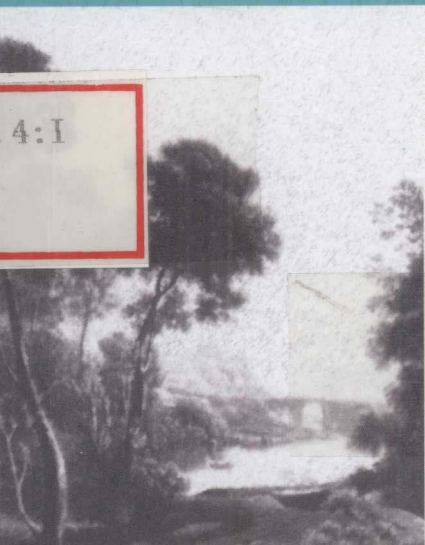


名著名篇双语对照丛书
MINGZHUMINGPIAN
SHUANGYUDUIZHACONGSHU

马克·吐温 精粹

[美] 马克·吐温 ◎著 张焱 ◎译



中英对照

Mark Twain

1835-1910

马克·吐温 (Mark Twain, 1835-1910, 原名塞缪尔·朗赫恩·克莱门斯), 人, 世界著名的幽默大师、短篇小说大师。他的于独特而机智的妙语, 又不乏深刻的社会洞察与马克·吐温是近代幽默文学的泰斗, 对后世文学史上的林肯”。

中国书籍出版社

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马克·吐温精粹

The 1,000,000 Bank-Note

<1>

When I was twenty-seven years old, I was a mining-broker's clerk in San Francisco, and an expert in all the details of stock traffic. I was alone in the world, and had nothing to depend upon but my wits and a clean reputation; but these were setting my feet in the road to eventual fortune, and I was content with the prospect.

My time was my own after the afternoon board, Saturdays, and I was accustomed to put it in on a little sail-boat on the bay. One day I ventured too far, and was carried out to sea. Just at nightfall, when hope was about gone, I was picked up by a small brig which was bound for London. It was a long and stormy voyage, and they made me work my passage without pay, as a common sailor. When I stepped ashore in London my clothes were ragged and shabby, and I had only a dollar in my pocket. This money fed and sheltered me twenty-four hours. During the next twenty-four I went without food and shelter.

About ten o'clock on the following morning, seedy and hungry, I was dragging myself along Portland Place, when a child that was passing, towed by a nurse-maid, tossed a luscious big pear—minus one bite—into the gutter. I stopped, of course, and fastened my desiring eye on that muddy treasure. My mouth watered for it, my stomach craved it, my whole being begged for it. But every time I made a move to get it some passing eye detected my purpose, and of course I straightened up then, and looked indifferent, and pretended that I hadn't been thinking about the pear at all. This same

百万英镑

〈1〉

二十七岁那年，我正给旧金山的一个采矿业经纪人当办事员，把证券交易的里里外外摸得门儿清。我只身闯荡社会，除了自己的聪明才智和清白的名声，就再也没什么可依靠的了。不过，这反倒让我脚踏实地地打拼，前途在我看来还是一片光明的。

每个星期六下午股市收盘后，时间就全归我自己了。这时我喜欢弄条小帆船去海湾里消磨时光。有一天我冒险驶得太远了，被带到了茫茫大海上。夜幕降临时我都要绝望了，这时，一艘开往伦敦的双桅小帆船搭救了我。漫漫的旅途中风狂雨暴，他们让我打工抵票，干普通水手的活儿。等到在伦敦上了岸，我已经衣衫褴褛，兜里只剩下一块钱了。连吃带住，我用这一块钱顶了二十四个小时。再往后的二十四个小时里，我就饥肠辘辘，无处栖身了。

大约第二天上午十点钟的时候，我破衣烂衫地饿着肚子正沿波特兰大道往前挪。这时候，一个保姆领着孩子路过，那孩子把手上刚咬了一口的大甜梨扔进了下水道。不用说，我停了下来，满含欲望的眼光盯着那个脏乎乎的宝物儿。我口水直淌，胃也咕咕地叫，整个身体都在渴求着



thing kept happening and happening, and I couldn't get the pear. I was just getting desperate enough to brave all the shame, and to seize it, when a window behind me was raised, and a gentleman spoke out of it, saying:

“Step in here, please.”

I was admitted by a gorgeous flunkey, and shown into a sumptuous room where a couple of elderly gentlemen were sitting. They sent away the servant, and made me sit down. They had just finished their breakfast, and the sight of the remains of it almost overpowered me. I could hardly keep my wits together in the presence of that food, but as I was not asked to sample it, I had to bear my trouble as best I could.



Now, something had been happening there a little before, which I did not know anything about until a good many days afterwards, but I will tell you about it now. Those two old brothers had been having a pretty hot argument a couple of days before, and had ended by agreeing to decide it by a bet, which is the English way of settling everything.

You will remember that the Bank of England once issued two notes of a million pounds each, to be used for a special purpose connected with some public transaction with a foreign country. For some reason or other only one of these had been used and canceled; the other still lay in the vaults of the Bank. Well, the brothers, chatting along, happened to get to wondering what might be the fate of a perfectly honest and intelligent stranger who should be turned adrift in London without a friend, and with no money but that million-pound bank-note, and no way to account for

这个宝贝儿。可是，每次只要我刚一动弹，想去拣梨，总有哪一双过路的火眼金睛似乎已洞悉了这一切，我自然又站得直直的，跟个没事人一样，假装从来就没在那个梨上打过主意。同一出戏上演了一回又一回，我就是拿不着那个梨。正当我在绝望中打算不顾颜面去抓梨的时候，我身后的一扇窗子打开了，一位先生话从里面传来：

“请进来。”

一个穿着华丽的仆人给我开了门，把我领入一个豪华房间，里头坐着两位上了岁数的绅士。他们把仆人打发走，让我坐下。他们刚刚吃了早餐。一看到那些剩饭，我差点冲过去。有这些吃的东西在场，我无论如何也集中不了精力，可是人家没请我品尝，我也只好尽力忍着。



马克·吐温精粹

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〈2〉

当时那一幕，我是过了好多天以后才明白的，不过我这就说给你听。这两位老兄几天以来一直在为一件事争得热火朝天，最后他们同意打个赌来分出高低——英国人总靠打赌定输赢。

你也许记得，英格兰银行曾经发行过两张一百万英镑的大钞，用于和别国公对公交易之类的特殊目的。不知怎么回事，这两张大钞中只有一张用过后注销了；另一张则一直躺在英格兰银行的金库里。且说这两兄弟聊着聊着，忽发奇想：假如一位特诚实、特有头脑的外地人流落到伦敦，举目无亲，除了一张百万英镑的大钞以外一无所有，

his being in possession of it. Brother A said he would starve to death; Brother B said he wouldn't. Brother A said he couldn't offer it at a bank or anywhere else, because he would be arrested on the spot. So they went on disputing till Brother B said he would bet twenty thousand pounds that the man would live thirty days, anyway, on that million, and keep out of jail, too. Brother A took him up. Brother B went down to the Bank and bought that note. Just like an Englishman, you see; pluck to the backbone. Then he dictated a letter, which one of his clerks wrote out in a beautiful round hand, and then the two brothers sat at the window a whole day watching for the right man to give it to.

They saw many honest faces go by that were not intelligent enough; many that were intelligent, but not honest enough; many that were both, but the possessors were not poor enough, or, if poor enough, were not strangers. There was always a defect, until I came along; but they agreed that I filled the bill all around; so they elected me unanimously, and there I was now waiting to know why I was called in. They began to ask me questions about myself, and pretty soon they had my story. Finally they told me I would answer their purpose. I said I was sincerely glad, and asked what it was. Then one of them handed me an envelope, and said I would find the explanation inside. I was going to open it, but he said no; take it to my lodgings, and look it over carefully, and not be hasty or rash. I was puzzled, and wanted to discuss the matter a little further, but



马克·吐温精粹

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而且还没法证明这张大钞是他的——这样的一个人会有怎样的命运呢？大哥说这人会饿死；弟弟说饿不死。大哥说，别说去银行了，无论去哪儿这人也花不掉那张大钞，因为他会当场被捕。兄弟两个就这样争执不下，后来弟弟说他愿出两万镑打赌，这人靠百万英镑大钞无论如何也能活三十天，而且进不了监狱。大哥同意打赌，弟弟就到英格兰银行把大钞买了回来。你看，英国男子汉就是这样，敢想敢做。然后，他口述了个帖子，叫一个文书用工整的手笔誊清；然后，两兄弟在窗前坐了整整一天，巴望来一个能消受大钞的合适人选。

他们审视着经过的每一张脸。好些人看着诚实，但不够聪明；有的够聪明，但不够诚实；还有些人既诚实又聪明，但还没有穷到那份儿上；等到一个穷困潦倒的人，却不是外地人。总是不尽人意。我的出现改变了这种境况。他们认定我具备所有条件，因此一致同意选择我。我就站在那儿，现在正等着知道他们叫我进来为的是什么事情。他们开始询问我的情况，也没用多少功夫，他们就知道了我的全部底细。最后，他们告诉我，我就是他们需要的那个人。我回答说，我打心眼儿里高兴，但想知道他们到底是什么目的。后来，这两人中的一位递给我一个信封，说我会从中找到答案。我刚要拆开看，他却说不行，让我带到住处仔仔细细地认真看，千万不能草率。我满腹疑惑，想再进一步谈谈，好从中套出点话，可他们却不干。



they didn't; so I took my leave, feeling hurt and insulted to be made the butt of what was apparently some kind of a practical joke, and yet obliged to put up with it, not being in circumstances to resent affronts from rich and strong folk.

〈3〉

I would have picked up the pear now and eaten it before all the world, but it was gone; so I had lost that by this unlucky business, and the thought of it did not soften my feeling towards those men. As soon as I was out of sight of that house I opened my envelope, and saw that it contained money! My opinion of those people changed, I can tell you! I lost not a moment, but shoved note and money into my vest pocket, and broke for the nearest cheap eating house. Well, how I did eat! When at last I couldn't hold any more, I took out my money and unfolded it, took one glimpse and nearly fainted. Five millions of dollars! Why, it made my head swim.

I must have sat there stunned and blinking at the note as much as a minute before I came rightly to myself again. The first thing I noticed, then, was the landlord. His eye was on the note, and he was petrified. He was worshiping, with all his body and soul, but he looked as if he couldn't stir hand or foot. I took my cue in a moment, and did the only rational thing there was to do. I reached the note towards him, and said, carelessly:

“Give me the change, please.”



于是我只好离开，感觉内心受到了侮辱和伤害，他们明摆着是在找乐子，把我当成笑料。但我还是顺了他们的意，我此时此刻的处境可不容许我对这些有钱的阔佬们怒目而视呢。

〈3〉

我原本可以捡起那个梨，哪怕当着全世界人的面也要吃下肚去，哪成想，那个梨已没了踪影。就因为这件倒霉的差事，我丢了可以充饥的梨子。想到这些，我自然不会对那两个老头儿有什么好感。等我一走到看不见那个房子的地方，就把信封拆开来看，结果发现里面装的居然是钱！不瞒你说，我对那两个人的印象顿时改变。我片刻也没有耽误就把信和钱往背心口袋里一塞，拔腿跑向最近的一家便宜饭店。呵！瞧我这顿猛吃！最后吃到肚子没法再装了，就拿出那张钞票展开来看。一看之下，差点没晕倒。五百万美元！老天，这让我脑袋打转儿。

想必我坐在那里直发呆，对着那张钞票直眨眼睛，足足有一分钟那么长，我才完全回过神儿来。这时候，首先引起我注意的是小店老板，他的一双眼睛盯着这张钞票，木头一样愣在那里。他整个人都流露出诚惶诚恐的样子，但似乎手和脚都不能移动分毫。我马上抓住时机，采取唯一合乎常理的可行办法：我把那张钞票递给他，满不在乎地说：

“请找钱吧。”



Then he was restored to his normal condition, and made a thousand apologies for not being able to break the bill, and I couldn't get him to touch it. He wanted to look at it, and keep on looking at it; he couldn't seem to get enough of it to quench the thirst of his eye, but he shrank from touching it as if it had been something too sacred for poor common clay to handle. I said:

"I am sorry if it is an inconvenience, but I must insist. Please change it; I haven't anything else." But he said that wasn't any matter; he was quite willing to let the trifle stand over till another time. I said I might not be in his neighborhood again for a good while; but he said it was of no consequence, he could wait, and, moreover, I could have anything I wanted, any time I chose, and let the account run as long as I pleased. He said he hoped he wasn't afraid to trust as rich a gentleman as I was, merely because I was of a merry disposition, and chose to play larks on the public in the matter of dress. By this time another customer was entering, and the landlord hinted to me to put the monster out of sight; then he bowed me all the way to the door, and I started straight for that house and those brothers, to correct the mistake which had been made before the police should hunt me up, and help me do it. I was pretty nervous; in fact, pretty badly frightened, though, of course, I was no way in fault; but I knew men well enough to know that when they find they've given a tramp a million-pound bill when they thought it was a one-pounder, they are in a frantic rage



这句话让他恢复了常态，忙不迭地连连道歉说对不起，他可没法儿找开这么大面值的钞票，我给他钱，可他连碰都不敢碰一下。他很想看这张钞票，两眼直勾勾地盯着看，那如饥似渴的样子好像怎么看都不解馋。可是他却一再后退而不敢碰，就好像那大钞是神圣的，凡夫俗子怎么能用手去亵渎它呢？于是我说道：

“如果给你带来不便，那真抱歉。可是我也没办法，只好请你找钱。我身上可是除了它什么都没有了。”可他却说这根本不算什么事情，他非常乐意把这点小钱记在帐上，下次一起结算。我说可能好一段时日我都不会到这附近来，可他说这也不要紧，他可以等着。他甚至还说我想吃什么就点什么，想什么时候来就什么时候来，而且可以一直挂账，想什么时候结账都随我的意。他又说仅仅因为我穿成这样，到公共场合和人们开了个玩笑，他还不至于连我这样的有钱人都不敢信任。正在这时，小店里又进来了另外一个客人，店主示意我快把那个“巨无霸”收好，然后一路点头哈腰地把我送到门口。一出门，我就径直去豪宅找那两兄弟，让他们在警察逮捕我之前把错误纠正过来，要不警察也会帮我这么做。当然了，我和这事没有一点儿关系。尽管如此，我还是很紧张，实际上特别害怕。不过我对人性有足够的了解，一旦这两兄弟发现错把一张百万英镑的钞票当成一磅给了那个乞丐，他们本应该抱怨自己眼神不好，可是他们



against him instead of quarreling with their own near-sightedness, as they ought. As I approached the house my excitement began to abate, for all was quiet there, which made me feel pretty sure the blunder was not discovered yet. I rang. The same servant appeared. I asked for those gentlemen.

〈4〉

“They are gone.” This in the lofty, cold way of that fellow’s tribe.

“Gone? Gone where?”

“On a journey.”

“But whereabouts?”

“To the Continent, I think.”

“The Continent?”

“Yes, sir.”

“Which way — by what route?”

“I can’t say, sir.”

“When will they be back?”

“In a month, they said.”

“A month! Oh, this is awful! Give me some sort of idea of how to get a word to them. It’s of the last importance.”

“I can’t, indeed. I’ve no idea where they’ve gone, sir.”

“Then I must see some member of the family.”

“Family’s away, too; been abroad months — in Egypt



不会这样做，反而会对那个乞丐大发雷霆，暴跳如雷。当我接近那个宅子的时候，我紧张的心情也缓和了一些，因为那里一切都很平静，这让我十分确信他们还没有发现这个错误。我按了门铃，出来的还是原先的那个仆人。我请求会见那两位绅士。

〈4〉

“他们走了。”他以他们那类人不可一世、冷冰冰的语气说。

“走了？去哪里了？”

“度假去了。”

“可是去哪了呢？”

“我想是去欧洲大陆了吧。”

“欧洲大陆？”

“是的，先生。”

“哪个方向？哪条路呢？”

“这个我可说不准，先生。”

“他们什么时候回来？”

“他们说在一个月内。”

“一个月！天啊，这可真是糟透了！帮我想想办法，能不能给他们捎个话儿，这事情十分紧迫呢。”

“实在对不起，先生。我对他们的去向一无所知。”

“那么，我必须见见他们的家人。”

“他们的家人也都不在，出国好几个月了，我想是去

