



经典插图版 ★ 英汉对照

THE COMPLETE
ANDERSEN

安徒生童话全集

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·北京·

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The Marsh King's Daughter

The storks tell many, many stories to their young ones, all about the bogs and marshes. In general each story is suited to the age and sense of the little storks. While the youngest ones are satisfied with, “Kribble—krabble, plurry—murry,” and think it a very fine story, the older ones demand something with more sense to it, or at least something about the family.

Of the two oldest stories which have been handed down among the storks, we all know the one about Moses, who was put by his mother on the banks of the Nile, where a King's daughter found him. How well she brought him up, how he became a great man, and how no one knows where he lies buried, are things that we all have heard.

The other tale is not widely known, perhaps because it is almost a family story. This tale has been handed down from one mother stork to another for a thousand years, and each succeeding story teller has told it better and better, and now we shall tell it best of all.

The first pair of storks who told this tale and who themselves played a part in it, had their summer home on the roof of the Viking's wooden castle up by the Wild Marsh in Vendsyssel. If we must be precise about our knowledge, this is in the country of Hjørring, high up near Skagen in Jutland. There is still a big marsh there, which we can read about in the official reports of that district. It is said that the place once lay under the sea, but

沼泽王的女儿

鹤鸟讲了许多故事给自己的孩子听,都是关于沼泽地和洼地的事情。这些故事一般说来,都适合听众的年龄和理解力。最小的那些鸟儿只需听听“叽叽,喳喳,呱呱”,就感到有趣,而且还会认为这很了不起呢。不过年纪大点的鸟儿则希望听到意义比较深的事情,或者无论如何与它们自己有关的事情。在鹤鸟之中流传下来的两个最老和最长的故事中,有一个是我们大家都知道的——那就是关于摩西的故事。他的母亲把他放在尼罗河上,后来他被国王的女儿发现了,得到了很好的教养,终于成为一个伟大的人物^①。他的葬地至今还没有人知道。这个故事是大家都知道的。

第二个故事人们还不知道,可能因为它是一个本地故事的缘故,这个故事是几千年来鹤鸟妈妈世代相传下来的。它们一个比一个讲得好。现在我们可以把它讲得更好了。

① 根据古代希伯来人的传说,犹太人摩西生在埃及。那时埃及的国王为了要消灭犹太种族,下命令说,凡是犹太人生下的男孩子都要杀死。摩西的母亲因此就把摩西放在尼罗河上的一个方舟里。埃及国王的女儿看到这个美貌的孩子,就把他收来作为养子。他后来带领犹太民族离开埃及到迦南去开始新的生活。事见《圣经·旧约全书·出埃及记》。

the land has risen somewhat, and is now a wilderness extending for many a mile. One is surrounded on all sides by marshy meadows, quagmires, and peat bogs, overgrown by cloud berries and stunted trees. Dank mists almost always hang over the place, and about seventy years ago wolves still made their homes there. Well may it be called the Wild Marsh. Think how desolate it was, and how much swamp and water there must have been among all those marshes and ponds a thousand years ago! Yet in most matters it must have looked then as it looks now. The reeds grew just as high, and had the same long leaves and feathery tips of a purplish—brown tint that they have now. Birch trees grew there with the same white bark and the same airily dangling leaves. As for the living creatures, the flies have not changed the cut of their gauzy apparel, and the favorite colors of the storks were white trimmed with black, and long red stockings.



However, people dressed very differently from the fashion of today. But if any of them—thrall or huntsman, it mattered not—set foot in the quagmire, they fared the same

讲这故事和亲身参加这个故事的头一对鹳鸟夫妇，住在一个维京人^①木屋子里，把它当作它们夏天的别墅。这是在温德素色尔的荒野沼泽地旁边；如果我们要表示我们学识渊博，那就不妨说，这地方是在叔林^②区的大沼泽地附近，在尤兰极北的斯卡根一带。那儿仍然是一片茫茫的沼泽。关于它的记载，我们可以在地方志中看到。据说这儿本来是海底，后来变得高起来了。它向四面扩展了许多英里，它的周围是一片潮湿的草原和泥泞的沼泽地，上面长满了能变成泥炭的青苔、野黄莓和矮小的树。这地方的上空差不多老是有一层烟雾；七十年以前，这儿还有豺狼出没。把它叫做荒野的沼地是一点也不错的。人们不难想象，它曾经是多么荒凉，它在一千年以前该有多少沼泽和湖水！

是的，那时候可以看到的東西，现在仍然可以看到，一丝也没有改变。那时的芦苇跟现在的一样高，而且长着跟现在一样长的叶子和开着蓝而带棕色的绒毛般的花。跟现在一样，那时的桦木也长出白色的皮和细嫩的松散的叶子。至于住在那儿的生物，唔，苍蝇穿的纱衣服，跟它现在穿的没有两样。那时鹳鸟的上衣的颜色仍然是白中夹着黑点，袜子仍然是红的。但是那时人们所穿的上衣，却跟现在所穿的式样不同；不过，无论谁在这泥泞的沼泽地上走过，不管他是猎人或者随从，他在一千年前遭遇的命运，决不会与现在两样。他会陷下去，一直沉落到大家所谓的沼泽王那儿去。沼泽王统治着地下

① 维京人(Viking)是最先住在北欧的好战的民族，被称为北欧海盗，他们在8世纪和9世纪征服过英国，曾在爱尔兰建立一个王国。

② 叔林(Hjoring)是现在丹麦的一个县。

a thousand years ago as they would fare today. In they would fall, and down they would sink to him whom they call the Marsh King, who rules below throughout the entire marsh land. They also call him King of the quicksands, but we like the name Marsh King better, and that was what the storks called him. Little or nothing is known about his rule, but perhaps that is just as well.

Near the marsh and close to the Liim Fiord, lay wooden castle of the Vikings, three stories high from its watertight stone cellars to the tower on its roof. The storks had built their nest on this roof, and there the mother stork sat hatching her eggs. She was certain they would be hatched.

One evening the father stork stayed out rather late, and when he got home he looked ruffled and flurried.

"I have something simply dreadful to tell you," he said to the mother stork.

"Then you had better keep it to yourself," she told him. "Remember, I am hatching eggs! If you frighten me it might have a very bad effect on them."

"But I must tell you," he insisted. "The daughter of our Egyptian host has come here. She has ventured to take this long journey, and—she's lost!"

"She who comes of fairy stock? Speak up. You know that I must not be kept in suspense while I'm on my eggs."

"It's this way, Mother. Just as you told me, she must have believed the doctor's advice. She believed that the swamp flowers up here would cure her sick father, and she has flown here in the guise of a swan, together with two other Princesses who put on swan plumage and fly north every year, to take the baths that keep them young. She has come, and she is lost."

"You make your story too long-winded," the mother stork protested. "My eggs are

的那个广大的沼泽帝国。人们也可以把他叫做泥地王，不过，我们觉得最好还是把他叫做沼泽王——鹳鸟也是这样叫他的。人们对于他的统治，知道的并不多；可能这是一件好事情。

那个维京人的木房子就在沼泽地的附近，紧贴着林姆海峡，这房子有石建的地下室、尖塔和三层楼。鹳鸟在屋顶上建筑了一个窝，鹳鸟妈妈在这儿孵卵。它很有把握，认为它孵的卵一定会有良好的结果。

有一天晚上，鹳鸟爸爸在外面待了很久。当它回到家里来的时候，它显得很慌张和忙乱。

"我有一件非常可怕的事情要告诉你！"它对鹳鸟妈妈说。

"让它去吧！"它回答说，"请记住，我在孵卵呀。这会搅乱我，蛋会受到影响！"

"你应该知道这事情！"它说，"她——我们埃及主人的女儿——已经到这儿来了！她冒险旅行到这儿来——现在她却不见了！"

"她，她是仙女的后代呀！快点告诉我吧！你知道，我在孵卵，我可受不了你这么吞吞吐吐呀！"

"你知道，妈妈，她一定相信了医生的话——这是你告诉我的。她相信这儿沼泽地里的花可以把她父亲的病治好。她穿着天鹅的羽衣，跟另外两个天鹅公主一起飞来了。这两个公主每年飞到北方来，洗一次澡，恢复她们的青春！她到这儿来了。现在她却不见了！"

"你有些太啰唆！"鹳鸟妈妈说，"这些蛋可能伤风呀。你把我弄得紧张起来，我可受不了！"

apt to catch cold. I can't bear such suspense at a time like this."

"I have been keeping my eyes open," said the father stork, "and this evening I went among the reeds where the quagmire will barely support me. There I saw three swans flying my way. There was something about their flight that warned me, 'See here! These are not real swans. These creatures are merely disguised in swan feathers!' You know as well as I do, Mother, that one feels instinctly whether a thing is true or false."

"To be sure, I do," said she. "But tell me about the Princess. I am tired of hearing about swan feathers."

"Well," the father stork said, "as you know, in the middle of the marsh there is a sort of pool. You can catch a glimpse of it from here if you will rise up a trifle. There, between the reeds and the green scum of the pool, a large alder stump juts up. On it the three swans alighted, flapped their wings and looked about them. One of them threw off her swan plumage and immediately I could see that she was the Princess from our home in Egypt. There she sat with no other cloak than her own long hair. I heard her ask the others to take good care of her swan feathers, while she dived down in the water to pluck the swamp flower which she fancied she saw there. They nodded, and held their heads high as they picked up her empty plumage.

"What are they going to do with it?' I wondered, and she must have wondered too. Our answer came soon enough, for they flew up in the air with her feather garment.

"Dive away,' they cried. 'Never more shall you fly about as a swan. Never more shall you see the land of Egypt. You may have your swamp forever.' They tore her swan guise into a hundred pieces, so that feathers whirled around like a flurry of snow. Then away they flew, those two deceitful Princesses."

"Why, that's dreadful," the mother stork said. "I can't bear to listen. Tell me what

“我已经观察过了！”鹤鸟爸爸说，“今晚我到芦苇丛里去过一次——那儿的泥巴可以承受住我。那时飞来了三只天鹅。它们飞行的样子似乎告诉我说：‘不对！这不太像天鹅；这只是天鹅的羽衣！’妈妈，你像我一样，一看就知道；你知道什么东西是真的。”

“我当然知道！”它说，“不过快点把那个公主的事情告诉我吧！什么天鹅的羽衣，我已经听厌了！”

“你知道，沼泽中央很像一个湖，”鹤鸟爸爸说，“如果你稍微立起一点，就可以看到一部分。在那儿芦苇和绿泥巴的近旁，躺着一根接骨木树的残株。有三只天鹅坐在那上面；它们拍着翅膀，向四周观察。其中有一只脱下羽衣，我马上认出她就是我们埃及主人的公主！她坐在那儿，除了她的黑发以外，身上什么衣服也没有穿。我听到她请另外两位好好看着她的天鹅羽衣，然后她就跳到水里去采她幻想中看见在那里开着的花朵。那两位点点头，飞到空中，把那脱下的羽衣衔起来。她们把它拿去干什么呢？我想。我想她可能也要问同样的问题。她马上得到了回答，而且很干脆：那两位拿着她的天鹅羽衣飞走了！‘你沉下去吧！’她们喊着说，‘你将永远也不能再穿着天鹅的羽衣飞，你将永远也不能再看到埃及了！请你在沼泽地里住下吧！’于是她们就把天鹅羽衣撕成一百块碎片，弄得羽毛像暴风雪似的在四处乱飞。于是这两位不守信义的公主就飞走了！”

“那真可怕！”鹤鸟妈妈说，“我听到真难过！不过请赶快把结果告诉我吧。”

“公主伤心地哭着，真是可怜！她的眼泪滴到那根接骨木树的残株上。这根残株就动起来，因为它就是沼泽王本人——他就住在这块沼泽地里！我亲眼看见残株怎样一转身就不再是残株了。沾满了泥土的长枝丫伸出来了，像手臂一样。于是这个可怜的孩子就非常害怕起来，她想从这块泥泞地里逃走。但是这块地方连我都承受不住，当然更谈

happened next.”

“The Princess sobbed and lamented. Her tears sprinkled down on the alder stump, and the stump moved, for it was the Marsh King himself, who lives under the quagmire. I saw the stump turn, and this was no longer a tree stump that stretched out its two muddy, branch-like arms toward the poor girl. She was so frightened that she jumped out on the green scum which cannot bear my weight, much less hers. She was instantly swallowed up, and it was the alder stump, which plunged in after her, that dragged her down. Big black bubbles rose, and these were the last traces of them. She is now buried in the Wild Marsh and never will she get back home to Egypt with the flowers she came to find. Mother, you could not have endured the sights I saw.”

“You ought not to tell me such a tale at a time like this. Our eggs may be the worse for it. The Princess can look out for herself. Someone will surely help her. Now if it had been I, or you, or any of our family, it would have been all over with us.”

“I shall look out for her, every day,” said the father stork, and he did so.

A long time went by, but one day he saw a green stalk shooting up from the bottom of the pool. When it came to the surface it grew a leaf, which got broader and broader, and then a bud appeared. As the stork was flying by one morning, the bud opened in the strong sunbeams, and in the center of it lay a beautiful child, a baby girl who looked as fresh as if she had just come from her bath. So closely did the baby resemble the Princess from Egypt that the stork thought it was she, who had become a child again. But when he considered the matter he decided that this child who lay in the cup of a water lily must be the daughter of the Princess and the Marsh King.

“She cannot remain there,” the stork said to himself, “yet my nest is already overcrowded. But I have an idea. The Viking’s wife hasn’t any children, although she is always

不到她了,她马上就陷下去,接骨木树的残株也沉下去了。事实上,是他把她拉下去了。黑色的大泡沫冒出来了,他们没有留下一点痕迹。公主现在是埋到荒凉的沼泽地里去了,她永远也不能再带一朵花儿回到埃及去了。妈妈,你一定不忍心看到这情景的!”

“在这样一个时候,你不该讲这类事儿给我听!这些蛋可能受到影响呀!那个公主会自己想办法的!一定会有人来帮助她!如果这事情发生在你或我的身上,或者在我们家族的任何人身上,我们就统统都完了!”

“但是我要每天去看看会发生什么事!”鹳鸟爸爸说。它说得到就做得得到。

很长的一段时间过去了。

有一天,它看到一根绿梗子从深深的沼泽地里长出来了。当它达到水面的时候,便冒出一片叶子来。叶子越长越宽;旁边又冒出一个花苞来了。有一天早晨,当鹳鸟在梗子上飞过的时候,花苞在强烈的太阳光中开出一朵花来;花心里面躺着一个漂亮的孩子——一个好像刚刚洗完澡的小女孩。她很像埃及的那位公主——鹳鸟一看见就认为她是那位公主,不过缩小了一些罢了。可是仔细想一下,它又觉得她很可能是公主跟沼泽王生的孩子,因此她才躺在睡莲的花心里。

“她决不能老躺在那儿!”鹳鸟爸爸想,“不过我窝里的孩子已经不少了!我有了一个好办法!那个维京人的妻子还没有孩子,她早就盼望有一个小家伙!人们说小孩子是我送来的,这一次我倒真的要送一个去了!我要带着这孩子飞到维京人的妻子那儿去;那将是一件喜事!”

于是鹳鸟把这女孩抱起来,飞到那个木房子里去。它用嘴在那个镶着膀胱皮的窗子上啄开一个洞,然后把孩子放在维京人妻子的怀里。接着它就马上飞到鹳鸟妈妈这

wishing for a little one. I'm often held responsible for bringing children, and this time I shall really bring one. I shall fly with this baby to the Viking's wife. What joy there will be."

The stork picked up the little girl, flew with her to the log castle, pecked a hole with his beak in the piece of bladder that served as a window pane, and laid the baby in the arms of the Viking woman. Then he flew home to his wife, and told her all about it. The baby storks listened attentively, for they were old enough now to be curious.

"Just think! The Princess is not dead," he told them. "She sent her little one up to me, and I have found a good home for it."

"I told you, to start with, that it would come out all right," said the mother stork. "Turn your thoughts now to your own children. It is almost time for us to start on our long journey. I am beginning to tingle under my wings. The cuckoo and the nightingale have flown already, and I heard the quail saying that we shall soon have a favorable wind. Our young ones will do us credit on the flight, or I don't know my own children."

How pleased the Viking's wife was when she awoke in the morning and found the lovely child in her arms. She kissed it and caressed it, but it screamed frightfully and thrashed about with its little arms and legs. There was no pleasing it until at last it cried itself to sleep, and as it lay there it was one of the loveliest little creatures that anyone ever saw. The Viking's wife was so overjoyed that she felt light-headed as well as light-hearted. She turned quite hopeful about everything, and felt sure that her husband and all his men might return as unexpectedly as the little one had come to her. So she set herself and her entire household to work, in order to have everything in readiness. The long, colored tapestry on which she and her handmaidens had embroidered figures of their gods—Odin, Thor, and Freya, as they were called—were hung in place. The thralls were set to

边来,把它所看到和做过的事情讲给它听。小鹤鸟们静静地听这个故事,因为现在它们已经长得够大,可以听了。

"你看,公主并没有死呀!她已经送一个小家伙到地面上来了,而且这小家伙现在还有人养!"

"我一开头就说过,结果就会是这样!"鹤鸟妈妈说,"现在请你想想你自己的孩子吧。我们旅行的时候快到了;我已经感到我的翅膀开始发痒了,杜鹃和夜莺已经动身;我听到鹤鹑说,一有顺风,他们就走。我觉得,我们的孩子们一定得好好操练一下才对!"

嗨,维京人的妻子第二天早晨醒来,看见怀里有一个漂亮的孩子,她是多么高兴呀,她吻她,摸她,但是孩子却哭得厉害,用手臂和腿乱踢乱打,看样子一点也不感到快乐。最后她哭得睡去了。当她睡着的时候,那副模样儿才可爱呢。维京人的妻子真是高兴极了,她感到非常愉快,非常舒服。于是她就幻想,她的丈夫和他的部下一定会像这个小家伙一样,某一天意外地回到家里来。

因此她就和全家人忙着准备一切东西。她和她的女仆人所织的彩色长挂毯——上面有他们的异教神祇奥丁、多尔和佛列亚^①的像——也挂起来了;奴隶们把那些作为装饰品的旧盾牌也擦亮了;凳子上放好了垫子;堂屋中间的火炉旁边放好了干柴,以便火随时都可以点起来。维京人的妻子亲自安排这些事情,因此到天黑的时候她就很困了。这天晚上她睡得很好。

① 这都是古代北欧神话中的神仙,与基督教无关。

scouring and polishing the old shields that decorated the walls; cushions were laid on the benches; and dry logs were stacked on the fireplace in the middle of the hall, so that the pile might be lighted at a moment's notice. The Viking's wife worked so hard that she was tired out, and slept soundly when evening came.

Along toward morning she awoke, and was greatly alarmed to find no trace of her little child. She sprang up, lighted a splinter of pine wood, and searched the room. To her astonishment, she found at the foot of her bed not the beautiful child, but a big, ugly frog. She was so appalled that she took up a heavy stick to kill the creature, but it looked at her with such strange, sad eyes that she could not strike. As she renewed her search, the frog gave a faint, pitiful croak. She sprang from the bed to the window, and threw open the shutter. The light of the rising sun streamed in and fell upon that big frog on the bed. It seemed as if the creature's wide mouth contracted into small, red lips. The frog legs unbent as the most exquisitely shaped limbs, and it was her lovely little child that lay there, and not that ugly frog.

"What's all this?" she exclaimed. "Have I had a nightmare? This is my pretty little elf lying here." She kissed it and pressed it affectionately to her heart, but it struggled and tried to bite, like the kitten of a wild cat.

Neither that day nor the next did her Viking husband come home. Though he was on his way, the winds were against him. They were blowing southward to speed the storks. A fair wind for one is a foul wind for another.

In the course of a few days and nights, it became plain to the Viking's wife how things were with the little child. It was under the influence of some terrible spell of sorcery. By day it was as lovely as a fairy child, but it had a wicked temper. At night, on the contrary, it was an ugly frog, quiet and pathetic, with sorrowful eyes. Here were two na-

她在天明前醒来的时候,真是惊恐极了,因为孩子已经不见了!她跳下床来,点起一根松枝,四处寻找。她发现在她的床脚头有一只很丑的大青蛙,而没有那个孩子。她一看到这东西就恶心。于是她拿起一根粗棍子,想要把这两栖动物打死。不过它用一种非常奇怪和悲哀的眼光望着她,结果她不忍下手。她又向屋子的四周望了一眼——青蛙发出一个低沉、哀哭的声音。这使她打了一个寒战。于是她从床边一脚跳到窗子边,立刻把窗子打开。这时太阳已经出来了,阳光从窗子射到床上这只大青蛙的身上。忽然间,青蛙的大嘴仿佛在收缩,变得又小又红;它的四肢在动,在伸,变成了一个非常可爱的生物。床上又是她自己可爱的孩子,而不再是一只奇丑的青蛙了。

“这是怎么回事?”她说,“难道我做了一个噩梦不成?这不就是我的美丽的天使吗?”

于是她吻她,把她紧紧地贴在自己的心上。不过这孩子像一只小野猫似的挣扎着,咬着。

维京人在这天和第二天的早晨都没有回来,虽然他现在正在回家的路上。风在朝相反的方向吹,朝有利于鸛鸟旅行的南方吹,一人的顺风就是他人的逆风。

又过了两天两夜,维京人的妻子才弄明白她的孩子是怎么回事:原来她身上附着一种可怕的魔力。在白天她美丽得像一个光明之女神,但是她却有一个粗犷和野蛮的性格;可是在晚上她就变成了一只丑恶的青蛙,非常安静,只是叹气,睁着一对忧郁的眼睛。她身上有两重不同的性格在轮流地变幻着。鸛鸟送来的这个小姑娘的外表在白天像母亲,但是性情却像父亲。在晚间,恰恰相反,她父亲的遗传在她身体的外部表现出来,而她母亲的性格和感情则主宰着她的内心,谁能把她从这种魔力中解放出来呢?

维京人的妻子为这件事感到焦虑和悲哀。她为这个小小的生物担心。她觉得,在丈

tures that changed about both inwardly and outwardly. This was because the little girl whom the stork had brought had by day her mother's appearance, together with her father's temper. But at night she showed her kinship with him in her outward form, while her mother's mind and heart inwardly became hers. Who would be able to release her from this powerful spell of sorcery that lay upon her? The Viking's wife felt most anxious and distressed about it, yet her heart went out to the poor little thing.

She knew that when her husband came home she would not dare tell him of this strange state of affairs, for he would certainly follow the custom of those times and expose the poor child on the highroad, to let anyone take it who would. The Viking's good-natured wife had not the heart to do this, so she determined that he should only see the child in the daytime.

At daybreak one morning, the wings of storks were heard beating over the roof. During the night more than a hundred pairs of storks had rested there, and now they flew up to make their way to the south.

"Every man ready," was their watchword. "Let the wives and children make ready too."

"How light we feel!" clacked the little storks. "We tingle and itch right down to our toes, as if we were full of live frogs. How fine it feels to be traveling to far-off lands."

"Keep close in one flock," cried their father and mother. "Don't clack your beaks so much, it's bad for your chest."

And away they went.

At that very instant the blast of a horn rang over the heath, to give notice that the Viking had landed with all of his men. They came home with rich booty from the Gaelic coast, where, as in Britain, the terrified people sang:

夫回来的时候,她不能把孩子的情况告诉他,因为他可能依照当时的习惯,把孩子放在公共的大路上,让随便什么人抱走。这个善良的维京女人不忍心这样做,因此她就决定只让维京人白天看到这个孩子。

有一天早晨,屋顶上响着鹤鸟拍翅的声音。头天晚上有一百多对这类的鸟儿在操练,后来又在这儿休息;现在它们起身飞到南方去。

"所有的男子,准备!"它们喊着,"妻子和孩子们也要准备!"

"我真觉得轻快!"年轻的鹤鸟们说,"我的腿里发痒,好像肚皮里装满了活青蛙似的。啊,飞到外国去多么痛快啊!"

"你们必须成群结队地飞行!"爸爸和妈妈说,"话不要讲得太多,那会伤精神的!"

于是这些鹤鸟飞走了。

在这同时,号角声在荒地上响起来了,因为维京人和他的部下已经登岸了。他们满载着战利品,正向家里走来,这些战利品是从高卢人的领海上劫掠来的。那儿的人,像住在丕列颠的人一样,在恐怖中唱:

上帝啊,请把我们从野蛮的诺曼人^①手中救出来!

啊,在沼泽地上维京人的堡垒中,生活是多么活跃,多么愉快啊!大桶的蜜酒搬到堂屋里来了,火烧起来了,马被斩了,这儿要热闹起来了。祭司把马的热血洒在奴隶们身上作为祭礼;火在熊熊地烧着,烟在屋顶下翻腾,烟灰从梁上落下来,不过这种情形他们

① 这是古代土著的北欧人,经常到法国和英国从事掳掠的活动。

“Deliver us from the wild Northmen.”

What a lively bustle now struck this Viking's castle near the Wild Marsh! A cask of mead was rolled out into the hall, the pile of wood was lighted, and horses were slaughtered. What a feast they were going to have! Priests sprinkled the horses' warm blood over the thralls as a blood offering. The fires crackled, the smoke rolled up to the roof, and soot dropped down from the beams, but they were used to that. Guests were invited, and were given handsome presents. Old grudges and double-dealings were forgotten. They all drank deep, and threw the gnawed bones in each other's faces, but that was a sign of good humor. The skald, a sort of minstrel but at the same time a fighting man who had been with them and knew what he sang about, trolled them a song, in which he told of all their valiant deeds in battle, and all their wonderful adventures. After each verse came the same refrain:

“Fortunes perish, friends die, one dies oneself,

But a glorious name never dies! ”

Then they all banged their shields, and rattled on the table with their knives or the knuckle-bones, making a terrific noise.

The Viking's wife sat on the bench that ran across this public banquet hall. She wore a silken dress with gold bracelets and big amber beads. She was in her finest attire, and the skald included her in his song. He spoke of the golden treasure which she had brought her rich husband. This husband of hers rejoiced in the lovely child whom he had seen only by day, in all its charming beauty. The savage temper that went with her day-time beauty rather pleased him, and he said that she might grow up to be a stalwart soldier maid, able to hold her own—the sort who would not flinch if a skilled hand, in fun, took a sharp sword and cut off her eyebrows for practice.

早已经习惯了。许多客人到来了,他们得到许多贵重的礼物,他们之间的仇恨和恶意现在都忘掉了。他们痛快地喝酒,彼此把啃过的骨头向对方脸上抛——这表示他们的高兴。他们的歌手——他是一个乐师,也是一个武士——为他们唱了一首歌;因为他曾经和他们在一起,所以他们知道他唱的是什么。在这首歌里面,他们听到他们的战斗事迹和功勋。每一段歌的结尾都是同样的叠句:

财富、敌友和生命都不能持久,

只有光荣的名字会永垂不朽。

他们击着盾牌,或用刀子和骨头敲着桌子。

维京人的妻子坐在宽广的大厅的十字凳上。她穿着绸衣服,戴着金臂环和大颗的琥珀珠;这是她最华贵的打扮。那个歌手在他的歌中也提到了她,并且还唱出她带给她富有的丈夫的那些贵重的嫁妆。她的丈夫在白天看到了这个可爱的孩子的美貌,感到万分地高兴。这个小生物的狂野动作特别讨他的欢心。他说,这个女孩子长大的时候,可能成为一个堂堂的女英雄,敢于和巨人作战;当一只熟练的手开玩笑地用快刀削掉她的眉毛的时候,她连眼睛都不眨一下。

蜜酒桶已经空了,新的一桶又运进来了,因为这群人一喝就要喝个痛快,而且他们能喝。那时有这样一句谚语:“家畜知道在什么时候应该离开牧场,但是一个傻气的人却不知道他的胃能装多少。”是的,他们知道,不过知和行却是两回事!他们也知道:“一个受欢迎的客人在别人家坐久了,也会引起人家讨厌的!”不过,他们仍然坐着不动,因为肉和蜜酒毕竟好吃的东西!时间过得非常愉快!夜间,奴隶们睡在温暖的灰里,舔着在油脂里浸过的手指。这是一个快乐的时代!

The mead cask was emptied, a full one was rolled in, and it too was drunk dry. These were folk who could hold a great deal. They were familiar with the old proverb to the effect that, "The cattle know when to quit their pasture, but a fool never knows the measure of his stomach."

Yes, they all knew it quite well, but people often know the right thing and do the wrong thing. They also knew that, "One wears out his welcome when he sits too long in another man's house," but they stayed on, for all that. Meat and mead are such good things, and they were a jovial crew. That night the thralls slept on the warm ashes, dipped their fingers into the fat drippings, and licked them. Oh yes, those were glorious days.

The Vikings ventured forth on one more raid that year, though the storms of autumn were beginning to blow. The Viking and his men went to the coast of Britain—"just across the water," he said—and his wife stayed at home with her little girl. It soon came about that the foster mother cared more for the poor frog with its sad eyes and pathetic croaking, than for the little beauty who scratched and bit everyone who came near her.

The raw, dank mist of fall invaded the woods and thickets. "Gnaw-worms," they called it, for it gnawed the leaves from the trees. "Pluck-feathers," as they called the snow, fell in flurry upon flurry, for winter was closing in. Sparrows took over the stork nest and gossiped about the absent owners, as tenants will. The two storks and all their young ones—where were they now?

The storks were now in the land of Egypt, where the sun shone as warm as it does upon us on a fine summer day. Tamarind and acacia trees bloomed in profusion, and the glittering crescent of Mohammed topped the domes of all the mosques. On the slender minarets many a pair of storks rested after their long journey. Whole flocks of them nested together on the columns of ancient temples and the ruined arches of forgotten cities. The

这一年,维京人又出征了,虽然晚秋的风暴已经开始在咆哮。他和他的武士们登上不列颠的海岸,照他的说法,这不过“只是过一次海”而已。他的妻子和那个女孩子留在家。有一件事是可以肯定的:这位养母不久就会喜爱这只有温柔的眼睛和发出叹息的青蛙,胜过喜爱在她身边打着、闹着的那个漂亮女孩子。

秋天潮湿的浓雾——能够把树叶咬掉的“无嘴兽”——已经笼罩在灌木林和荒地上了。人们所谓的“没有羽毛的鸟儿”——雪花——在纷乱地飞舞。冬天很快地到来了。麻雀占据了鹳鸟的窝;它们根据自己的看法,谈论着那些离去了的主人。不过这对鹳鸟夫妇和它们的孩子现在在什么地方呢?

鹳鸟现在在埃及。那里太阳照得很暖和,正如这儿的晴朗的夏天一样。附近一带的罗望子树和阿拉伯胶木已经开满了花。穆罕默德的新月在清真寺的圆屋顶上闪耀着;在那细长的尖塔上坐着许多对鹳鸟夫妇——它们做了一番长途旅行,现在正在休息。整群的鸟儿,在庄严的圆柱上,在倒塌的清真寺的拱门上,在被遗忘了的纪念碑上,筑了窝,这些窝一个接着一个地连在一起。枣树展开它的青枝绿叶,像一把阳伞。灰白色的金字塔,在遥远的沙漠上的晴空中耸立着,像大块的阴影。在这儿,鸵鸟知道怎样运用它们的长腿,狮子睁着巨大而灵敏的眼睛,注视着半埋在沙里的斯芬克斯大理石像,尼罗河的水位降低了;河床上全是青蛙——这景象,对鹳鸟的族人来说,是这国家里最值得看的东西。年轻的鹳鸟们以为这不过是视觉的幻影,因为这一切是太可爱了。

“这儿的情形就是如此。在我们温暖的国度里,它永远是这样的!”鹳鸟妈妈说。小家伙们的肚皮马上就觉得痒起来。

date palm lifted its high screen of branches, like a parasol in the sun. The gray-white pyramids were sharply outlined against the clear air of the desert, where the ostrich knew he could use his legs and the lion crouched to gaze with big solemn eyes at the marble sphinx half buried in the sand. The waters of the Nile had receded, and the delta was alive with frogs. The storks considered this the finest sight in all the land, and the young storks found it hard to believe their own eyes. Yes, everything was wonderful.

"See! it is always like this in our southern home," their mother told them. And their little bellies tingled at the spectacle.

"Do we see any more?" they asked. "Shall we travel on into the country?"

"There is nothing else worth seeing," their mother said. "Beyond this fertile delta lie the deep forests, where the trees are so interwoven by thorny creepers that only the elephant can trample a path through them with his huge, heavy feet. The snakes there are too big for us to eat, and the lizards too nimble for us to catch. And, if you go out in the desert, the slightest breeze will blow your eyes full of sand, while a storm would bury you under the dunes. No, it is best here, where there are plenty of frogs and locusts. Here I stop, and here you stay."

So they stayed. In nests atop the slender minarets the old storks rested, yet kept quite busy smoothing their feathers and sharpening their bills against their red stockings. From time to time they would stretch their necks, bow very solemnly, and hold up their heads with such high foreheads, fine feathers, and wise brown eyes. The young maiden storks strolled solemnly through the wet reeds, making eyes at the other young storks, and scraping acquaintances. At every third step they would gulp down a frog, or pause to dangle a small snake in their bills. They were under the impression that this became them immensely and, besides, it tasted so good.

“还有什么别的东西可以看吗？”它们问，“我们是不是还要飞向遥远的内地去呢？”

“再也没有什么别的东西可看了，”鸛鸟妈妈说，“这丰饶的地带里现在只有莽莽的森林。那里面的树木紧密地交织着，并且被多刺的爬藤连接在一起——只有大象才能用粗笨的脚打开一条路。蛇对我们来说是太大了，而蜥蜴又太快了。假如你们要到沙漠里去，有一点儿风吹来，你们的眼睛便会塞满了沙子；可是风猛刮起来的时候，你们可能被卷到沙柱^①中去的。唉，最好还是待在这儿吧！这儿有的是青蛙和蝗虫！我要在这儿住下来，你们也将要在这儿住下来！”

于是它们就住下来了。爸爸妈妈坐在一个尖塔顶上的窝里；休息了一会儿以后，它们就忙着理羽毛，在红色的腿上磨嘴。

它们不时伸出颈项来，庄严地致敬礼，然后又把头举起来，露出高额角，展示美丽而柔滑的羽毛，露出聪明的光亮的棕色眼睛。年轻的女鸛鸟们在丰茂的芦苇中高视阔步地走着，顽皮地瞧着别的年轻鸛鸟，交了一些朋友，每走三步就吞一只青蛙，或者用嘴衔着一条小蛇前后摆动——它们认为这东西对于它们的身体有益，而且味道很美。

年轻的男鸛鸟们开始吵闹起来，用翅膀互相打着，用嘴互相啄着，有时甚至啄得流出血来。年轻的男鸛鸟和女鸛鸟就这么订了婚，有时另一对也订了婚。这就是它们生活的目的。于是它们就建筑一个新的窝，又开始新的吵闹，因为在热带的国度里，人们的

① 沙柱是沙漠中被旋风卷起成柱子形状沙子。

The young bachelor storks picked many a squabble, buffeted each other with their wings, and even stabbed at each other with their sharp bills till blood was shed. Yes, and then this young stork would get engaged, and that young stork would get engaged. Maidens and bachelors would pair off, for that was their only object in life. They built nests of their own and squabbled anew, for in the hot countries everyone is hot-headed. But it was very pleasant there, particularly so for the old storks, who thought that their children could do no wrong. The sun shone every day, there was plenty to eat, and they had nothing to do but enjoy themselves.

However, in the splendid palace of their Egyptian host, as they called him, there was no enjoyment. This wealthy and powerful lord lay on his couch, as stiff and stark as a mummy. In the great hall, which was as colorful as the inside of a tulip, he was surrounded by his kinsmen and servants. Though he was not quite dead, he could hardly be said to be alive. The healing flower from the northern marshes, which she who had loved him best had gone to seek, would never reach him. His lovely young daughter, who had flown over land and sea in the guise of a swan, would never come home from the far North.

"She is dead and gone," the two other swan Princesses reported, when they returned. They concocted the following yarn, which they told:

"We three were flying together through the air, when a huntsman shot an arrow at us, and it struck our companion, our young friend. Like a dying swan, she sang her farewell song as she slowly dropped down to a lake in the forest. There on the shore we buried her, under a drooping birch tree. But we avenged her. We bound coals of fire to the wings of a swallow that nested under the thatched eaves of the huntsman's cottage. The roof blazed up, the cottage burst into flames, and the huntsman was burned to death. The flames were

脾气总是急躁的。不过这也很有趣,特别能引起老年人的高兴,因为自己的孩子所做的事情总是可爱的!这里每天都有太阳光,每天都有许多东西吃。它们除了娱乐以外,什么也不想。但是在它们埃及主人——它们这样称呼他——的宫殿里,愉快的事情可就没有了。

那位富有的、威严的主人躺在床榻上;在这四壁五光十色的大厅里,他像一具木乃伊似的,僵直地伸展着四肢;看样子,他像是躺在一朵郁金香里面一样。他的家人和奴仆都站在他的周围,因为他并没有死,虽然人们不能肯定地说他是活着的。那朵产自北国沼泽地的,能治病的花儿,原是要由一个最爱他的女儿去采来送回家的;但是她永远没有送回来。他美丽的年轻女儿,穿着天鹅的羽衣,越过大海和陆地飞到那遥远的北方去,以后永远也没有再回来。"她已经死了!"回来的那两位天鹅姑娘报告说。她们编了一套完整的故事,内容是这样的:

"我们三个人一起在空中高高地飞,一个猎人看到了我们,向我们射出箭来。那箭射中了我们年轻的伙伴和朋友。她一边唱着告别之歌,一边就慢慢地落下来了。她像一只要死的天鹅,落到树林中的湖里去了。

"我们把她埋葬在湖岸旁的一株芬芳的、低垂的赤杨树下。但是我们报了仇。燕子在那猎人的草屋顶下筑了一个窝,我们就在这燕子的翅膀下绑上了一把火。房子烧起来了,那个猎人就在房子里烧死了。火光照到湖上,一直照到那株低垂的赤杨——她在赤杨树根旁的泥土底下安息。她永远也不能再回到埃及来了!"

这两个人于是就哭起来。当鹤鸟爸爸听到这个故事的时候,它的嘴就响起来,弄得很远都可以听得见。

reflected across the lake, under the drooping birch tree where she lies, earth of this earth. Never, alas! shall she return to the land of Egypt."

They both wept. But when the father stork heard their tale he rattled his bill, and said, "All lies and invention! I should dearly love to drive my bill right through their breasts."

"And most likely break it," said the mother stork. "A nice sight you'd be then. Think first of yourself, and then of your family. Never mind about outsiders."

"Nevertheless, I shall perch on the open cupola tomorrow, when all the wise and learned folk come to confer about the sick man. Perhaps they will hit upon something nearer the truth."

The wise men assembled, and talked loud and long, but neither could the stork make sense out of what they had to say, nor did any good come of it to the sick man or to his daughter in the Wild Marsh. Yet we may as well hear what they had to say, for we have to listen to a lot in this world.

Perhaps it will be well to hear what had gone on before down there in Egypt. Then we shall know the whole story, or at least as much of it as the father stork knew.

"Love brings life. The greatest love brings the greatest life. Only through love may life be brought back to him." This doctrine the learned men had stated before, and they now said they had stated it wisely and well.

"It is a beautiful thought," the father stork quickly agreed.

"I don't quite understand it," said the mother stork. "That's its fault though, not mine. But no matter. I have other things to think about."

The learned men talked on about all the different kinds of love: the love of sweet-hearts, the love between parents and their children, plants' love of the light, and the

"全是捏造的谎话!"它说,"我真想把我的嘴啄进她们的胸口里去!"

"可能会把你的嘴啄断了!"鹈鸟妈妈说,"那时你的一副尊容才好看呢!你先想想自己和家庭吧!别的事情你都不用管!"

"不过明天早晨我要到那个圆屋顶上坐下来。学者和聪明人将要在哪里集会,研究病人的情况,可能他们的结论比较更能接近真理。"

学者和聪明人都来了,讲了许多话,许多高深的话;鹈鸟完全摸不着头脑。而且这些话对于病人和在那个荒凉沼泽地的女儿也没有什么好处。不过我们听听也没有什么关系,因为在这个世界上我们得听许多话。

不过把过去发生的事情再听一次,了解清楚,也是完全应该的。这样,我们就可以把整个事儿了解得更多一些,最起码也要了解得和鹈鸟爸爸一样多。

"爱产生生命!最高贵的爱情产生最美好的生命!只有通过爱才能把他的生命保住。"

人们这样说。那些学者说,这些话讲得非常聪明,很有道理。

"这是一种非常好的想法!"鹈鸟爸爸立刻说。

"这话的意思我不太了解!"鹈鸟妈妈说,"而且这不能怪我,只能怪那个想法,不过让它去吧,我有别的问题要考虑!"

那些学者讨论着这种爱,那种爱,爱与爱之间的分别,邻里之间的爱,父母和儿女之间的爱,植物和阳光之间的爱,太阳光怎样吻着沼泽地,怎样使嫩芽冒出来——这一切被阐释得那么复杂和深奥,弄得鹈鸟爸爸完全没有办法听懂,当然更谈不上传达出来了。学问把它压得透不过气来。它半闭着眼睛,第二天它若有所思地用一只腿立了一整