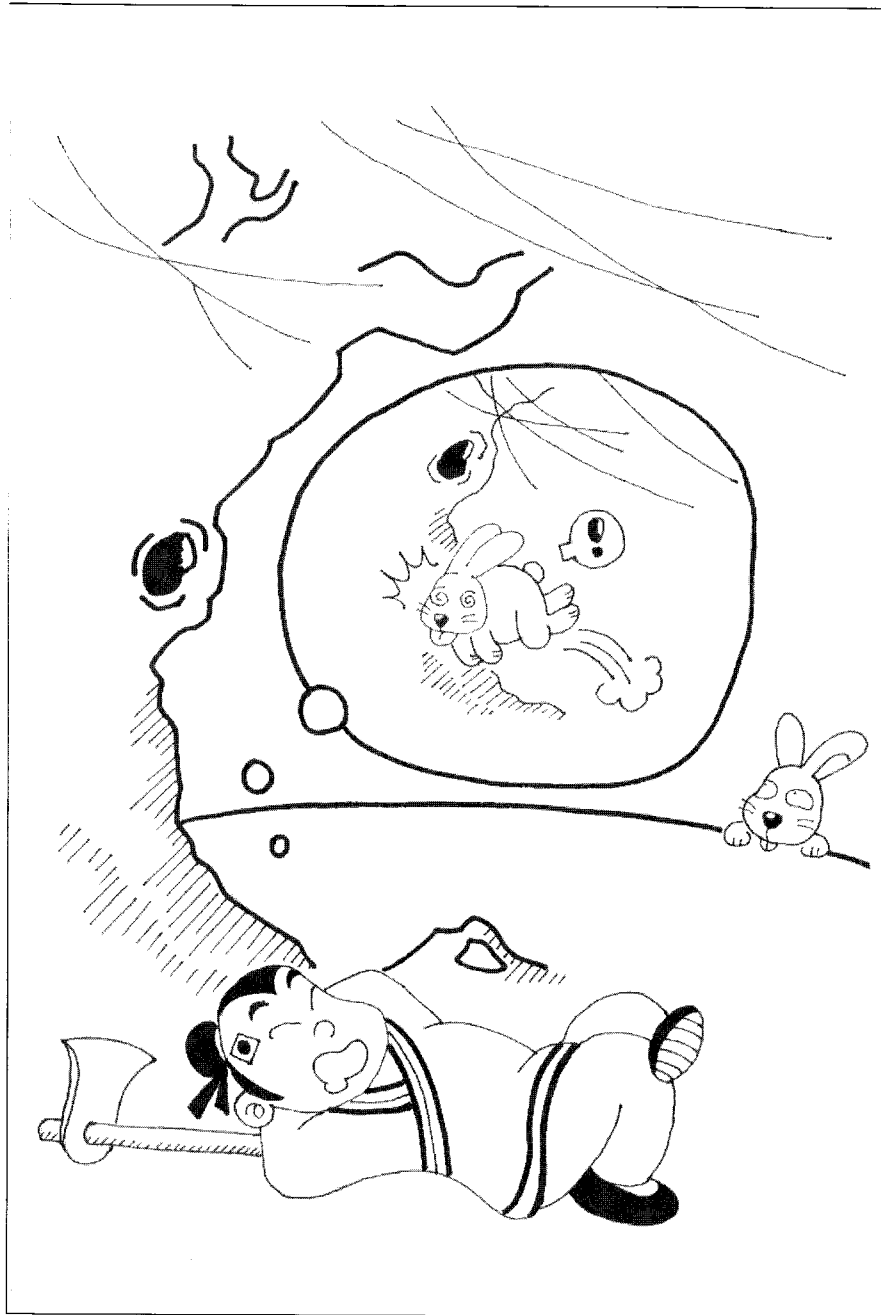


一. 寓言選(上)

(丙) 守株待兔¹



課文 (Text)

宋人有耕者，² 田中有株，兔走觸株，³ 折頸而死。⁴
因釋其耒而守株，⁵ 冀復得兔。⁶ 兔不可復得，而身為宋
國笑。⁷

《韓非子·五蠹》⁸

註釋 (Annotations)

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|------|------|--|
| 1. 丙 | bǐng | third of the Heavenly Stems. |
| 守 | shǒu | to watch; to guard. |
| 株 | zhū | the trunk of a tree. |
| 待 | dài | to wait for. |
| 2. 耕 | gēng | to plow. |
| 3. 走 | zǒu | to run. (Note that the meaning of 走 in Classical Chinese is "to run", but in Modern Chinese it means "to walk".) |
| 觸 | chù | to touch; to bump against. |
| 4. 折 | zhé | to bend (and break). |
| 頸 | jǐng | neck. |
| 5. 因 | yīn | for that reason; subsequently. |
| 釋 | shì | to let (something) go; to put down; to set free. |
| 耒 | lěi | a plow. |
| 6. 冀 | jì | to hope. |
| 復 | fù | again. (An adverb.) |

守株待兔

This is a shortened form of the full form 守株待兔. It is a shortened form of the full form 守株待兔, meaning for

III. 兔走觸株

Grammatically, the word 兔 is often omitted for use 而 while the four-syllable utterance 兔走觸株, meaning running, it bumps

III. 身為宋國

The word 身 is often used as a noun clause, meaning the object of the verb. It became a laughing stock. The full form 為 + N + 笑, for purposes, this sentence (people of) Song".

得	dé	to get.
身	shēn	oneself.
為	wéi	to be; to become. (See 文法闡釋 III.)
笑	xiào	to laugh at (somebody).
五蠹	Wǔ dù	"Five Vermin". Title of a chapter from the <i>Han Feizi</i> .

文法闡釋 (Grammar Notes)

I. 守株待兔

This is a shortened form of 守株以待兔, and it literally means "to stay at a tree stump to wait for a rabbit". This is also an idiomatic expression still commonly used, meaning figuratively "to wait passively for luck to strike again".

II. 兔走觸株

Grammatically, the sentence should be 兔走而觸株, but the conjunction 而 was often omitted for stylistic purposes. This explains why the said sentence does not use 而 while the succeeding one does—in order to maintain a series of balanced four-syllable utterances. So this compound sentence means: "When a rabbit was running, it bumped against a tree stump".

III. 身為宋國笑

The word 身 is often used in the sense of "(one)self", as it is in this case. 宋國笑 is a noun clause, meaning "what (the people of) Song laughed about". It serves as the object of the verb 為 "to become". So the whole sentence means: "and he himself became a laughing stock in Song". However, the construction 為 + N + Vt, and its full form 為 + N + (所) + Vt, often seems to denote a passive sense. So, for practical purposes, this sentence can also be translated as: "and he was laughed at by (the people of) Song".