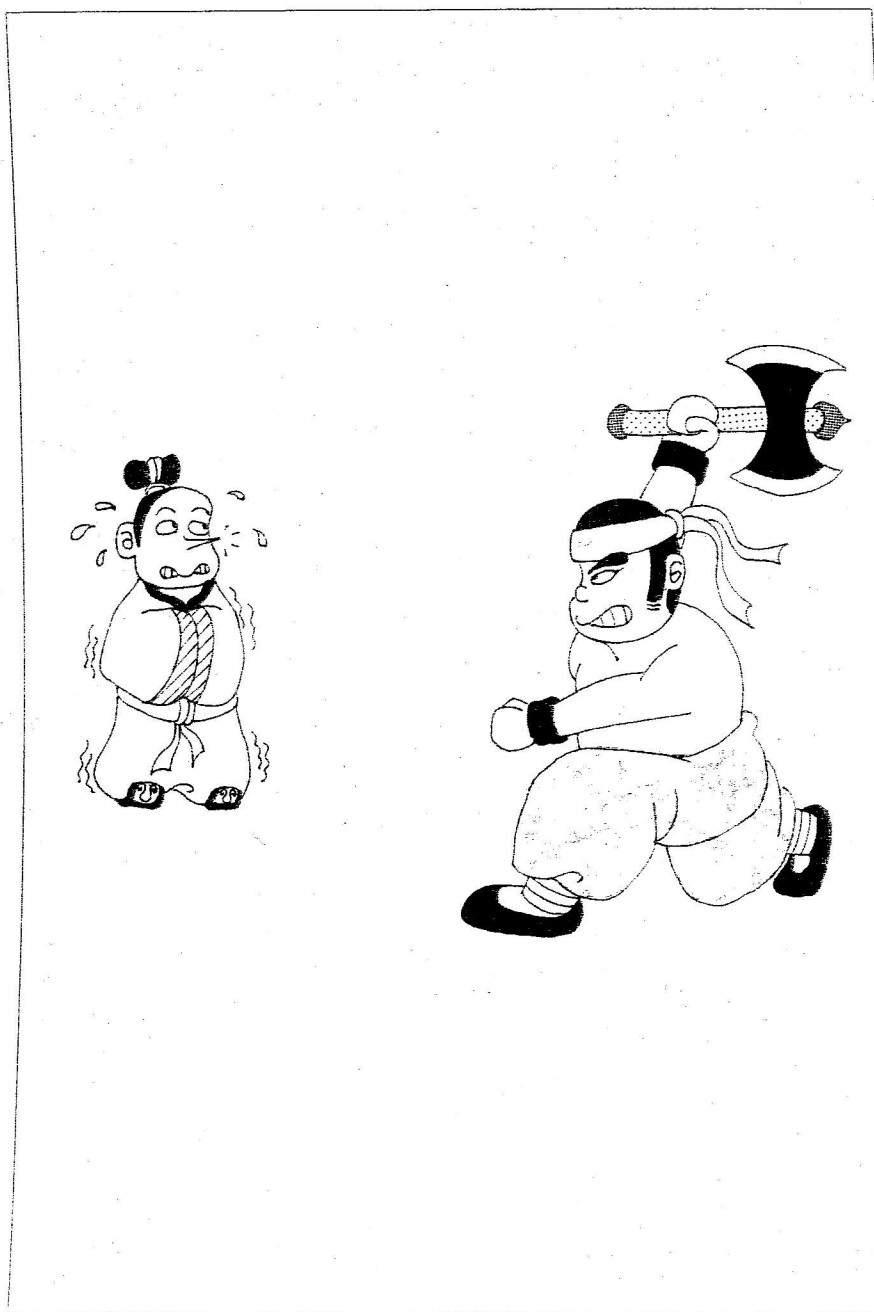




十三.《莊子·徐無鬼》：
運斤成風¹



課文 (Text)

莊子送葬，² 過惠子之墓。³ 顧謂從者曰：⁴ 「郢人堊慢其鼻端，⁵ 若蠅翼。⁶ 使匠石斲之。⁷ 匠石運斤成風，聽而斲之，盡堊而鼻不傷。⁸ 郢人立不失容。⁹ 宋元君聞之，¹⁰ 召匠石曰：¹¹ 『嘗試為寡人為之。¹²』匠石曰：『臣則嘗能斲之，雖然，¹³ 臣之質死久矣。¹⁴』自夫子之死也，吾無以為質矣！吾無與言之矣！」

註釋 (Annotations)

1. 徐無鬼 Xú Wúguǐ name of a person; here functioning as the title of a chapter.
- 運 yùn to brandish; to swing.
- 斤 jīn axe.
- 運斤成風 yùn jīn chéng fēng brandishing the axe so swiftly that a small whirlwind is produced.
2. 送葬 sòng zàng to accompany a deceased friend to the cemetery for burial.
3. 惠子 Huìzǐ Huì Shī 惠施, a famous logician and a friend of Zhuangzi.
4. 顧 gù to turn one's head and look at.
5. 堊 è plaster.
- 慢 màn to stain. (A substitute for 漫.)
- 端 duān tip; end.
6. 蠅翼 yíng yì wings of a fly (which are very thin).

- | | | |
|---------|--------------|---|
| 7. 匠石 | Jiàng Shí | 匠 (carpenter) is his occupation; 石 is his name. |
| 斲 | zhuó | to cut; to chop. |
| 8. 聽 | tīng | to leave the axe take its own course. |
| 盡堊 | jìn è | to clean off the plaster completely. |
| 9. 失容 | shī róng | to lose one's countenance. |
| 10. 宋元君 | Sòng Yuánjūn | Prince Yuan of Song. |
| 11. 召 | zhào | to summon. |
| 12. 嘗試 | cháng shì | to try. |
| 13. 雖然 | suī rán | though (it is) so. |
| 14. 質 | zhì | the original meaning is "target"; here, it means "partner". |

文法闡釋 (Grammar Notes)

I. 臣則嘗能斲之

Since 臣 appears before the conjunction 則, we can see that it is not syntactically the subject of a simple sentence, but represents a clause by itself, in the sense of "if it's me", or more idiomatically, "as far as I am concerned". So, to reflect the implication that "it takes two to tango", this sentence should be translated as, "As far as I am concerned, yes, I once indeed could chop it", or something similar.

II. 雖然，臣之質死久矣！

Unlike in Modern Chinese, 雖然 is not a compound in Classical Chinese. 雖 alone means "though", while 然 means "to be like that". Thus, together they form the subordinate clause "though it is so". 臣之質死, a clause by itself, is the subject of the main clause, and 久矣 is its predicate. So the sentence can be rendered as: "Though it is so (that I once could do it), it has been a long time since my partner died!"