

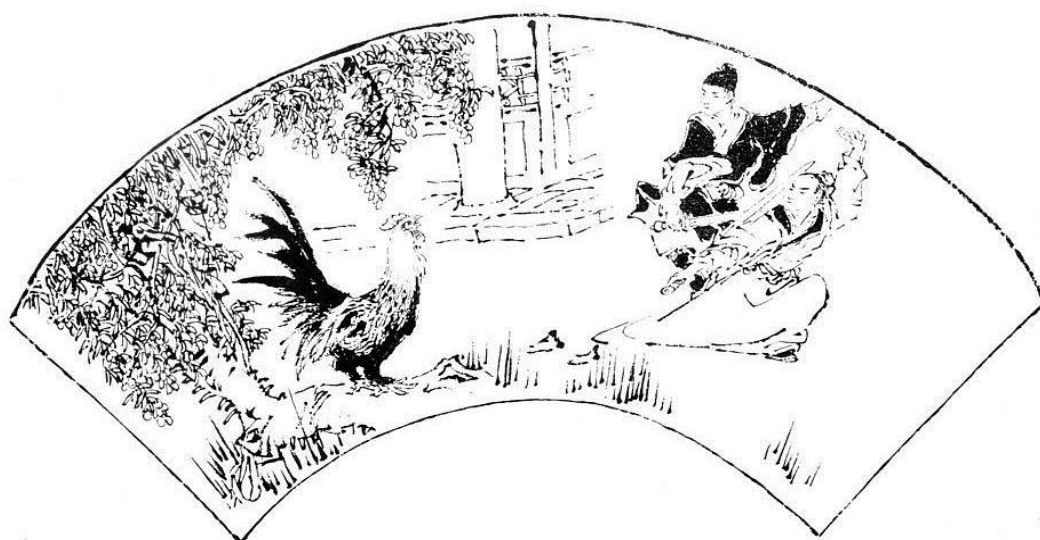
闻鸡起舞

东晋时有个青年叫祖逖，他性格豪爽心地善良，一心想报效国家。

祖逖有个好朋友叫刘琨，两人志趣相同，经常在一起讨论国家大事直到深夜。

一天半夜，祖逖被远处传来的鸡叫声惊醒，便把刘琨叫醒。刘琨说：“这鸡怎么叫得这么难听！”祖逖说：“我倒觉得这叫声很好。它是在催咱们起床练剑啊。要想报效国家，没有一个好身体可不行啊！”刘琨说：“你说得没错，今后咱们听见鸡叫就起床练剑，谁也不能偷懒啊。”于是祖逖和刘琨，每天听到鸡叫头遍就起床练剑，年复一年从不间断。经过长期的刻苦学习和锻炼，他们成为文武双全的人才。

后来祖逖被封为镇西将军，刘琨做了都督，两人终于实现了报效国家的愿望。



闻鸡起舞 出自《晋书·祖逖传》：“与司空刘琨俱为司州主簿，情好绸缪，共被同寝。中夜闻荒鸡鸣，琨琨曰：‘此非恶声也，因起舞。’”祖逖，东晋名将，爱国志士，被晋元帝任为豫州刺史，率军抗擊匈奴，渡江時曾擊楫發誓，收復中原失地。劉琨，西晉將領，少時與祖逖為友。他倆志同道合，感情很好，常常相互勉勵。半夜雞啼，一直被古人認為不祥之兆，而他們聽到雞叫却立即起身練習武藝，發奮鍛鍊。後人便以“聞雞起舞”比喻志士及時奮發。

Rise upon hearing a rooster crow to practice fencing

There was a young man named Zu Ti in the ancient East Jin State. He was forthright and kind-hearted and wholeheartedly wanted to render service to the state intently.

Zu Ti had a good friend named Liu Kun. The two were like-minded friends, and often discussed state-affairs together till mid-night.

One night, Zu Ti was wakened up by cockcrow from distance. And he woke Liu Kun up. Liu Kun said "So noisy. Why does the rooster crow so offensive?" Zu Ti said "I, on the contrary, feel like the crow. It is urging us to get up and practice swordplay. We can't render service to the state without good health." "You are right" said Liu Kun, "From now on, we must get up and practice swordplay when the rooster crow. No one can laze away." On this account, Zu Ti and Liu Kun everyday persisted in getting up early and practice swordplay as soon as the rooster crow. Year by year they never quit. After long-term assiduous study and practice, they became talents of both civil and military ability.

Later, Zu Ti was conferred the title of Zhenxi General and Liu Kun became a military governor. The two realized their ambition to serve the state.

wén jī qǐ wǔ

This idiom of “闻鸡起舞” (Rise upon hearing a rooster crow to practice fencing) is to describe diligent people.



Confucius Institute for Business London (CIBL)
Address: Houghton Street, London, WC2A 2AE

Website: www.lse.ac.uk/confucius

Tel: +44 (0)20 7955 6126

Fax: +44 (0)20 7955 6154

E-mail: h.lu1@lse.ac.uk

wén jī qǐ wǔ
闻鸡起舞

dōng jìnshí 东晋时	yǒu gè 有个	qīngnián 青年	jiào 叫	zǔ tì 祖逖	。	tā 他
East Jin State	had	young man	named	Zu Ti	.	He
There was a young man named Zu Ti in the ancient East Jin State.						
xìng gé 性格	háo shuǎng 豪爽	,	xīn dì 心地	shàn liáng 善良	,	yī xīn 一心
personalit y	forthright	,	heart	kind	,	wholeheartedl y
He was forthright and kind-hearted						
xiǎng 想	bào xiào 报效	guó jiā 国家	。	zǔ tì 祖逖	yǒu gè 有个	hǎo péng yǒu 好朋友
want to	serve	Country	.	Zu Ti	had	good friend
and wanted to render service to the state intently. Zu Ti had a good friend named Liu Kun.						
jiào 叫	liú kūn 刘琨	。	liǎng rén 两人	zhì qù 志趣	xiāng tong 相同	,
named	Liu Kun	.	Two people/the two	Inclination /interests	The same	,
The two were like-minded friends,						
jīng cháng 经常	zài yī qǐ 在一起	tǎo lùn 讨论	guó jiā 国家	dà shì 大事	zhí dào 直到	shēn yè 深夜
often	together	discuss	state	affair	till	mid-night
and often discussed state-affairs together till mid-night.						
yì tiān 一天	bàn yè 半夜	zǔ tì bèi 祖逖被	yuǎn chù 远处	chuán lái 传来 de 的	jī jiào shēng 鸡叫声	jīng xǐng 惊醒，
One day	at night	Zu Ti was	in the distance	Passed from/com e from	cockcrow	wake up
One night, Zu Ti was wakened up by cockcrow from distance.						

biànbǎ 便把	liú kūn 刘琨	jiào xǐng 叫醒	。	liú kūn 刘琨	shuō 说	:
and then	Liu Kun	wake		Liu Kun	said	:
And he woke Liu Kun up.						
zhè jī 这鸡	zěn me 怎么	jiào dé 叫得	zhè me 这么	nán tīng 难听	?	zǔ dí 祖狄
“the rooster	why	crow	so	offensive	?	Zu Ti
Liu Kun said “So noisy. Why does the rooster crow so offensive?”						
shuō 说	wǒ 我	dǎo 倒	jiào dé 觉得	zhè jiào shēng 这叫声	hěn hǎo 很好	,
said	:I	on the contrary	feel	the crow	very good	,
Zu Ti said “I, on the contrary, feel like the crow						
tā 它	shì zài 是在	cuī 催	zán men 咱们	qǐ chuáng 起床	liàn 练	jiàn 剑。
It	is (doing)	urge	us	get up	practice	sword/fencing
It is urging us to get up and practice swordplay.						
yào xiǎng 要想	bào xiào 报效	guó jiā 国家	,	méi yǒu 没有	yī gè 一个	hǎo shēn tǐ 好身体
to	serve	state	,	without	a	good health
We can't render service to the state without good health.						
kě 可	bú háng ā 不行啊	。	liú kūn 刘琨	shuō 说	:	nǐ 你
adv.	cannot	.	Liu Kun	said	:	You
“You are right” said Liu Kun,						
shuō dé 说得	méi cuò 没错	,	jīn hòu 今后	zán men 咱们	tīng jiàn 听见	jī jiào 鸡叫
said	right	,	from now on	we	hear	Crow
“From now on, we must get up and practice swordplay when the rooster crow.						
jiù 就	qǐ chuáng 起床	liàn 练	jiàn 剑，	shuí 谁	yě bù néng 也不能	tōu lǎn ā 偷懒啊。
as soon as	get up	practice	Swordplay,	who	neither	to be lazy.
No one can laze away.”						
			yú shì 于是	zǔ tì hé liú kūn 祖逖和刘琨	měi tiān 每天	tīng dào 听到
			On the account	Zu Ti and Liu Kun	everyday	hear
On this account, Zu Ti and Liu Kun everyday						

jī 鸡	jiào 叫	,	jiù 就	qǐ chuáng 起床	liàn jiàn 练剑	,
rooster	crow	,	as soon as	get up	practice swordplay	,
persisted in getting up early and practice swordplay as soon as the rooster crow.						
niánfù yī nián 年复一年	cóng bú 从不	jiān duàn 间断	。		jīng guò 经过	cháng qīde 长期的
year by year	never	quit			After	long-term
Year by year they never quit.						
kè kǔ 刻苦	xué xí 学习	héduàn liàn 和锻炼,	tā men 他们	chéng wéi 成为	wén wǔshuāng quán 文武双全	de 的
assiduous	study	and practice	they	became	well-versed in both civil and military ability (fixed expression)	of
After long-term assiduous study and practice, they became talents of both civil and military ability.						
rén cái 人才	。	hòu lái 后来	zǔ tìbèi 祖逖被	fēng wéi 封为	zhèn xī jiāng jūn 镇西将军	,
talent		Later	Zu Ti was	conferred	Zhenxi General	,
Later, Zu Ti was conferred the title of Zhenxi General						
liú kūn 刘琨	zuò le 做了	dōu dū 都督	。	liǎng rén 两人	zhōng yú 终于	shí xiàn le 实现了
Liu Kun	became	governor		The tow	finally	realised
and Liu Kun became a military governor.						
bào xiào 报效	guó jiā de 国家的	yuàn wàng 愿望				
serve	state	will/ambition				
The two realized their ambition to serve the state.						

Key words

- wén jī qǐ wǔ
闻 鸡 起 舞 : Rise upon hearing a rooster crow to practice fencing. This idiom is to describe diligent people.

- bào xiào guó jiā
报 效 国 家 : render service to the state

- xīn dì shàn liáng
心 地 善 良 : kind-hearted

- wén wǔ shuāng quán
文 武 双 全 : well-versed in both civil and military ability (fixed expression)

- nián fù yī nián
年 复 一 年 : year by year

