, I will give her to you, and the house and the place shall all be reckoned yours". So the Miao lad went and cured her, and this time the wealthy man had no heart to beat him. Because he acted as he did, everything came to the Miao lad.