

章回小說，京本增補校正全像忠義水滸傳評林，第二十二回，橫海郡柴進留賓，景陽崗武松打虎
21 Novel, The Noble Knight-errants of the Water Margin, Capital Edition with Additions and Corrections,
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February 06

CHAPTER 22

Chai Jin entertains his guests in Henghai County;
Wu Song fights a tiger on Jingyang Ridge.

The poem says:

The brave man's <22, 41 good reputation is like that of Meng Chang 41>
His good fortune is as boundless as the East Ocean – <41 he is both talented and of
high virtue 41>

<41 He is confident that he is able to kill the tiger on his own

The saying Three bowls and you cannot cross the Ridge is mere nonsense 41>

<41 Wu Song is so powerful and fierce that a great many people fear him 41>

<41 Chai Jin is so eminent that he is known across the four seas 41>

<41 Wu Song revenges his brother by killing his sister-in-law—strange indeed—
Thereby gaining great fame which will last forever 41>¹

<page 2>That fellow came <41, 23 from Qinghe District, his surname was Wu
and given name Song, he was the second son in his family. He had been here for one
year. Song Jiang said: “I have heard much talk of Mr. Wu among the rivers and lakes
fraternity. But I had no idea I was to meet him here.” 23, 41>²

¹ This poem is found in 21, 22 and 41 (not in 23). The lines follow in the same sequence in 21 and 22, but in a different sequence in 41 (Rongyutang edition). The first character is *yong*, brave, in 21, but *yan*, noble, in 22 and 41.

² In the prose of the four versions of the novel, 21 and 22 are almost identical, while 23 and 41 are almost identical. There is considerable difference between 21/22 on one hand and 23/41 on the other hand. 21/22 belong to the so-called ‘simple editions’, *jianben*, while 23/41 belong to the ‘complex editions’, *fanben*. Many of the sentences are ‘shared’ between the two sets. But even inside the shared portions there are some consistent differences. 23/41 seems more refined. 21/22 is shorter and more plain. 21/22 uses *yue* as tag for ‘say’, while 23/41 uses *dao* throughout. Sentences similar to the degree that only one of two characters may deviate, are here registered as ‘shared phrases’, indicated by the red arrows. It is important, however, to be aware that there may be small differences within the ‘shared phrases’, some of which are highly interesting

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He took <41, 23 Wu Song’s hand and lead him into the inner hall 23, 41>to sit beside him at the place of honor. Wu Song modestly refused and took the third place. Song Jiang asked Second Brother Wu: <41, 23 “What is the reason for your staying here?” 23, 41>

Wu Song replied: “I, Little brother <41, 23 got drunk one day 23, 41> in my hometown and had a fight with someone. <41, 23 He really riled me. I only hit him once, but I knocked him out cold, 23, 41> so I cleared off and came here. Now <41, 23 I’ve heard the fellow isn’t dead. 23, 41> <41, 23 I was planning to go home, 23, 41> but since I came down with malaria I couldn’t travel. <41, 23 Just now I had a shivering fit and I was sitting over those coals in the gallery when you stumbled into the shovel. I was so shocked that I broke out in a cold sweat, and now I think I’m cured.” 23, 41>

Song Jiang was very delighted. That night, after drinking, Song Jiang insisted that Wu Song go and sleep in his quarters. Next day <41, 23 Song Jiang took out some money for Wu Song to make himself a new set of clothes. 23, 41> Chai Jin took out some pieces of fine silk, and ordered clothes to be made for Wu Song. <41, 23 Why was it that Chai Jin was displeased with Wu Song? *In fact*, 23, 41> Wu Song used to drink heavily and then often would beat the other guests in his residence, and because of this Chai Jin’s <41, 23 behaviour towards him had grown much cooler. However, now Song Jiang had adopted Wu Song and made him his constant drinking companion. 23, 41>

<41, 23 After Song Jiang had been with them about ten days, 23, 41> Wu Song said: <41, 23 “If you’ll allow me I want to prostrate myself four times so I can call myself your blood brother.” This pleased Song Jiang greatly. 23, 41> One day Wu Song wanted to return home. Song Jiang and Chai Jin did their best to make him stay but failed. Chai Jin took out some silver and gave it to 22> (Wu Song)³. <22 Song Jiang took a tearful farewell of Wu Song, but *we shall not speak more of this. Indeed: 22> <page 3>*
The poem says:

<22 <41 The farewell feels like it lasts a long time, the road to be traveled is far
He straightens the back and sets out directly for Jingyang Ridge

After getting drunk he kills the tiger of the mountain
His fame is spread everywhere 41>

for the comparison of the linguistic equipment of each version.

³ Two characters 武松 “Wu Song” is missing here in 21, comparing with 22.

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Let us resume our story:

After travelling <41, 23 for several days, Wu Song had reached the district of Yanggu. 23, 41> There he perceived in front of him a tavern, advertised by a sign which read: <41, 23 “Three bowls and you cannot cross the Ridge” 23, 41>. Wu Song walked into the tavern and sat down. He then <41, 23 asked the host to quickly bring him some wine. *Just look* how the innkeeper came with three bowls 23, 41> and two *jin* of cooked meat <41, 23 which he laid in front of Wu Song. 23, 41> He quickly filled three bowls with wine that were emptied right away. Wu Song then called out again: <41, 23 “Host! Why don’t you come and pour the wine?” 23, 41>

The waiter said: “Good guest, the sign says: <41, 23 ‘Three bowls and you cannot cross the Ridge’”. 23, 41>

Wu Song said: “But what’s that supposed to mean?”

The waiter said: “Whenever a guest <41, 23 drinks three bowls of this wine he’ll get drunk 23, 41> and is unable to cross the Ridge”.

Wu Song laughed and said: <41, 23 “But I’ve had three bowls, how come I’m not drunk?”

The waiter said: “This wine of mine is called 23, 41> <41, 23 ‘Falling at the Door’. At first you only savour 23, 41> the delicious flavour, <41, 23 but after a while you will fall down.”

“Stop talking nonsense!” said Wu Song. 23, 41> <41, 23 “Bring me another three bowls!”

Seeing that Wu Song was still entirely steady, the waiter brought him another three bowls. Wu Song drank and said: 23, 41> “Certainly⁴ a good wine!” He <41, 23 went on guzzling for a long while. 23, 41> <41, 23 Then he took out some silver 23, 41> to pay for the wine and meat. He <41, 23 grasped his cudgel, 23, 41> left the door and started marching.

<41, 23 But then the waiter was chasing after him, 22> crying: 23, 41> <22 “Good guest, please wait! <41, 23 Up there in the Jingyang Ridge there is a big beast with slanting eyes and a white forehead. He comes out to attack people at night. 23, 41> The government notice says: <41, 23 ‘The travellers must gather into groups and cross the Ridge during the three watches from ten to four o’clock. <page 4> It’s forbidden to

⁴ Here in 21 果的 “guo de” instead of 果然 ” guo ran” in 22.

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cross at any other time.’ 23, 41> Don’t throw your life away! <41, 23 You’d much better
spend the night here 22, 23, 41> at my place.⁵”

<22 Wu Song laughed and said: <41, 23 “I’ve crossed this ridge a score of
times. Who ever heard of a tiger here? 23, 41> <41, 23 What you want is to get me to
stay in your house so you can come in the middle of the night and rob me of my money.”
23, 41>

The innkeeper said: <41, 23 “Here’s me, out of the kindness of my heart,
trying to help you, but you give my words a bad meaning. 23, 41> <41, 23 All right, if
you don’t believe me, 23, 41> just go ahead!”

<41, 23 This Wu Song 23, 41> <41, 23 strode off alone towards the Jingyang
Ridge. 23, 41> Here he saw a big tree with a white patch, on which was written:

<41, 23 A tiger has been attacking people on the Jingyang Ridge. Travellers
and merchants must gather into groups and cross the Ridge during the three watches from
ten to four o’clock. Ignore this advise at your peril!

When Wu Song had read it he laughed and said: 23, 41> “It must be a trick by
the waiter to frighten travellers.” <41, 23 Grasping his cudgel he began to climb the
ridge. 23, 41>

He came upon a <41, 23 temple dedicated to the spirits of the mountain. 23,
41> <41, 23 There was a notice bearing an official seal fixed to the door. 23, 41> After
reading it, <41, 23 Wu Song realized that there was indeed a tiger. 23, 41> At first he
thought of turning back and going to the inn, but was afraid to endure the innkeeper’s
mockery.

Then he hurried on onto the ridge. He caught sight of a <41, 23 black rock, so
he laid his cudgel aside and sank down to rest upon the rock. As he was drifting off to
sleep, *Just look* 23, 41> how there came a fierce gust of wind through the forest. Then he
heard a crash and out sprang a <41, 23 big beast with golden eyes and white forehead.
When Wu Song saw this 23, 41> <41, 23 he rolled of the rock 23, 41> and grabbed his
cudgel.

That big beast <41, 23 pressed its two paws into the ground with ease, 23, 41>
<41, 23 and taking off into mid-air intended to land on its prey from above. 23, 41> <41,

⁵ 我 is missing in 22.

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23 When he saw the beast spring, Wu Song leapt out of the way, ending up behind it. 23,
41>

<41, 23 When the big beast attacks a man, it generally has these three
strategies: springing, looking and sweeping. <page 5> When all these three methods
failed its spirit was half broken. 23, 41> That big beast <41, 23 gave a loud roar and
turned round again. 23, 41> <41, 23 Wu Song grasped his cudgel in both hands 23, 41>
and brought it down. His motions were flurried, so <41, 23 he hit a dead tree. Now his
cudgel was broken in two. 23, 41> <41, 23 That big beast roared, 23, 41> <41, 23 it
turned and sprang at him again. 23, 41> Wu Song leapt to one side and saw his chance to
catch hold of the big beast with his two hands. <41, 23 With his legs he delivered fearful
kicks to the big beast's 23, 41> eyes. <41, 23 That big beast roared furiously, and as it
thrashed about under this onslaught its paws churned up two mounds of mud. Wu Song
thrust the beast down into the mud. 23, 41> He raised his fist and hit that big beast till
from its mouth and nose <41, 23 the red blood began to gush, 23, 41> and it sank into a
heap. <41, 23 *There is an old ballad describing 22> Wu Song fights a tiger on Jingyang
Ridge. 23> <22 *Please look:**

<23 On Jingyang Ridge a sudden squall,
Day hides its face in a thick black pall; 23>*
<23 Red leaves reflect their colour like flames on the marshes,*
Yellow grass sprouts grow throughout the land;
Twilight cloaks the desolate wold,*
And a deadly chill pervades the world.* □⁶
A sound like thunder splits the ears
As the king of beasts on the slope appears.
He proudly bounds, teeth and claws on show, 23>
At the entrance of the valley the deer <23 are all running in a panic. 23, 41>⁷
<41 Bian Zhuang sees it and gets frightened out of his senses,
Cun Xiao encounters it and gets scared from his wits.*
<23 The Qinghe hero, still half tight, □

⁶ Some characters in this poem of 21 are different from 22 giving a slightly different sense. Such lines are marked with □. The relationship to 23 and 41 is quite complicated. Sometimes 41 is closer to 21/22, sometimes closer to 23. Lines with divergencies between 21 and 41 are marked with *.

⁷ Two lines found in text 41 are lacking here.

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Waits alone, but ready to fight.
To watch that man-eater hunt a meal,
The way it springs... it would make you squeal!⁸
He falls on the man like an avalanche, ☐
But the man's a cliff, he doesn't flinch;*
<page 6>He grips with the force of a missile crashing – ☐
And the tiger's paws in the mud are thrashing,
Blows and kicks, a relentless flood,
Both hands soaked in the crimson blood.* 23, 41>⁹
<41, 23 When you look at it closely its fierce power is already used up, *
When you look at it from afar its awe-inspiring posture is all but gone. ☐¹⁰
There it lies now, bright stripes fading,
Sprawled among weeds, both eyes clouding. 23, 41>

Wu Song beat the wild tiger on Jingyang Ridge <41, 23 till it did not move.¹¹
23, 41> <41, 23 Then Wu Song let go. 23, 41> <41, 23 Fearing lest the big beast revive,
he belaboured it a while longer, 23, 41> till it died. <41, 23 “I might as well drag the big
beast down the mountain,” he decided. 23, 41> <41, 23 But he could not shift it. 23, 41>
<41, 23 So he went back to the black rock and sat down to rest. He thought: “It's getting
quite dark now. If another tiger should appear, I don't think I'd be able to cope. I'd better
try and get down off the ridge.” 23, 41>

<41, 23 Just look how at this moment two big beasts emerge from 23, 41> the
brushwood! Wu Song cried: <41, 23 “Now I'm finished!” 23, 41> But looking at them
Wu Song saw, <41, 23 it was two men who had sewn themselves suits made out of tiger
skins. 23, 41> <41, 23 They were shocked to see Wu Song and said: 23, 41> “How bold
this man is! How could you dare, <41, 23 alone in the dark of night and unarmed, to cross
the ridge?” 23, 41>

<41, 23 “ Who are you?” Wu Song asked in return.

⁸ 狰狰 in 21, and 狰狞 in 22.

⁹ Two lines found in text 41 are lacking here.

¹⁰ The above two lines are not included in the Dent-Young translation (based on 23), but they are found in 23.

¹¹ This sentence is much developed in text 41, but the main sense is the same and some single words are the same.

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“We are hunters from this place,” they replied, 23, 41> <41, 23 “there’s a big
beast right here on Jingyang Ridge. Every night it is out hunting for people. 23, 41> <41,
23 The Magistrate of our district has made 23, 41> <41, 23 us hunters responsible for
capturing it. 23, 41> <41, 23 It’s our turn again tonight. 23, 41> <41, 23 We had just
finished setting our ambush. 23, 41> <page 7> <41, 23 Did you see the big beast?”

Wu Song said: “I am from Qinghe, my name is Wu and I’m the second in my
family. Yes, I ran into the big beast 23, 41> on the mountain, <41, 23 and I’ve just beaten
it to death.” 23, 41>

The hunters did not believe it. <41, 23 Wu Song said: “If you don’t believe it,
look at all the blood on me.”

The hunters said: “But how did you kill it?”

Wu Song told the facts about how he killed the big beast. 23, 41> The hunters
lit torches and <41, 23 followed Wu Song back up the mountain. There was the dead
tiger, sprawled in a heap. 23, 41> They <41, 23 put a rope round the tiger and carried it
down the mountain. 23, 41> They invited Wu Song to come directly to the home of the
village head. <41, 23 Someone was then sent to the Magistrate with a report. 23, 41>

The village households arranged a feast to thank Wu Song, and the villagers
said: <41, 23 “Now at last a hero has appeared and rid us of the menace. What a relief 23,
41> for the people of this village.”

<41, 23 Wu Song thanked them and said: 23, 41> <41, 23 “I was simply
enjoying the reflection of your good fortune.” 23, 41> Everyone in the village came to
congratulate Wu Song and toast with him. ㄟ¹²

The next day the Magistrate sent someone to pick up Wu Song to come to the
district capital and get his reward. They carried the tiger to Yanggu district. All the people
of Yanggu came, <41, 23 eager to get a glimpse of the tiger. 23, 41> Wu Song got down
from his sedan chair and entered the *Yamen*. He stood in the courtroom. <41, 23 The
Magistrate, having observed Wu Song’s stature and seeing the brocade skin of the big
beast, 23, 41> asked: <41, 23 “Hero, do tell us how you killed¹³ this big beast.”

So Wu Song told the facts about how he killed the tiger. 23, 41> <41, 23 The
Magistrate then offered Wu Song several cups of wine in the hall and presented him with
a thousand strings of cash 23, 41> <41, 23 as reward. 23, 41> Wu Song said: <41, 23 “I
was simply enjoying the reflection of your good fortune. I was just lucky to kill the tiger.

¹² This sentence is a little different in the version of 22 (a different *ba* construction).

¹³ 怎生了 in 21, and 怎打了 in 22.

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23, 41> <41, 23 I have heard <page 8> that the hunters here suffered sanctions on
account of the tiger. We might divide the money and give it to them.” 23, 41>

The Magistrate said: <41, 23 “I leave it to you to arrange it.”

Wu Song distributed the money among the hunders, and the Magistrate,
impressed by Wu Song’s open-handedness, 23, 41> said: “Since you are from Qinghe,
that’s right next to us here at Yanggu. <41, 23 Today I would like to offer you a position
as my captain. What do you say?” 23, 41>

<41, 23 “I shall be forever in your debt for this, Your Excellency,” 23, 41>
thanked Wu Song. 23, 41>

<41, 23 The Magistrate called the registrar and had him write out the order
appointing Wu Song with immediate effect a captain of foot. All the members of the
community came to offer their congratulations. 23, 41> <41, 23 Wu Song thought to
himself: “I merely wanted to go home 23, 41> <41, 23 to see my brother, and now here I
am, an officer!” 23, 41>

<41, 23 One day as Wu Song 41> <41 left the government offices in search of
amusement, he heard someone call out behind him: 23, 41> “Wu Song, <41, 23 you’ve
made your fortune now.” 23, 41>

<41, 23 Wu Song turned his head, 23, 41> 22> <41, 23 *but to know who it
really was, 23, 41> <41, 23 you must listen to the explanation in the next session. 23, 41>*

Translated by Yu Jing and Vibeke Børdahl