



67. 给猫装铃铛, Belling the Cat (gěi māo zhuāng líng dāng)

hěn jiǔ yǐ qián , yī qún lǎo shǔ zhào kāi yī gè cháng wù huì yì ,
很久以前，一群老鼠召开一个常务会议，
Long ago, the mice had a general council

shāng tǎo yǒu shén me cuò shī kě yǐ xiāo chú dí rén — — māo de wēi xié 。
商讨有什么措施可以消除敌人——猫的威胁。
to consider what measures they could take to outwit their common enemy, the Cat.

huì shàng yǒu xiē lǎo shǔ shuō zhè gè , yǒu xiē lǎo shǔ shuō nà gè , dà jiā zhòng shuō fēn yún 。
会上有些老鼠说这个，有些老鼠说那个，大家众说纷纭。
Some said this, and some said that;

zuì hòu , nián qīng de lǎo shǔ zhàn qǐ lái tí chū yī gè tā rèn wéi kě xíng de fāng àn 。
最后，一只年轻的老鼠站起来提出一个它认为可行的方案。
but at last a young mouse got up and said he had a proposal to make, which he thought would meet the case.



tā shuō : “ nǐ men dōu zhī dào ,
他说：“你们都知道，
"You will all agree," said he,

wǒ men zhǔ yào de wēi xiǎn lái zì māo jiē jìn wǒ men de fāng shì ,
我们主要的危险来自猫接近我们的方式，
"that our chief danger consists in the sly

tā zǒng shì nà me de jiǎo huá hé wú shēng wú xī 。
它总是那么的狡猾和无声无息。
and treacherous manner in which the enemy approaches us.

suǒ yǐ , rú guǒ wǒ men néng gòu jiē shòu dào māo xíng dòng de xìn hào ,
所以，如果我们能够接受到猫行动的信号，
Now, if we could receive some signal of her approach,

wǒ men jiù néng hěn róng yì de táo chū tā de mó zhǎng 。
我们就能很容易的逃出它的魔掌。
we could easily escape from her.



zài cǐ , wǒ dòu dǎn tí yì , wǒ men hé bù jiāng yī gè xiǎo líng dāng ,
在此，我斗胆提议，我们何不将一个小铃铛，
I venture, therefore, to propose that a small bell be procured,

yòng sī dài bǎng zài māo de bō zǐ shàng 。
用丝带绑在猫的脖子上。
and attached by a ribbon round the neck of the Cat.

rú cǐ yī lái , wǒ men jiù zhī dào māo shén me shí hòu yào lái ,
如此一来，我们就知道猫什么时候要来，
By this means we should always know when she was about,

wǒ men yě hǎo zài tā hái méi lái dào yǐ qián gǎn kuài chè tuì ” 。
我们也好在它还没来到以前赶快撤退” 。
and could easily retire while she was in the neighbourhood."

zhè gè fāng àn dé dào huì zhòng de yī zhì hǎo píng ,
这个方案得到会众的一致好评，
This proposal met with general applause,

dàn yī zhī nián zhǎng de lǎo shǔ zhàn qǐ lái shuō :
但一只年长的老鼠站起来说：
until an old mouse got up and said:

“ zhè gè zhǔ yì hěn hǎo , kě shì shuí lái fù zé bǎ líng dāng bǎng zài māo
de bō zǐ shàng ne ? ” 。

“这个主意很好，可是谁来负责把铃铛绑在猫的脖子上呢？” 。

suǒ yǒu de lǎo shǔ miàn miàn xiāng shì , wú huà kě shuō 。
所有的老鼠面面相视，无话可说。
The mice looked at one another and nobody spoke.

gù shì shì shuō : tí
chū yī gè bù kě néng
shí xiàn de jiàn yì shì r
óng yì de 。
故事是说：提出一个不
可能实现的建议是容易
的。
Then the old mouse said:
"It is easy to propose
impossible remedies."

