



# 孔乙己

## 鲁迅 (1919)

*Kong Yiji* by Lu Xun (1919)

**孔乙己 (kǒng yǐ jǐ)** Kong Yiji, protagonist of short story by Lu Xun **鲁迅 (lǔ xùn)**. **鲁迅 (lǔ xùn)** Lu Xun (1881-1936), one of the earliest and best-known modern Chinese writers.

▶ 听录音

Machine translated  
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(unchecked)

The layout of the hotel in Luzhen,

鲁镇的**酒店**的**格局**,

**酒店 (jiǔ diàn)** wine shop; pub (public house); hotel; restaurant; (Tw) hostess club. **格局 (gé jú)** structure; pattern; layout.

Is different from elsewhere:

是和**别处**不同的:

**别处 (bié chù)** elsewhere.

It's a big counter in the street,

都是**当街**一个**尺形**的大柜台,

**当街 (dāng jiē)** in the middle of the street; facing the street. **形 (xíng)** to appear; to look; form; shape.

Hot water is prepared in the cabinet,

柜里面**预备**着**热水**,

**预备 (yù bèi)** to prepare; to make ready; preparation; preparatory. **热水 (rè shuǐ)** hot water.

You can warm the wine at any time.

可以随时**温酒**。

**酒 (jiǔ)** wine (esp. rice wine); liquor; spirits; alcoholic beverage.

Workers,

**做工**的人,

**做工 (zuò gōng)** to work with one's hands; manual work; workmanship.

left work in the afternoon and evening,

**傍午****傍晚**散了工,

**傍午 (bàng wǔ)** towards noon; around midday.

Often spends four copper coins spent,

**每每**花四文铜钱,

**每每 (měi měi)** often.

Buy a bowl of wine,

买一碗酒, ——

This is more than 20 years ago,

这是**二十多年**前的事,

**二十多 (èr shí duō)** over 20. **年前 (nián qián)** before the end of the year; before the new year.

Now every bowl has to rise to ten wen, ——

现在每碗要**涨到**十文, ——

**涨到 (zhǎng dào)** to go up; to rise.

Standing by the cabinet,

靠柜外站着,

Take a hot drink and rest; if you want to spend more money,

热热的喝了休息;**倘肯**多花一文,

**倘 (tǎng)** if; supposing; in case. **肯 (kěn)** to agree; to consent; to be ready (to do sth); willing.

You can buy a dish of salted bamboo shoots,

便可以买一**碟盐煮笋**,

**碟** (dié) dish; plate. **笋** (sǔn) bamboo shoot.

Or fennel beans,

或者**茴香豆**,

**茴香豆** (huí xiāng dòu) star anise-flavored fava beans (snack from Shaoxing, Zhejiang province).

To make a drink,

做**下酒物**了,

**下酒** (xià jiǔ) to be appropriate to have with alcohol; to down one's drink.

If there are more than a dozen wen,

如果出到**十几文**,

**十几** (shí jǐ) more than ten; a dozen or more.

Then you can buy a meat dish,

那就能买一样**荤菜**,

**荤菜** (hūn cài) non-vegetarian dish (including meat, fish, garlic, onion etc).

But these customers,

但这些顾客,

Mostly short clothes,

多是**短衣帮**,

**短衣帮** (duǎn yī bāng) lit. short jacket party; working people; the toiling masses; blue collar workers.

Probably not so generous.

**大抵**没有这样**阔绰**。

**大抵** (dà dǐ) generally speaking; by and large; for the most part. **阔绰** (kuò chuò) ostentatious; extravagant; liberal with money.

Only those in long gowns,

只有穿**长衫**的,

**长衫** (cháng shān) long gown; cheongsam; traditional Asian dress for men or (in Hong Kong) women's qipao.

Just walked into the house next to the store,

才**踱进店面**隔壁的**房子里**,

**踱** (duó) to stroll; to pace; Taiwan pr. (duò). **店面** (diàn miàn) shop front. **房子** (fáng zi) house; building (single- or two-story); apartment; room.

Want wine and food,

要酒要菜,

Sit and drink slowly.

**慢慢地**坐喝。

**慢慢** (màn màn) slowly.

Since I was twelve years old,

我从**十二岁**起,

**十二** (shí èr) twelve; 12.

I worked as a buddy in Xianheng Hotel at the entrance of town,

便在镇口的咸**亨**酒店里当**伙计**,

**亨** (hēng) prosperous; henry (unit of inductance). **伙计** (huǒ jì) partner; fellow; mate; waiter; servant; shop assistant.

The shopkeeper said,

**掌柜**说,

**掌柜** (zhǎng guì) shopkeeper.

Looks too silly,

样子太傻,

I'm afraid I can't wait for the patrons of the gown,

怕**侍候**不了**长衫主顾**,

**侍候** (shì hòu) to serve; to wait upon. **不了** (bù liǎo) unable to; without end. **主顾** (zhǔ gù) client; customer.

Just do something outside.

就**在外面**做点**事罢**。

**在外** (zài wài) outer; excluded. **罢** (bà) to stop; to cease; to dismiss; to suspend; to quit; to finish.

The short clothes customer outside,

外面的**短衣主顾**,

**短衣** (duǎn yī) short garment; short jacket.

Although easy to talk,

虽然容易说话,

However, there are many unclear nagging words.

They often have to watch the yellow wine scoop out from the jar with their own eyes,

I have seen whether there is water in the bottom of the pot,

I watched putting the pot in hot water again,

Then rest assured:

Under this serious supervision,

It's very difficult to mix with water.

So after a few days,

The shopkeeper said I couldn't do this again.

Fortunately, the recommendation is great,

Cannot be dismissed,

It was changed to a boring job specializing in warming wine.

I have been standing at the counter all day,

Take charge of my job.

Although there is no dereliction of duty,

But I always feel a little monotonous,

但唠唠叨叨缠夹不清的也很少。

他们往往要亲眼看着黄酒从坛子里舀出，

看过壶子底里有水没有，

又亲看将壶子放在热水里，

然后放心：

在这严重监督之下，

羶水也很为难。

所以过了几天，

掌柜又说我干不了这事。

幸亏荐头的情面大，

辞退不得，

便改为专管温酒的一种无聊职务了。

我从此便整天的站在柜台里，

专管我的职务。

虽然没有什么失职，

但总觉得有些单调，

唠 (lào) to gossip; to chat (dialect). 唠叨 (láo dao) to prattle; to chatter away; to nag; garrulous; nagging. 叨 (tāo) to receive the benefit of. 缠夹不清 (chán jiā bù qīng) to muddle things together (idiom); to bother sb with annoying muddle-headed talk. 不少 (bù shǎo) many; a lot; not few.

亲眼 (qīn yǎn) with one's own eyes; personally. 黄酒 (huáng jiǔ) "yellow wine" (mulled rice wine, usually served warm). 坛子 (tán zi) jug (earthenware with a big belly and a small opening). 舀 (yǎo) to ladle out; to scoop up.

有水 (yǒu shuǐ) supplied with water (of a house).

监督 (jiān dū) to control; to supervise; to inspect. 之下 (zhī xià) under; beneath; less than.

羶水 (chàn shuǐ) to mix with water (wine); to adulterate. 为难 (wéi nán) to feel embarrassed or awkward; to make things difficult (for someone); to find things difficult (to do or manage).

几天 (jǐ tiān) several days.

荐头 (jiàn tou) employment agent (arch.); job broker. 情面 (qíng miàn) feelings and sensibilities; sentiment and face; sensitivity to other's feelings.

辞退 (cí tuì) to dismiss; to discharge; to fire. 不得 (bù dé) must not; may not; not to be allowed; cannot.

改为 (gǎi wéi) to change into. 专管 (zhuān guǎn) to be in charge of something specific. 职务 (zhí wù) post; position; job; duties.

整天 (zhěng tiān) all day long; whole day.

没有什么 (méi yǒu shén me) it is nothing; there's nothing ... about it. 失职 (shī zhí) to lose one's job; unemployment; not to fulfill one's obligations; to neglect one's job; dereliction of duty.

Somewhat boring.

有些无聊。

The shopkeeper has a fierce face,

掌柜是一副凶脸孔，

副 (fù) secondary; auxiliary; deputy; assistant; vice-; abbr. for 副词 adverb; classifier for pairs, sets of things & facial expressions. 凶 (xiōng) vicious; fierce; ominous; inauspicious; famine; variant of 凶 (xiōng). 脸孔 (liǎn kǒng) face.

The patrons did not have a good tone,

主顾也没有好声气，

声气 (shēng qì) voice; tone.

Teach people to be lively; only Kong Yiji came to the store,

教人活泼不得;只有孔乙己到店，

孔乙己 (kǒng yǐ jǐ) Kong Yiji, protagonist of short story by Lu Xun 鲁迅 (lǚ xùn).

To laugh a few times,

才可以笑几声，

So I still remember.

所以至今还记得。

Kong Yiji is the only person wearing a long gown while drinking while standing.

孔乙己是站着喝酒而穿长衫的唯一的人。

喝酒 (hē jiǔ) to drink (alcohol).

He is tall and big; his face is pale,

他身材很高大;青白脸色，

高大 (gāo dà) tall; lofty. 青白 (qīng bái) pale; pallor. 脸色 (liǎn sè) complexion; look.

The wrinkles were often lacerated; a shaggy grey beard.

皱纹间时常夹些伤痕;一部乱蓬蓬的花白的胡子。

皱 (zhòu) crepe; wrinkle. 纹 (wén) line; trace; mark; pattern; grain (of wood etc). 时常 (shí cháng) often; frequently. 伤痕 (shāng hén) scar; bruise. 乱蓬蓬 (luàn pēng pēng) disheveled; tangled. 花白 (huā bái) grizzled (hair). 胡子 (hú zi) beard; mustache or whiskers; facial hair; (coll.) bandit.

Although they are wearing long gowns,

穿的虽然是长衫，

But it's dirty and broken,

可是又脏又破，

It seems that there has been no supplementation for more than ten years

似乎十多年没有补，

No washing either.

也没有洗。

He speaks to people,

他对人说话，

It's always a mouthful of literary phrases,

总是满口之乎者也，

满口之乎者也 (mǎn kǒu zhī hū zhě yě) mouth full of literary phrases; to spout the classics.

half of it was barely intelligible

教人半懂不懂的。

半懂不懂 (bàn dǒng bù dǒng) to not fully understand; to only partly understand.

Because his surname is Kong,

因为他姓孔，

孔 (kǒng) hole; classifier for cave dwellings.

Others would learn from the half-understood words of “Shang Lun Kong Yiji” on the tracing paper,

别人便从描红纸上的“上大人孔乙己”这半懂不懂的话里，

描红 (miáo hóng) to trace over red characters (as a method of learning to write). 大人 (dà ren) adult; grownup; title of respect toward superiors.

Take a nickname for him,

替他取**下一个绰号**,

**下一个** (xià yī ge) the next one. **绰号** (chuò hào) nickname.

Called Kong Yiji.

**叫作**孔乙己。

**叫作** (jiào zuò) to call; to be called.

When Kong Yiji arrived at the shop,

孔乙己一到店,

All the drinkers looked at him and smiled,

所有喝酒的人便都看着他笑,

Some shouted,

**有的叫道**,

**有的** (yǒu de) (there are) some (who are...); some (exist). **叫道** (jiào dào) to call; to shout.

“Kong Yiji,

“孔乙己,

There are new scars on your face!” He did not answer.

你脸上又**添**上新**伤疤**了!” 他不回答,

**添** (tiān) to add; to increase; to replenish. **伤疤** (shāng bā) scar.

Said to the cabinet,

对柜里说,

“Warm two bowls of wine,

“温两碗酒,

Want a dish of fennel beans.”

要一碟茴香豆。”

Then discharge the nine wen big money.

便**排出**九文**大钱**。

**排出** (pái chū) to discharge. **大钱** (dà qián) high denomination of banknotes or coins; lots of money; a big sum (e.g. a bribe).

They yelled deliberately,

他们又故意的**高声**嚷道,

**高声** (gāo shēng) aloud; loud; loudly.

“You must have stolen something from someone again!” Kong Yiji said with wide eyes.

“你一定又偷了人家的东西了!” 孔乙己睁大眼睛说,

“Why are you so innocent...”

“你怎么这样**凭空**污人**清白**……”

**凭空** (píng kōng) baseless (lie); without foundation. **清白** (qīng bái) pure; innocent.

“What innocence? I saw you stole He’s book the day before yesterday.

“什么清白?我**前天**亲眼见你偷了何家的书,

**前天** (qián tiān) the day before yesterday.

Hang and hit”

**吊**着打。”

**吊** (diào) to suspend; to hang up; to hang a person.

Kong Yiji flushed,

孔乙己便**涨红**了脸,

**涨红** (zhàng hóng) to turn red (in the face); to flush (with embarrassment or anger).

The blue veins on the forehead bloomed,

**额**上的**青筋**条条**绽**出,

**额** (é) forehead; horizontal tablet or inscribed board; specified number or amount. **青筋** (qīng jīn) veins; blue veins. **绽** (zhàn) to burst open; to split at the seam.

Argued,

**争辩**道,

**争辩** (zhēng biàn) a dispute; to wrangle.

“Stealing a book is not a steal...

“**窃**书不能算偷……

**窃** (qiè) to steal; secretly; (humble) I.

Steal the book!...

窃书!……

About scholars,

**读书人**的事,

**读书人** (dú shū rén) scholar; intellectual.

Can it be considered as stealing?" One after another difficult to understand phrases,

Like "gentlemen keep poor",

Like "who is it?", and such

It caused everyone to laugh:

There is joyful air inside and outside the store.

Listening to people talking secretly,

Kong Yiji had also read books before,

But finally did not go to school,

He can't make a living; so he gets poorer and poorer,

Get to beg.

Fortunately, he wrote a good word,

He wrote books for others,

Change a bowl of rice to eat.

It's a pity that he has the same bad temper,

It is delicious and lazy.

Sat less than a few days,

It connects people, books, papers, pens and inkstones,

All disappeared.

能算偷么?" **接连便是难懂的话**,

什么 **"君子固穷"** ,

什么 **"者乎"** 之类,

**引得众人都哄笑起来**:

**店内外充满了快活的空气**。

**听人家背地里谈论**,

孔乙己原来也读过书,

但终于没有**进学**,

又不会**营生**;于是**愈过愈穷**,

**弄到将要讨饭了**。

**幸而**写得一笔好字,

便替人家**钞**钞书,

换一碗**饭**吃。

可惜他又有一样**坏脾气**,

便是**好喝懒做**。

坐**不到**几天,

便连人和**书籍纸张笔砚**,

**一齐失踪**。

**接连** (jiē lián) on end; in a row; in succession. **便是** (biàn shì) (emphasizes that sth is precisely or exactly as stated); precisely; exactly; even; if; just like; in the same way as. **难懂** (nán dòng) difficult to understand.

**君子** (jūn zǐ) nobleman; person of noble character. **固穷** (gù qióng) to endure poverty stoically.

**之类** (zhī lèi) and so on; and such.

**引得** (yǐn dé) index (loanword). **众人** (zhòng rén) everyone. **哄笑** (hōng xiào) to roar with laughter; hoots of laughter; guffaw.

**内外** (nèi wài) inside and outside; domestic and foreign; approximately; about. **快活** (kuài huò) happy; cheerful.

**人家** (rén jiā) household; dwelling; family; sb else's house; household business; house of woman's husband-to-be. **背地里** (bèi dì li) behind sb's back. **谈论** (tán lùn) to discuss; to talk about.

**进学** (jìn xué) to advance one's learning; to enter the prefecture school under the imperial examination system.

**营生** (yíng shēng) to earn a living. **愈** (yù) the more... (the more...); to recover; to heal; better.

**弄到** (nòng dào) to get hold of; to obtain; to secure; to come by. **将要** (jiāng yào) will; shall; to be going to. **讨饭** (tǎo fàn) to ask for food; to beg.

**幸而** (xìng ér) by good fortune; luckily.

**钞** (chāo) money; paper money; variant of 抄 (chāo).

**饭** (fàn) cooked rice; meal; (loanword) fan; devotee.

**坏脾气** (huài pí qì) bad temper.

**好喝** (hǎo hē) tasty (drinks).

**不到** (bù dào) not to arrive; not reaching; insufficient; less than.

**书籍** (shū jí) books; works. **纸张** (zhǐ zhāng) paper. **笔砚** (bǐ yàn) writing brush and ink stone.

**一齐** (yī qí) at the same time; simultaneously. **失踪** (shī zōng) to be missing; to disappear; unaccounted for.

How many times,

如是几次,

如是 (rú shì) thus. 几次 (jǐ cì) several times.

The person who called him  
money book is gone.

叫他钞书的人也没有了。

Kong Yiji has no law,

孔乙己没有法,

没有法 (méi yǒu fǎ) at a loss; unable to do anything  
about it; to have no choice.

It is inevitable to do some theft  
accidentally.

便免不了偶然做些偷窃的事。

免不了 (miǎn bù liǎo) unavoidable; can't be avoided. 偷  
窃 (tōu qiè) to steal; to pilfer.

But he is in our shop,

但他在我们店里,

Behave better than others,

品行却比别人都好,

品行 (pǐn xíng) behavior; moral conduct.

Is never in arrears; although  
occasionally there is no cash,

就是从不拖欠;虽然间或没有现  
钱,

从不 (cóng bù) never. 拖欠 (tuō qiàn) in arrears; behind  
in payments; to default on one's debts. 间或 (jiàn  
huò) occasionally; now and then. 现钱 (xiàn qián) cash.

Temporarily write it on the  
powder board,

暂时记在粉板上,

粉板 (fěn bǎn) blackboard; painted board on which to  
make temporary notes with brush pen.

But within a month,

但不一月,

一月 (yī yuè) January; first month (of the lunar year).

Sure to pay off,

定然还清,

定然 (dìng rán) certainly; of course. 还清 (huán  
qīng) to pay back in full; to redeem a debt.

The name of Kong Yiji was  
wiped off the powder board.

从粉板上拭去了孔乙己的名字。

拭 (shì) to wipe.

Kong Yiji drank half a bowl of  
wine,

孔乙己喝过半碗酒,

过半 (guò bàn) over fifty percent; more than half.

The flushed face gradually  
recovered,

涨红的脸色渐渐复了原,

渐渐 (jiàn jiàn) gradually.

The other person asked again,

旁人便又问道,

旁人 (páng rén) other people; bystanders; onlookers;  
outsiders. 问道 (wèn dào) to ask the way; to ask.

“Kong Yiji,

“孔乙己,

Do you really know Chinese?  
Kong Yiji looked at the person  
who asked him.

你当真认识字么?”孔乙己看着问  
他的人,

当真 (dàng zhēn) to take seriously; serious; No joking,  
really!.

Showed an air of disdain.

显出不屑置辩的神气。

显出 (xiǎn chū) to express; to exhibit. 不屑 (bù xiè) to  
disdain to do sth; to think sth not worth doing; to feel it  
beneath one's dignity. 置辩 (zhì biàn) to argue. 神  
气 (shén qì) expression; manner; vigorous; impressive;  
lofty; pretentious.

They continued,

他们便接着说道,

说道 (shuō dào) to state; to say (the quoted words).

“Why can’t you even get half a talented talent?” Kong Yiji immediately appeared depressed and uneasy.

There was a layer of gray on his face,

Say something in your mouth; this time it’s all the same,

Some do not understand.

At this time,

Everyone also burst into laughter:

There is joyful air inside and outside the store.

At these times,

I can agree with a smile,

The shopkeeper will never blame.

And the shopkeeper saw Kong Yiji,

I always ask him like this,

Make people laugh.

Kong Yiji knew that he could not talk to them,

So I had to talk to the child.

Said to me once,

“Have you read a book?” I nodded slightly.

He said,

“Read the book,...

“你怎的连半个秀才也捞不到呢？”孔乙己立刻显出颓唐不安模样，

脸上笼上了一层灰色，

嘴里说些话；这回可是全是之乎者也之类，

一些不懂了。

在这时候，

众人也都哄笑起来：

店内外充满了快活的空气。

在这些时候，

我可以附和着笑，

掌柜是决不责备的。

而且掌柜见了孔乙己，

也每每这样问他，

引人发笑。

孔乙己自己知道不能和他们谈天，

便只好向孩子说话。

有一回对我说道，

“你读过书么？”我略略点一点头。

他说，

“读过书，……”

怎的 (zěn de) what for; why; how. 半个 (bàn ge) half of sth. 秀才 (xiù cai) a person who has passed the county level imperial exam (historical); scholar; skillful writer; fine talent. 捞 (lāo) to fish up; to dredge up. 颓唐 (tuí táng) dispirited; depressed. 模样 (mú yàng) look; style; appearance; approximation; about; also pr. (mó yàng).

笼 (lóng) enclosing frame made of bamboo, wire etc; cage; basket; steamer basket; to cover; to cage; to embrace; to manipulate through trickery. 一层 (yī céng) layer. 灰色 (huī sè) gray; ash gray; grizzly; pessimistic; gloomy; dispirited; ambiguous.

嘴里 (zuǐ li) mouth; in the mouth; on one's lips; speech; words. 之乎者也 (zhī hū zhě yě) lit. 之 (zhī), 乎 (hū), 者 (zhě) and 也 (yě) (four grammatical particles of Classical Chinese) (idiom); fig. archaic expressions.

附和 (fù hè) to agree; to go along with; to echo (what sb says).

决不 (jué bù) not at all; simply (can) not.

发笑 (fā xiào) to burst out laughing; to laugh.

谈天 (tán tiān) to chat.

略略 (lüè lüè) slightly; roughly; briefly; very generally. 点头 (diǎn tóu) to nod.



I will take your test.

我便要考你一考。

The word fennel of fennel bean,

茴香豆的**茴**字，

**茴 (huí)** fennel; aniseed.

How is it written?" I thought,

怎样写的?" 我想，

A beggar,

讨饭一样的人，

Do you also match me? He turned back,

也配考我么?便回过脸去，

No longer bother.

不再**理会**。

**理会 (lǐ huì)** to understand; to pay attention to; to take notice of.

Kong Yiji waited for a long time,

孔乙己等了**许久**，

**许久 (xǔ jiǔ)** for a long time; for ages.

Said very earnestly,

很**恳切**的说道，

**恳切 (kěn qiè)** earnest; sincere.

"Can't write it?..."

“不能写罢?……”

I teach you,

我教给你，

Remember! These words should be remembered.

记着!这些字应该记着。

When I become a shopkeeper in the future,

将来做掌柜的时候，

Use it for writing accounts.”

写**帐**要用。”

**帐 (zhàng)** covering veil; canopy; screen; tent; variant of 账 (zhàng).

I thought to myself that I was still far from the level of the shopkeeper,

我**暗想**我和掌柜的**等级**还很远呢，

**暗想 (àn xiǎng)** think to oneself. **等级 (děng jí)** grade; rank; status.

And our shopkeeper never put fennel beans on the account; it's funny,

而且我们掌柜也从不将茴香豆上**帐**;又**好笑**，

**好笑 (hǎo xiào)** laughable; funny; ridiculous.

And impatient,

又不耐烦，

Replied lazily,

懒懒的答他道，

"Who wants you to teach,

“谁要你教，

Isn't it a back and forth answer under the grass head?" Kong Yiji looked very happy.

不是草头底下一个**来回**的回字么?”孔乙己显出极高兴的样子，

**来回 (lái huí)** to make a round trip; return journey; back and forth; to and fro; repeatedly.

Tap the long nails of two fingers on the counter,

将两个**指头**的长**指甲**敲着柜台，

**指头 (zhǐ tóu)** finger; toe. **指甲 (zhǐ jiǎ)** fingernail.

Nodded and said,

点头说，

"Yes, yes!..."

“对呀对呀!……”

There are four ways to write  
the word “Hui”,

Do you know? I became  
more impatient,

Struggling to walk away.

Kong Yiji just dipped his nails  
in wine,

Want to write on the cabinet,

Seeing that I am not  
enthusiastic,

He sighed again,

He looked extremely sorry.

A few times,

The neighbor's child laughed,

Also hurry up,

Surrounded Kong Yiji.

He gave them fennel beans to  
eat,

One per person.

After the child eats beans,

Still staying,

All eyes are on the plate.

Kong Yiji panicked,

Spread out five fingers to  
cover the dish,

Bend down and said,

“Running out,

I am running out.”

Straighten up and look at the  
beans again,

回字有四样**写法**,

你知道么?” 我愈不耐烦了,

努着嘴走远。

孔乙己刚用指甲**蘸**了酒,

想在柜上**写字**,

见我**毫不**热心,

便又**叹**一口气,

显出极**惋惜**的样子。

有几回,

**邻舍**孩子听得**笑声**,

也赶热闹,

**围住**了孔乙己。

他便给他们茴香豆吃,

一人一颗。

孩子**吃完**豆,

仍然不散,

眼睛都望着**碟子**。

孔乙己着了慌,

**伸开**五指将**碟子****罩**住,

**弯腰**下去说道,

“不多了,

我已经不多了。”

直**起身**又**看**一**看**豆,

**写法** (xiě fǎ) style of writing (literary style); way of  
writing a character; spelling.

**蘸** (zhàn) to dip in (ink, sauce etc).

**写字** (xiě zì) to write characters.

**毫不** (háo bù) hardly; not in the least; not at all.

**叹** (tàn) to sigh; to exclaim. **一口气** (yī kǒu qì) one  
breath; in one breath; at a stretch.

**惋惜** (wǎn xī) to regret; to feel that it is a great pity; to  
feel sorry for sb.

**邻舍** (lín shè) neighbor; person next door. **笑声** (xiào  
shēng) laughter.

**围住** (wéi zhù) to surround; to gird.

**吃完** (chī wán) to finish eating.

**碟子** (dié zi) saucer; small dish.

**伸开** (shēn kāi) to stretch out. **罩** (zhào) cover; fish trap  
(basket); shade.

**弯腰** (wān yāo) to stoop. **下去** (xià qù) to go down; to  
descend; to go on; to continue; (of a servant) to  
withdraw.

**起身** (qǐ shēn) to get up; to leave; to set forth. **看一  
看** (kàn yī kàn) to have a look.

I shook my head and said,  
“Not much, not too much!  
How much? Not much.”

So this group of children  
scattered in laughter.

Kong Yiji is so happy,  
But without him,  
Others have done the same.

one day,  
About two or three days  
before Mid-Autumn Festival,

The shopkeeper is slowly  
checking out,

Remove the powder board,  
Suddenly said,

“Kong Yiji hasn’t come for a  
long time.

I still owe nineteen money!” I  
also think he hasn’t come for a  
long time.

A drinker said,

“How can he come? ...

He discounted his leg.”

The shopkeeper said,

“Oh!” “He always steals.

This time,

I was fainted,

Stole to Ding Juren’s house.

自己**摇头**说,  
“不多不多!多乎**哉**?不多也。”

于是这一群孩子都在笑声里**走散**  
了。

孔乙己是这样的使人快活,  
可是没有他,  
别人也便这么过。

有一天,  
大约是**中秋**前的两三天,

掌柜正在慢慢的**结帐**,

取下粉板,  
忽然说,

“孔乙己**长久**没有来了。

还欠**十九**个钱呢!”我才也觉得他的  
确**长久**没有来了。

一个喝酒的人说道,

“他怎么会来? ……

他打折了腿了。”

掌柜说,

“**哦!**” “他总**仍旧**是偷。

这一回,  
是自己**发昏**,  
竟偷到了**举人**家里去了。

**摇头** (yáo tóu) to shake one's head.

**哉** (zāi) (exclamatory or interrogative particle).

**走散** (zǒu sàn) to wander off; to stray; to get lost.

**中秋** (zhōng qiū) the Mid-autumn festival, the  
traditional moon-viewing festival on the 15th of the 8th  
lunar month.

**结帐** (jié zhàng) to pay the bill; to settle accounts; also  
written 结账.

**长久** (cháng jiǔ) (for a) long time.

**十九** (shí jiǔ) nineteen; 19.

**哦** (o) sentence-final particle that conveys informality,  
warmth, friendliness or intimacy; may also indicate that  
one is stating a fact that the other person is not aware  
of. **仍旧** (réng jiù) still (remaining); to remain (the  
same); yet.

**发昏** (fā hūn) to faint.

**举人** (jǔ rén) graduate; successful candidate in the  
imperial provincial examination. **家里** (jiā lǐ) home.

His house stuff,

他家的东西,

Did you steal it?" "What happened afterwards?" "How about? Write your defense first,

偷得的么?" "后来怎么样?" "怎么样?先写**服辩**,

**服辩** (fú biàn) written confession; letter of repentance.

Then it was fight,

后来是打,

Played most of the night,

打了**大半夜**,

**大半夜** (dà bàn yè) the middle of the night.

Discounted legs again."

再打折了腿。"

"What happened later?" "The legs were discounted later."

"后来呢?" "后来打折了腿了。"

"How about the discount?" "How?..."

"打折了怎样呢?" "怎样?....."

Who knows? Maybe he's dead."

谁**晓得**?许是死了。"

**晓得** (xiǎo de) to know.

The shopkeeper stopped asking,

掌柜也不再问,

Still slowly calculating his account.

仍然慢慢的算他的帐。

After the Mid-Autumn Festival,

中秋**过后**,

**过后** (guò hòu) after the event.

The autumn breeze is cooler day by day,

秋风是一天凉比一天,

Look at the approaching early winter; I leaned on the fire all day,

看看**将近初冬**;我整天的靠着火,

**将近** (jiāng jìn) almost; nearly; close to. **初冬** (chū dōng) early winter.

Also need to put on a cotton jacket.

也须**穿上棉袄**了。

**穿上** (chuān shang) to put on (clothes etc). **棉袄** (mián ǎo) cotton-padded jacket.

In the second half of the day,

一天的**下半天**,

**下半天** (xià bàn tiān) afternoon.

Without a customer,

没有一个顾客,

I was sitting with my eyes closed.

我正合了眼坐着。

Suddenly I heard a voice,

忽然间听得一个声音,

"Warm a bowl of wine."

"温一碗酒。"

Although the voice is extremely low,

这声音虽然极低,

But very familiar.

却很**耳熟**。

**耳熟** (ěr shú) to sound familiar; familiar-sounding.

There was no one when I watched.

看时又全没有人。

Stand up and look out,

站起来向外一望，

站起来 (zhàn qǐ lái) to stand up. 向外 (xiàng wài) out; outward.

That Kong Yiji sat under the counter against the threshold.

那孔乙己便在柜台下对了门槛坐着。

台下 (tái xià) off the stage; in the audience. 对了 (duì le) Correct!; Oh, that's right, ... (when one suddenly remembers sth one wanted to mention); Oh, by the way, .... 门槛 (mén kǎn) doorstep; sill; threshold; fig. knack or trick (esp. scheme to get sth cheaper).

His face is dark and thin,

他脸上黑而且瘦，

It's already out of shape; wear a ripped jacket,

已经不成样子;穿一件破夹袄，

不成样子 (bù chéng yàng zi) shapeless; deformed; ruined; beyond recognition; (of a person) reduced to a shadow. 夹袄 (jiá ǎo) lined jacket; double layered jacket.

Cross-legged,

盘着两腿，

Put a pouch underneath,

下面垫一个蒲包，

垫 (diàn) pad; cushion; mat; to pad out; to fill a gap; to pay for sb; to advance (money). 蒲 (pú) refers to various monocotyledonous flowering plants including Acorus calamus and Typha orientalis; common cattail; bullrush.

Hung on the shoulders with straw rope; met me,

用草绳在肩上挂住;见了我，

挂住 (guà zhù) to get caught (entangled); to catch (on sth).

Said again,

又说道，

“Warm a bowl of wine.”

“温一碗酒。”

The shopkeeper also stretched his head,

掌柜也伸出头去，

伸出 (shēn chū) to extend.

On the one hand,

一面说，

一面 (yī miàn) one side; one aspect; simultaneously... (and...); one's whole face.

“Kong Yiji? You still owe nineteen money!” Kong Yiji replied dejectedly.

“孔乙己么?你还欠十九个钱呢!”  
孔乙己很颓唐的仰面答道，

仰 (yǎng) to face upward; to look up; to admire; to rely on.

“This.....

“这……

Pay it off next time.

下回还清罢。

下回 (xià huí) next chapter; next time.

This time it's cash,

这一回是现钱，

Wine is better.”

酒要好。”

要好 (yào hǎo) to be on good terms; to be close friends; striving for self-improvement.

The shopkeeper is still the same as usual,

掌柜仍然同平常一样，

Smiled and said to him,

笑着对他说，

“Kong Yiji,

“孔乙己，

You stole something again!"  
But he didn't really argue this time.

Just said "Don't make fun of!"  
"Make fun of? If not stealing,

How can I break my leg?"  
Kong Yiji whispered.

"Fall off,

fall,

fall....."

His winks,

It's like begging the  
shopkeeper,

Don't mention it again.

A few people have gathered at  
this time,

Then and the shopkeeper  
laughed.

I warmed the wine,

Take it out,

Put it on the threshold.

He drew out four pennies  
from his torn pocket,

Put it in my hand,

Seeing his hands full of mud,

It turned out that he came  
with this hand.

After a while,

He finished drinking,

Then again in the laughter of  
others,

Sit down and walked slowly  
with this hand.

你又偷了东西了!"但他这回却不  
十分**分辩**,

单说了一句“不要**取笑**!”“取笑?  
**要不是偷**,

怎么会**打断腿**?”孔乙己**低声**说  
道,

“**跌断**,

**跌**,

跌……”

他的**眼色**,

很像**恳求**掌柜,

不要再提。

**此时**已经**聚集**了几个人,

便和掌柜都笑了。

我温了酒,

**端出去**,

放在门槛上。

他从破**衣袋**里摸出四文大钱,

放在我**手里**,

见他**满手**是**泥**,

原来他使用这手走来的。

**不一会**,

他喝完酒,

便又在**旁人**的说笑声中,

坐着用这手慢慢**走去**了。

**分辩** (fēn biàn) to explain the facts; to defend against an accusation.

**取笑** (qǔ xiào) to tease; to make fun of. **要不是** (yào bu shì) if it were not for; but for.

**打断** (dǎ duàn) to interrupt; to break off; to break (a bone). **低声** (dī shēng) in a low voice; softly.

**跌断** (diē duàn) to fall and fracture (a leg, vertebra etc).

**跌** (diē) to fall; to tumble; to trip; (of prices etc) to drop; Taiwan pr. (dié).

**眼色** (yǎn sè) signal made with one's eyes; meaningful glance.

**恳求** (kěn qiú) to beg; to beseech; to entreat; entreaty.

**此时** (cǐ shí) now; this moment. **聚集** (jù jí) to assemble; to gather.

**端** (duān) end; extremity; item; port; to hold sth level with both hands; to carry; regular. **出去** (chū qù) to go out.

**衣袋** (yī dài) pocket.

**手里** (shǒu lǐ) in hand; (a situation is) in sb's hands.

**满手** (mǎn shǒu) handful. **泥** (ní) mud; clay; paste; pulp.

**不一会** (bù yī huì) soon.

**在旁** (zài páng) alongside; nearby.

**走去** (zǒu qù) to walk over (to).

Since then,

It was a long time since I saw Kong Yiji.

At the end of the year,

The shopkeeper took off the powder board and said,

“Kong Yiji still owes nineteen money!” By the Dragon Boat Festival of the second year,

Said again,

“Kong Yiji still owes nineteen money!” He didn’t say until the Mid-Autumn Festival.

I didn’t see him until the end of the year.

I haven’t seen you until now--

About Kong Yiji was indeed dead.

March 1919.

自此以后，

又长久没有看见孔乙己。

到了年关，

掌柜取下粉板说，

“孔乙己还欠十九个钱呢！”到了第二年的端午，

又说，

“孔乙己还欠十九个钱呢！”到中秋可是没有说，

再到年关也没有看见他。

我到现在终于没有见——

大约孔乙己的确死了。

一九一九年三月。

自此 (zì cǐ) since then; henceforth.

年关 (nián guān) end of the year.

端午 (duān wǔ) see 端午节 (duān wǔ jié).

到现在 (dào xiàn zài) up until now; to date.

三月 (sān yuè) March; third month (of the lunar year).