



诺贝尔文学奖获奖作家作品精选

中英对照

独来独往的猫

*The Cat that
Walked by Himself*

吉卜林◎著

陈 洁◎译

读
大师作品
品一流英文

中国书籍出版社



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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

独来独往的猫 / (英) 吉卜林 (Kipling, R.) 著; 陈洁译.
—北京: 中国书籍出版社, 2008. 6
(诺贝尔文学奖获奖作家作品精选)
ISBN 978 - 7 - 5068 - 1723 - 3

I. 独… II. ①吉…②陈… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物②短篇小说—作品集—英国—现代 IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2008) 第 091149 号

责任编辑 / 游 翔

责任印制 / 熊 力 武雅彬

封面设计 / 北京华子图文设计公司

出版发行 / 中国书籍出版社

地 址: 北京市丰台区三路居路 97 号 (邮编: 100073)

电 话: (010)51259192(总编室) (010)51259186(发行部)

电子邮箱: chinabp@vip.sina.com

经 销 / 全国新华书店

印 刷 / 北京京海印刷厂

开 本 / 880 毫米 × 1230 毫米 1/24

印 张 / 12.25

字 数 / 162 千字

版 次 / 2008 年 6 月第 1 版 2008 年 6 月第 1 次印刷

定 价 / 25.00 元

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The Cat that Walked
by Himself

独来独往的猫

Mowgli's Brothers

Now Rann the Kite brings home the night

That Mang the Bat sets free—

The herds are shut in byre and hut

For loosed till dawn are we.

This is the hour of pride and power,

Talon and tush and claw.

Oh, hear the call! —Good hunting all

That keep the Jungle Law!

—Night-Song in the Jungle

It was seven o'clock of a very warm evening in the Seeonee hills when Father Wolf woke up from his day's rest, scratched himself, yawned, and spread out his paws one after the other to get rid of the sleepy feeling in their tips. Mother Wolf lay with her big gray nose dropped across her four tumbling, squealing cubs, and the moon shone into the mouth of the cave where they all lived. "Aughr! " said Father Wolf. "It is time to hunt

莫戈里的弟兄们

蝙蝠曼恩将黑夜释放，
回家的鸢鹰契尔把它捎回—
家畜都已进了棚栏和木房，
而我们野兽要放纵到天亮。
这是炫耀和尚武的时间，
统统亮出利爪、尖牙和巨钳。
啊，请听那声声呼唤—
祝全体遵守丛林法规的生物狩猎成功！

——《丛林夜歌》

西奥尼山里一个非常温暖的夜晚，狼爸爸睡了一天，当他醒来时已经是七点钟了。他抓了抓搔，打了个哈欠，一只接一只地伸展开爪子，驱赶着爪子尖上的睡意。狼妈妈还躺在那儿，灰色的大鼻子不时地碰着她那四只滚来滚去、又吵又叫的狼崽们。月光照进了他们一家居住的山洞。“噢呜！”狼爸爸说，“又该去打猎了。”他

again.” He was going to spring down hill when a little shadow with a bushy tail crossed the threshold and whined: “Good luck go with you, O Chief of the Wolves. And good luck and strong white teeth go with noble children that they may never forget the hungry in this world.”

It was the jackal—Tabaqui, the Dish-licker—and the wolves of India despise Tabaqui because he runs about making mischief, and telling tales, and eating rags and pieces of leather from the village rubbish-heaps. But they are afraid of him too, because Tabaqui, more than anyone else in the jungle, is apt to go mad, and then he forgets that he was ever afraid of anyone, and runs through the forest biting everything in his way. Even the tiger runs and hides when little Tabaqui goes mad, for madness is the most disgraceful thing that can overtake a wild creature. We call it hydrophobia, but they call it dewanee—the madness—and run.

“Enter, then, and look,” said Father Wolf stiffly, “but there is no food here.”

“For a wolf, no,” said Tabaqui, “but for so mean a person as myself a dry bone is a good feast. Who are we, the Gidur-log [the jackal people], to pick and choose?” He scuttled to the back of the cave, where he found the

正要跳下山去的时候，一个拖着毛茸茸尾巴的小个子身影来到了洞口，说道：“狼大王，祝您好运，也祝您高贵的孩子们好运，长一口洁白、坚实的好牙，让他们一辈子也别忘了这世上还有忍饥挨饿的。”

说话的叫塔巴克——他是专门舔吃别人残羹剩饭的豺，印度的狼都看不起他，因为他到处施奸耍诈，搬弄是非，吃些在村里垃圾堆上找到的破布、烂皮。但是他们也怕他，因为塔巴克比丛林里任何一个动物都更容易发疯，而且他一发起疯来就忘了自己过去怕过谁，就会在森林里横冲直撞，见谁咬谁。当小个子塔巴克发疯的时候，就连老虎遇上了也会逃开躲起来，因为野兽们觉得最丢脸的事儿就是犯疯病了。我们人把这种病称为狂犬病，可是动物们管它叫狄顽尼——也就是疯病，谁遇上了都赶紧逃开。

“那么你就进来看看吧，”狼爸爸口气硬硬地说道，“这儿什么吃的都没有。”

“对一头狼来说，是没有可吃的，”塔巴克说道，“但是对于我这么一个地位卑微的家伙，一根干骨头就是一顿盛宴了。我们是谁啊——吉铎老格——一群豺而已，我们还有什么挑三拣四的？”他急忙钻进洞深处，在那里找到一块上面带点肉的公鹿骨头，就坐下美

bone of a buck with some meat on it, and sat cracking the end merrily.

“All thanks for this good meal,” he said, licking his lips. “How beautiful are the noble children! How large are their eyes! And so young too! Indeed, indeed, I might have remembered that the children of kings are men from the beginning.”

Now, Tabaqui knew as well as anyone else that there is nothing so unlucky as to compliment children to their faces. It pleased him to see Mother and Father Wolf look uncomfortable.

Tabaqui sat still, rejoicing in the mischief that he had made, and then he said spitefully:

“Shere Khan, the Big One, has shifted his hunting grounds. He will hunt among these hills for the next moon, so he has told me.”

Shere Khan was the tiger who lived near the Waingunga River, twenty miles away.

“He has no right! ” Father Wolf began angrily—“By the Law of the Jungle he has no right to change his quarters without due warning. He will frighten every head of game within ten miles, and I—I have to kill for two, these days.”

“His mother did not call him Lungri [the Lame One] for nothing,” said Mother Wolf quietly. “He has been lame in one foot from his birth.

滋滋地啃了起来。

“多谢这顿美餐，”他边舔着嘴唇边说道，“您家这些高贵的孩子们长得多漂亮啊！他们的眼睛真大！而且还这么年轻！真的，说真的，我早该知道，大王家的孩子们打小就是男子汉。”

其实，塔巴克和其他人一样清楚，当面恭维人家的孩子是最犯忌讳的事。他看见狼爸爸和狼妈妈那副不自在的样儿，心里可高兴了。

塔巴克纹丝不动地坐着，为他的恶作剧而沾沾自喜，接着他又不怀好意地说：

“大头领谢尔可汗把狩猎场挪了个地方。下个月他就要在这附近的山里打猎了，是他亲口告诉我的。”

谢尔可汗就是那只住在二十英里外韦根加河畔的老虎。

“他哪有这个权利！”狼爸爸气呼呼地说道，“按照丛林法则，不预先打招呼，他就没有权利改换场地。他会惊动方圆十英里之内所有的猎物的。可是我——我这些日子还得猎取双份的猎物呢。”

“他的母亲管他叫朗戈里（拐腿的意思），不是毫无道理的。”狼妈妈平静地说道，“他一出生就瘸了一条腿。所以他只能猎杀耕牛。

That is why he has only killed cattle. Now the villagers of the Waingunga are angry with him, and he has come here to make our villagers angry. They will scour the jungle for him when he is far away, and we and our children must run when the grass is set alight. Indeed, we are very grateful to Shere Khan! ”

“Shall I tell him of your gratitude?” said Tabaqui.

“Out! ” snapped Father Wolf. “Out and hunt with thy master. Thou hast done harm enough for one night.”

“I go,” said Tabaqui quietly. “Ye can hear Shere Khan below in the thickets. I might have saved myself the message.”

Father Wolf listened, and below in the valley that ran down to a little river he heard the dry, angry, snarly, singsong whine of a tiger who has caught nothing and does not care if all the jungle knows it.

“The fool! ” said Father Wolf. “To begin a night’s work with that noise! Does he think that our buck are like his fat Waingunga bullocks?”

“H’sh. It is neither bullock nor buck he hunts to-night,” said Mother Wolf. “It is Man.”

The whine had changed to a sort of humming purr that seemed to

现在韦根加河一带村子里的老百姓都被他惹火了，然后他又到这儿来惹火我们这里的村民。他们准会到丛林里来搜捕他，到时候他倒是躲得远远的了，等他们一把火点着了茅草，我们和孩子们就只有逃跑的分了。我们可真得要好好感谢感谢谢尔可汗！”

“要我向他转达你们的谢意吗？”塔巴克问道。

“滚！”狼爸爸厉声喝道，“滚出去和你的主子一块打猎去吧。这一晚上你干的坏事已经够多的了。”

“走就走，”塔巴克从容地说道，“你们能听得到谢尔可汗这会儿正在下面林子里走动呢。本来就用不着我告诉你们这个事的。”

狼爸爸听了听，果然听到下面通往一条小河的河谷里，一只什么也没有逮着的老虎气冲冲地发出单调而粗鲁的哼唧声，根本不在乎全丛林都知道这一点。

“真是个傻瓜！”狼爸爸说，“一晚上的活儿刚开始，就吵得那么响！难道他以为我们这儿的公鹿都像他那些韦根加肥肥胖胖的小公牛一样愚蠢？”

“嘘！他今晚捕猎的既不是小公牛，也不是公鹿，”狼妈妈说道，“而是人。”

哼唧声变成了震颤不已的低沉的呜呜声，仿佛来自四面八方。

come from every quarter of the compass. It was the noise that bewilders woodcutters and gypsies sleeping in the open, and makes them run sometimes into the very mouth of the tiger.

“Man! ” said Father Wolf, showing all his white teeth. “Faugh! Are there not enough beetles and frogs in the tanks that he must eat Man, and on our ground too! ”

The Law of the Jungle, which never orders anything without a reason, forbids every beast to eat Man except when he is killing to show his children how to kill, and then he must hunt outside the hunting grounds of his pack or tribe. The real reason for this is that man-killing means, sooner or later, the arrival of white men on elephants, with guns, and hundreds of brown men with gongs and rockets and torches. Then everybody in the jungle suffers. The reason the beasts give among themselves is that Man is the weakest and most defenseless of all living things, and it is unsportsmanlike to touch him. They say too—and it is true—that man-eaters become mangy, and lose their teeth.

The purr grew louder, and ended in the full-throated “Aaarh! ” of the tiger’s charge.

Then there was a howl—an untigerish howl—from Shere Khan. “He has missed,” said Mother Wolf. “What is it?”

这种吼声常常会迷惑露宿的樵夫和吉卜赛人，有时候会使他们自己跑进老虎的嘴里。

“人！”狼爸爸龇着大白牙说道，“嘿！难道池塘里的甲虫和青蛙还不够他吃的，一定要吃人才行？而且还是在我们的地盘上呢！”

丛林法则的条条规定都事出有因，它禁止任何一头野兽吃人，除非他是在教他的孩子怎样去捕杀猎物，即使是那种情况下，他也必须在他自己这个群体或部落的捕猎场以外去捕猎。这条规定的真实原因是：杀了人就意味着迟早会招来骑着大象、带着猎枪的白人，还会有几百个手持铜锣、火箭和火把的棕褐色皮肤的人。那时丛林里所有居住的兽类都得跟着受罪。可是野兽们自己对这条规定的解释是：因为人是生物中最软弱和最没有自卫能力的，所以去碰他是不道德的。他们还说——这说法是正确的——吃人的野兽就会长疮、掉牙。

呜呜声越叫越响，后来变成了老虎扑食猎物时洪亮的“啊呜”声。

然后是谢尔可汗发出的哀号声——一声没有虎气的哀号。“他没抓到猎物，”狼妈妈说道，“怎么了？”

Father Wolf ran out a few paces and heard Shere Khan muttering and mumbling savagely as he tumbled about in the scrub.

“The fool has had no more sense than to jump at a woodcutter’s campfire, and has burned his feet,” said Father Wolf with a grunt. “Tabaqui is with him.”

“Something is coming uphill,” said Mother Wolf, twitching one ear. “Get ready.”

The bushes rustled a little in the thicket, and Father Wolf dropped with his haunches under him, ready for his leap. Then, if you had been watching, you would have seen the most wonderful thing in the world—the wolf checked in mid-spring. He made his bound before he saw what it was he was jumping at, and then he tried to stop himself. The result was that he shot up straight into the air for four or five feet, landing almost where he left ground.

“Man! ” he snapped. “A man’s cub. Look! ”

Directly in front of him, holding on by a low branch, stood a naked brown baby who could just walk—as soft and as dimpled a little atom as ever came to a wolf’s cave at night. He looked up into Father Wolf’s face, and laughed.

“Is that a man’s cub?” said Mother Wolf. “I have never seen one.

狼爸爸跑出去几步，听见谢尔可汗在矮树丛里跌来撞去，嘴里嘟嘟囔囔地抱怨着什么。

“这个笨蛋太蠢了，竟然跳到了一个樵夫的篝火堆上，把脚烧伤了，”狼爸爸哼了一声说道，“塔巴克和他在一起呢。”

“有什么东西正走上山来，”狼妈妈的一只耳朵抽动了一下，说道，“做好准备。”

树丛中的枝条簌簌作响，狼爸爸蹲下身子，准备往上跳。接着，你要是一直在看着他的话，你就可以看见世上最精彩的一幕——狼腾空而起，半路上又收住了脚。原来他还没有看清他要扑的目标就跳了起来，于是他又止住了自己。结果是，他跳到四五英尺高的空中，又差不多落到他起跳的那个地方。

“是人！”他急促地说道，“快看！还是个小孩子。”

就在他的前面，站着一个全身赤裸、皮肤棕黑、刚学会走路的小孩子。他手里握住一根低矮的枝条——从来还没有这么一个娇嫩、面带小酒窝的小生命，在晚上来到狼的洞穴。小孩子抬起头看着狼爸爸的脸，笑了。

“那就是人类的孩子吗？”狼妈妈问道，“我还从来没有看过呢。”

Bring it here.”

A Wolf accustomed to moving his own cubs can, if necessary, mouth an egg without breaking it, and though Father Wolf's jaws closed right on the child's back not a tooth even scratched the skin as he laid it down among the cubs.

“How little! How naked, and—how bold! ” said Mother Wolf softly. The baby was pushing his way between the cubs to get close to the warm hide. “Ahai! He is taking his meal with the others. And so this is a man's cub. Now, was there ever a wolf that could boast of a man's cub among her children?”

“I have heard now and again of such a thing, but never in our Pack or in my time,” said Father Wolf. “He is altogether without hair, and I could kill him with a touch of my foot. But see, he looks up and is not afraid.”

The moonlight was blocked out of the mouth of the cave, for Shere Khan's great square head and shoulders were thrust into the entrance. Tabaqui, behind him, was squeaking: “My lord, my lord, it went in here!”

“Shere Khan does us great honor,” said Father Wolf, but his eyes were very angry. “What does Shere Khan need?”

“My quarry. A man's cub went this way,” said Shere Khan. “Its