persistence/Constant dripping of water wears away the stone.

One day, Zhang Guaiya (the county magistrate) was patrolling the government buildings.

He saw a minor official come out from the money vault hurriedly.

Zhang Guaiya stopped him and asked, "Why are you in such a hurry?"

"No reason." the officer answered.

Zhang Guaiya recalled the things stolen from the money vault recently. He ordered the guards to search the officer.

Consequently, there was a copper piece found in the officer’s headband.

Zhang Guaiya asked him how much more money he had stolen. The officer refused to admit that he stole any additional money. Zhang Guaiya ordered that the officer be tortured.

The officer didn’t give in and said, “It’s nothing to steal just a copper piece. Could it be that you can kill me?”

Zhang Guaiya was very angry and sent him to be executed.”

He said to all the people, "Constant dripping of water wears away the stone, let alone stealing everyday."

滴水穿石

一天，宋朝县令张乖崖在衙门周围巡行。

看到一个小吏慌慌张张地从钱库中走出来。

张乖崖把他喊住问：“你这么慌慌张张干什么?”

“没什么。”那小吏回答说。

张乖崖联想到最近钱库经常失窃，便让随从对他进行搜查。

结果，在头巾里搜到一枚铜钱。

张乖崖问他一共偷了多少钱，小吏不承认另外偷过钱，张乖崖便下令拷打。

小吏不服说：“ 偷了一枚铜钱有什么了不起，难道你还能杀了我？”

张乖崖十分愤怒，就把他押到刑场斩首示众。

并对所有人说：“水滴不停的滴，就能把石头滴穿，更不用说是每天偷盗了。”