**月亮上的兔子——月兔故事再議**

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提 要

糜文開先生的文章〈中印文學關係舉例〉中提到，雖然有許多中國的故事、文學作品都受到印度佛教的影響，但也有極少數例外，是中國文化影響到印度文化，月兔就是一例。糜文開先生認為月兔是中國的神話先有，之後才傳到印度。

可惜糜文開先生所用的資料只限於漢譯文獻，沒有使用梵語、巴利語的資料。以梵語而言，月亮除了有candra這個字之外，另外śaśin(具兔者)也是代表月亮，另外，在巴利語《本生》中，第316個故事就是描述世尊的前世曾為一具有福德，能將自己的身體布施的兔子。巴利語《本生》的編輯應不會晚於西元一、二世紀，若說是受到中國文化的影響，可能性相當低。

但是糜文開先生真的錯了嗎？月兔的故事就跟其他文學作品一樣，是印度的舶來品嗎？我們在東漢的長沙馬王堆一號漢墓的T形帛畫中，看到左、右上角各畫有日、月，日中有烏鴉，月中有蟾蜍和兔子。而更早在屈原的〈天問〉中的「顧菟在腹」又該如何解釋，是兔中在月亮中嗎？換句話說，中國月兔早在先秦就有了，那是中國本土就有的，還是西來的？

本篇將考察月兔故事的來源。

**The Hare on the Moon-- The Moon Hare Story Reconsidered**

Kuo-pin Chuang

Abstract

In his article, the examples of the liaison between Chinese and Indian literature, Wen-Kai Mi mentioned that although so many Chinese stories are influenced by Indian Buddhism, few exceptions still can be found, one of them is the moon hare story. Mi suggested that the moon hare story appears in Chinese myths first, then spreads to Indian.

Unfortunately, Mi limited his research only in Chinese sources, without using Sanskrit as well as Pāli materials. In Sanskrit, not only the term "candra" represents the moon, but also the term "śaśin", etymologically "śaśa"(hare) plus "in" (to possess of), literally means "a thing which possess the hare". We also found in Pāli Jātaka No. 316 Sasa-Jātaka, delineated a previous life of the Gotama Buddha was a hare whom sacrifice its body for the sake of virtue. Pāli Jātaka, as we know, was composed around first or second century. With two mentioned-above evidences, it seems unlikely the moon hare story in India was influenced by the Chinese culture.

So can we concluded that Mi was wrong, the moon hare story is like other Buddhist stories, all come from India? An evidence shows otherwise. A silk funeral banners buried in a tomb belonged to the Western Han Dynasty was found in Changsa Mawangdui. In that banner, sun and moon are painted at the right and left corner respectively. There was a crow inside the sun, whereas a toad and a hare were in the moon. It suggests that moon hare story was long existed in the western Han Dynasty. So is it a Chinese hare, or an Indian hare?

The present paper will scrutinize the origination of the moon hare story.