

- [CH'OU HU pulls out his gun, points it at the portrait, and fires four shots in rapid succession. The portrait drops to the ground.]
- CHIN-TZU: Tiger!
- [The people outside think that CH'OU HU is trying to rush them. They fire a volley of shots in confusion.]
- CH'OU HU: They have really come.
- [In the midst of the shots, CH'ANG WU is heard shouting: "Don't shoot, back there! Don't shoot, I'm right in front of you!" He stumbles into the room through door centre.]
- CH'ANG WU: (Sees CH'OU HU, paralysed with fright) Oh, my God! (Turns to rush out.)
- CH'OU HU: (Grabs hold of him) You've come at the right time! (Points the gun at him) Just right! (Calls to outside the centre door.) Hey, you out there! Don't shoot! (Shooting continues outside. Turns to CH'ANG WU) You talk to them, tell them not to shoot.
- CH'ANG WU: (At an angle to the window, calls urgently) Captain Liu! Captain Liu! Don't shoot, it's me, Ch'ang Wu, old Ch'ang Wu.
- [The shooting stops.]
- CH'OU HU: Tell them I've got you covered. Tell them not to shoot. I want to go out.
- CH'ANG WU: (Hardly audible) Captain Liu! Ch'ou Hu's got me. Captain Liu, He's taking me with him as hostage. He's coming out. Please, please don't shoot.
- CH'OU HU: Brothers, I, Ch'ou Hu, have no score to settle with you. I'm here to avenge the great wrong done to two generations of my house. In the name of brotherhood, spare me a way out. If you don't I'll start with Ch'ang Wu right here.
- CH'ANG WU: Captain Liu! Captain Liu!
- CH'OU HU: Well, what do you say? What? No answer? If you don't agree, fire one shot; if you agree, fire two. What about it?
- [Silence.]
- CH'OU HU: Well, if you don't answer me, I'll count ten. If you still don't answer, (to CH'ANG WU) then I won't stand on ceremony.
- CH'ANG WU: Captain Liu! Captain Liu!
- CH'OU HU: (Starts counting) One, two, three, four
- CH'ANG WU: (Almost simultaneously) Captain Liu, Captain Liu! I have a big family, grownups and children. If I am killed my people will go after you, Captain Liu!
- [Silence all round.]
- CH'OU HU: Eight, nine. . . .
- CH'ANG WU: Captain. . . .
- [One shot is fired outside.]
- CH'OU HU: One shot!
- CH'ANG WU: Captain Liu! Captain. . . .
- [Another shot is fired outside.]
- CH'OU HU: Two shots!
- CH'ANG WU: (Sighs with relief) Ah!
- CH'OU HU: (With a gun in CHANG WU's back) Let's go! (To CHIN-TZU) Let's go!
- [CHIN-TZU takes the bundle of clothes and follows the two men out through door centre.
- [There is no one in the room. A pause. Suddenly one hears two distant shots, followed by more shots fired at shorter and shorter intervals. As the curtain closes, more rapid gun shots are heard.]

On Target

Most aspiring translators do not fail because they don't know the source language, but rather they fail because of one of the following reasons:

- (a) they simply haven't got the brains required;
- (b) they are incapable of the necessary attention to minute detail;
- (c) they have not mastered the *target* language.

I have never yet met any native-born American who admitted that he or she was incapable of writing good English; nor for that matter any German who admitted to not being capable of writing good German—yet very few can write.

—"The Agent Speaks", *The ATA Chronicle*, Newspaper of the American Translators Association, April 1975.