

Back Matter · Chapter One

毛穎傳 *The Life of Fur Tip*

The complete text, with a working English beside it. The English is literal where the Chinese is odd and leaves the seams showing on purpose: it is a floor to translate from, not a finished rendering. The paragraphing is matched between the two, so the shapes correspond. Textual notes at the end record the readings adopted and the variants they were adopted against.

THE TEXT

毛穎者，中山人也。其先明視，視佐禹治東方土，養萬物有功，因封於卯地，死為十二神。嘗曰：「吾子孫神明之後，不可與物同，當吐而生。」已而果然。明視八世孫黶，世傳當殷時居中山，得神仙之術，能匿光使物，竊姮娥、騎蟾蜍入月，其後代遂隱不仕云。居東郭者曰籛，狡而善走，與韓盧爭能，盧不及。盧怒，與宋鵠謀而殺之，醢其家。

秦始皇時，蒙將軍恬南伐楚，次中山，將大獵以懼楚，召左右庶長與軍尉，以《連山》筮之，得天與人文之兆。筮者賀曰：「今日之獲，不角不牙，衣褐之徒，闕口而長須，八竅而趺居，獨取其髦，簡牘是資。天下其同書，秦其遂兼諸侯乎！」遂獵，圍毛氏之族，拔其豪，載穎而歸，獻俘於

章臺宮，聚其族而加束縛焉。秦皇帝使恬賜之湯沐，而封諸管城，號曰管城子，日見親寵任事。

穎為人強記而便敏，自結繩之代以及秦事，無不纂錄。陰陽、卜筮、占相、醫方、族氏、山經、地誌、字書、圖畫、九流、百家、天人之書，及至浮圖、老子外國之說，皆所詳悉。又通於當代之務，官府簿書、市井貨錢注記，惟上所使。自秦皇帝及太子扶蘇、胡亥、丞相斯、中車府令高，下及國人，無不愛重。又善隨人意，正直、邪曲、巧拙，一隨其人，雖見廢棄，終默不泄。惟不喜武士，然見請，亦時往。累拜中書令，與上益狎，上嘗呼為「中書君」。上親決事，以衡石自程，雖宮人不得立左右，獨穎與執燭者常侍，上休，方罷。穎與絳人陳玄、弘農陶泓及會稽褚先生友善，相推致，其出處必偕。上召穎，三人者不待詔輒俱往，上未嘗怪焉。

後因進見，上將有任使，拂拭之，因免冠謝。上見其髮禿，又所摹畫不能稱上意。上嘻笑曰：「中書君老而禿，不任吾用。吾嘗謂君中書，君今不中書邪？」對曰：「臣所謂盡心者也。」因不復召，歸封邑，終於管城。其子孫甚多，

散處中國夷狄，皆冒管城，惟居中山者，能繼父祖業。

太史公曰：毛氏有兩族。其一姬姓，文王之子封於毛，所謂魯、衛、毛、聃者也，戰國時有毛公、毛遂。獨中山之族，不知其本所出，子孫最為蕃昌。《春秋》之成，見絕於孔子，而非其罪。及蒙將軍拔中山之豪，始皇封諸管城，世遂有名，而姬姓之毛無聞。穎始以俘見，卒見任使，秦之滅諸侯，穎與有功，賞不酬勞，以老見疏，秦真少恩哉！

THE ENGLISH

Fur Tip was a man of Zhongshan. His ancestor was Bright-Eyes. Bright-Eyes assisted Yu in ordering the lands of the east, and having merit in the nurture of the myriad things was on that account enfeoffed in the region of Mao, and at his death became one of the twelve spirits. He once said: "My descendants are the posterity of divine intelligence and must not be the same as the other creatures. They ought to be born from the mouth." And afterwards it was indeed so. Bright-Eyes' descendant in the eighth generation was Nao. Tradition has it that in the time of Yin he lived at Zhongshan, obtained the arts of the immortals, could hide his form in the light and set things moving at his command, stole away Heng E and rode the toad into the moon; after which his line withdrew and did not serve — so it is said. The one who lived by the east wall was called Qun. He was cunning and a fine runner, and contended in ability with Han Lu, and Han Lu could not match him. Han Lu, enraged, took counsel with Song Que and killed him, and minced his household.

In the time of the First Emperor of Qin, General Meng Tian marched south against Chu, halted at Zhongshan, and was about to hold a great hunt in order to strike fear into Chu. He summoned the Shuzhang of the left and right together with the commandants, and divined the matter by the Lianshan, obtaining the omen of the celestial and the human patterns. The diviner offered congratulation, saying: "Today's take has no horns and no fangs; it is of the sort that goes clothed in coarse cloth; its mouth is gapped and its whiskers long; it has eight orifices and sits with its legs folded under. Take only its long hair, and the slips and boards will be supplied. The world will surely write alike, and Qin will surely go on to annex the feudal lords!" So they hunted. They surrounded the clan of Mao, plucked out its champions, loaded Fur Tip and returned, presented the captives at Zhangtai Palace, gathered the clan together and bound them fast. The Emperor of

Qin had Meng Tian bestow on him hot water and washing, and enfeoffed him at Guancheng, styling him Viscount of Guancheng; and day by day he was favoured, petted, and put to employment.

Fur Tip was by nature retentive of memory and quick to hand. From the age of knotted cords down to the affairs of Qin, there was nothing he did not compile and set down. Yin and yang; divination by shell and by stalk; physiognomy; medical prescriptions; clan genealogies; the mountain classics; the geographies; the character-books; the pictures; the nine streams; the hundred schools; the writings of heaven and man; and as far as the Buddha and the foreign doctrines of Laozi — all of it was what he had in full detail. He was versed too in the business of the present age: the registers and files of the offices, the notations of goods and cash in the markets — only ever whatever his lord had him do. From the Emperor of Qin and the heir apparent Fusu, Hu Hai, the Chancellor Si and the Director of the Imperial Carriages Gao, down to the people of the state, there was none who did not love and value him. He was good, too, at following a man's intention: upright or crooked, deft or clumsy, in every case he followed the man he was with. Though he was discarded, to the end he kept silent and let nothing leak. Only he did not care for military men — yet if he was invited, he went from time to time all the same. By stages he was promoted to Director of the Secretariat. He and his lord grew ever more familiar, and his lord used to call him Lord of the Secretariat. When the Emperor decided affairs in person, setting himself a quota by balance and stone-weight, even the palace attendants were not permitted to stand at his side; only Fur Tip and the man holding the candle were in constant attendance, and only when the Emperor rested did they stop. Fur Tip was on good terms with Chen Xuan, a man of Jiang, with Tao Hong of Hongnong, and with Master Chu of Kuaiji. They recommended one another, and in coming forth and staying back they were always together. When his lord summoned Fur Tip, the

three of them would go along without waiting to be called, and his lord never once thought it strange.

Later, on the occasion of an audience, when his lord was about to give him a commission, he dusted him off, and thereupon Fur Tip removed his cap and gave thanks. His lord saw that his hair had gone bald, and that what he traced and drew could no longer answer to his lord's intention. His lord laughed and said: "The Lord of the Secretariat is old and bald and is not equal to my use. I once called you fit to write — are you now not fit to write?" He answered: "Your servant is what is called one who has given his whole heart." Thereupon he was not summoned again, and returned to his fief, and ended his days at Guancheng. His descendants were very many, scattered and dwelling through the Central Lands and the outer regions, and all of them claim Guancheng; but only those who live at Zhongshan are able to carry on the business of their fathers and forefathers.

The Grand Historian says: The Mao have two branches. One of them is of the Ji surname — a son of King Wen was enfeoffed at Mao, and these are what are called Lu, Wei, Mao and Dan; and in the Warring States there were Lord Mao and Mao Sui. Only of the Zhongshan branch is the origin unknown, and its descendants are the most flourishing of all. When the Chunqiu was completed, he was cut off by Confucius — and it was not his fault. When General Meng plucked out the champions of Zhongshan and the First Emperor enfeoffed them at Guancheng, the line at last had a name in the world, while the Mao of the Ji surname went unheard of. Fur Tip first appeared as a captive and in the end was taken into employment. When Qin destroyed the feudal lords, Fur Tip had a part in the merit of it; yet the reward did not answer the labour, and on grounds of age he was set aside. Qin was truly sparing of kindness!

TEXTUAL NOTES

- 明視 not 明眎. 眎 is the 禮記 form and a real variant, carried by 中華詩詞網; the worksheet, zh.wikisource and our own philology file give 視. The repeated graph in 明視, 視佐禹 is kept — both web witnesses have the repeat, the worksheet compresses it.
- 陳玄 not 陳元 (玄, black, is the ink), and 弘農 not 宏農 (宏 is the Qing taboo-variant). The worksheet confirms both.
- 髮禿 not 發禿; 賞不酬勞 not 常賞酬勞. The worksheet confirms both.
- 邪 not 耶, and 章臺 not 章台 — house forms, used throughout this apparatus. Editorial choices, not textual findings.
- ★ 吾嘗謂君中書 adopted, against the worksheet's 吾嘗謂中書君. The dismissal turns on it: 中書 read as the office, or as 中 (zhòng, to hit the mark, be fit for) plus 書, writing. Grounds — zh.wikisource and 中華詩詞網 give this reading; the traditional commentary reads the joke as a shift of part-of-speech between the two 中書, which needs 中書 in both halves; and the worksheet's own English renders it "I once called you fit to write." Adopted on sense and commentary, not on manuscript evidence. The alternative stands on the record.
- The 太史公 verdict is given complete. The quarry worksheet abridges it, dropping 毛氏有兩族 through 姬姓之毛無聞, including the 春秋 見絕於孔子 line.