

狐假虎威

《戰國策・楚策一》

荊宣王問群臣曰：「吾聞北方之畏昭奚恤也，果誠何如？」群臣莫對。江乙對曰：「虎求百獸而食之，得狐。狐曰：「子無敢食我也。天帝使我長百獸，今子食我，是逆天帝命也。子以我為不信，吾為子先行，子隨我後，觀百獸之見我而敢不走乎？」虎以為然，故遂與之行。獸見之皆走。虎不知獸畏己而走也，以為畏狐也。今王之地方五千里，帶甲百萬，而專屬之於昭奚恤；故北方之畏昭奚恤也，其實畏王之甲兵也，猶百獸之畏虎也。」

The Fox and the Tiger

< The Strategies of the Warring States >

King Xuan of Chu state once said to his officials in attendance, “I heard that the neighbouring states in the north are very much afraid of General Zhao Xixu. I wonder if this is really the case.” Of all officials present, Jiang Yi was the only one who offered an answer to the king’s question. He said, “The tiger goes about preying on all animals for food. One day, he caught a fox and was about to eat it when the fox said, “You would not dare to eat me. The god of Heaven sent me to Earth to be the head of all animals. If you eat me, you will be acting against the wishes of the god. If you don’t believe me, just come and walk a little with me. I will go in the front and you can follow me. You will see how the animals will flee as soon as they see me approaching.” The tiger agreed to the idea and went with the fox. Their presence put all animals to a hasty flight in no time. The tiger did not realise it was he, not the fox, that sent them to flee in panic. Now your Majesty rules a state which covers five thousand square *li* and maintains an armed force of one million people, which you entrust to General Zhao Xixu entirely. It is really the powerful army of your Majesty, rather than General Zhao, that holds the northern states in awe, analogous to the fact that it is the tiger, instead of the fox, that sent the animals fleeing.”

Notes 註釋

Li (里) is a Chinese measurement unit of distance.

The message of the story is similar to that conveyed by the English idiom: *To Ride the Coattails of Others*.