

二手玫瑰

允许部分艺术家先富起来

Secondhand Rose: Let the artists get rich and their wealth trickle down

Lyrics glossed and translated by Kilu von Prince, February 5, 2021

Comments welcome!

- (1) 我像 一盒名牌 的香烟
wǒ xiàng yī hé míngpái de xiāngyān
1SG be.like one box famous.brand ATT cigarettes
“I’m like a pack of fancy cigarettes.”
- (2) 我塞进了 穷人 的 口袋
wǒ sāi-jìn le qióng-rén de kǒudai
1SG PASS stuff-into PFV poor-person ATT
“I’ve been stuffed into a poor man’s bag.”
- (3) 我像 一只贪婪 的耗子
wǒ xiàng yī zhī tānlán de hàozi
1SG be.like one CL greedy ATT rat
“I’m like a greedy rat.”
- (4) 我被 富-人 收养 起来
wǒ bèi fù-rén shōuyang qǐlai
1SG PASS rich-person adopt start
“I’ve been adopted by a rich person.”
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- (5) 我像 一盒治性病 的药
wǒ xiàng yī hé zhì xìngbìng de yào
1SG be.like one box cure venereal.disease ATT medicine
“I’m like a package of STD pills.”
- (6) 我被 爱人 偷偷 打开
wǒ bèi ài-rén tōu-tōu dǎ-kāi
1SG PASS love-person REDUP-secret hit-open
“I’ve been secretly pried open by a lover.”
- (7) 我像 一个犯 了戒 的神仙
wǒ xiàng yī ge fàn le jiè de shénxiān
1SG be.like one CL commit PFV crime ATT celestial.being
“I’m a fallen angel.” (lit. “I’m a celestial being who committed a crime.”)

- (8) 我被 老天 踢 了 下来
 wǒ bèi lǎo-tiān tī le xià-lái
 1SG PASS old-sky kick PFV down-come
 “I’ve been kicked down by the sky.”

*** Chorus ***

- (9) 一 群 猪 飞 上 了 天
 yī qún zhū fēi shàng le tiān
 one group pig fly up PFV sky
 “A bunch of pigs fly to the sky.”
- (10) 一 群 海 盗 淹 死 在 沙 滩
 yī qún hǎi-dào yān-sǐ zài shātān
 one group sea-rob flood-die be.at sand.beach
 “A bunch of drowned pirates lie on the beach.”
- (11) 我 的 儿 子 被 做 成 了 金 钱
 wǒ de érzi bèi zuò-chéng le jīnqián
 1SG ATT son PASS make-become PFV money
 “My son has been turned into money.”
- (12) 摇 曳 的 花 枯 萎 在 河 岸
 yáoyè de huā kūwěi zài hé’àn
 flutter ATT flower wither be.at riverbank
 “a fluttering flower withering on the riverbank.”
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- (13) 我 被 活 活 地 逼 成 了 个 工 人
 wǒ bèi huó-huó de bī-chéng le ge gōng-ren
 1SG PASS REDUP-live ADV force-become PFV CL work-person
 “They forced me alive to become a worker.”
- (14) 我 被 活 活 地 逼 成 了 个 商 人
 wǒ bèi huó-huó de bī-chéng le ge shāng-rén
 1SG PASS REDUP-live ADV force-become PFV CL trade-person
 “They forced me alive to become a merchant.”
- (15) 我 被 活 活 地 逼 成 了 个 诗 人
 wǒ bèi huó-huó de bī-chéng le ge shī-rén
 1SG PASS REDUP-live ADV force-become PFV CL poem-person
 “They forced me alive to be a poet.”
- (16) 我 被 活 活 地 逼 成 了 个 废 人
 wǒ bèi huó-huó de bī-chéng le ge fèi-rén
 1SG PASS REDUP-live ADV force-become PFV CL useless-person
 “They forced me alive to become a failure.”

- (17) 允许 我国 的 农民 先 富 起来
yǔxǔn wǒ-guó de nongmín xiān fù qǐlai
allow 1SG-country ATT peasants first rich start
“Let our peasants get rich and their wealth trickle down.”
- (18) 允许 我国 的 美人 先 富 起来
yǔxǔn wǒ-guó de měi-rén xiān fù qǐlai
allow 1SG-country ATT beautiful-person first rich start
“Let our beautiful people get rich and their wealth trickle down.”
- (19) 允许 我家 的 佣人 先 富 起来
yǔxǔn wǒ-jiā de yòng rén xiān fù qǐlai
allow 1SG-home ATT servant first rich start
“Let our servants get rich and their wealth trickle down.”
- (20) 允许 我国 的 艺术家 先 富 起来
yǔxǔn wǒ-guó de yìshù-jiā xiān fù qǐlai
allow 1SG-country ATT art-people first rich start
“Let our artists get rich and their wealth trickle down.”