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Beijing, erases 'God', 'Bible' and 'Christ' from kids text books

by Wang Zhicheng

The stories of the "Little Match Girl" and "Robinson Crusoe" altered as well as the works of Chekhov, Dumas, Hugo ... All in obedience to Xi Jinping, who wants the "syncicization" of religions and the rejection of "Western values". The fear that China will become "the most Christian country in the world".

Beijing (AsiaNews) - Words like "God", "Bible" and "Christ" have been erased from a textbook for elementary school children. In an attempt to reduce adhesion to religions (and in particular to Christianity), or to submit them to forced "syncicization", these words have been censored even in stories by foreign authors.

At the beginning of the year, the government linked Publishers for the Education of the People, printed a book for fifth grade students, which contains four stories by foreign writers and others by classical Chinese authors.

According to the Chinese Mministry for Education, the book aims to offer students an understanding of other cultures. Unfortunately, however, the stories are manipulated to respond to the imperative of the Party to stifle any religious reference.

In the story of the "Little Match Girl", by Hans Christian Andersen, at a certain point, the child's dead grandmother appears to her in vision who tells her: "When a star falls, a soul goes to be with God". In the "Chinese" version, the grandmother says: "When a star falls, a person leaves this world".

Daniel Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe" also suffered censorship: shipwrecked on an isolated island, the adventurous protagonist manages to recover three copies of the Bible from the remains of the shipwreck. The new version eliminates the word "Bible" and says that Crusoe managed to save a "few books" from the destroyed ship.

A part has been eliminated from the story "Vanka" by Anton Chekhov, telling of a prayer in church and the word "Christ" has been erased everywhere.

The censorship of Christian religious elements is also widespread at other school levels. In the universities there are professors who condemn the classics containing words concerning religion to censorship, and confiscate them. These would include "The Count of Montecristo" by A. Dumas, "Resurrection" by Lev Tolstoy, "Notre-Dame de Paris" by Victor Hugo, etc ...

All these operations respond to the [directives launched by President Xi Jinping in 2015](#), according to which religions, in order to exist in China, must "become synonymous", assimilate themselves to Chinese culture and submit to the Communist Party. Their "syncicization" is obtained by extolling nationalistic patriotism and despising "foreign" religions, such as Christianity.

According to observers, the campaign against Christianity is due to the fear that China will become the "most Christian country in the world" by 2030, as some sociologists expect (Fenggang Yang). At the same time, it also acts as a shield [from ideas such as democracy, human rights, justice, the rule of law](#).

(Photo by Takashi Funakoshi, Asahi Shimbun)



伸出干去。这时候，火柴又灭了。只见圣诞树上的烛光越升越高，最后成了在天空中闪烁的星星。有一颗星星落下来了，在天空中划出一道细长的红光。

“有一个什么人快要死了。”小女孩说。唯一疼她的奶奶活着的时候告诉过她：一颗星星落下来，就有一个人要离开了。

她在墙上又擦着了一根火柴。这一回，火柴把周围全照亮了。奶奶出现在亮光里，是那么温和，那么慈爱。“奶奶！”小女孩叫起来，“请把我带走吧！我知道，火柴一灭，您就会不见的，像那暖和的火炉，喷香的烤鹅，美丽的圣诞树一个样，就会不见的！”

她赶紧擦着了一大把火柴，要把奶奶留住。一大把火柴发出强烈的光，照得跟白天一样明亮。奶奶从来没有像现在这样高大，这样美丽。奶奶把小女孩抱起来，搂在怀里。她俩在光明和快乐中飞走了，越飞越高，飞到那没有寒冷，没有饥饿，也没有痛苦的地方去了。

第二天清晨，这个小女孩坐在墙角里，两腮通红，嘴上带着微笑。她死了，在旧年的大年夜冻死了。新年的太阳升起来了，照在她小小的尸体上。小女孩坐在那儿，手里还捏着一把烧过了的火柴梗。

“她想给自己暖和一下。”人们说。谁也不知道她曾经看到过多么美丽的东西，她曾经多么幸福，跟着她

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