

双语名著无障碍阅读丛书

· 第四级 ·

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快乐王子_下

*The Happy Prince and
Other Tales*

[英国] 奥斯卡·王尔德 著
苏福忠 张敏 译

中国出版集团公司
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A HOUSE OF POMEGRANATES

石榴的房子

TO CONSTANCE MARY WILDE

——献给康丝坦斯·玛丽·王尔德

THE YOUNG KING

TO

MARGARET, LADY BROOKE

IT was the night before the day fixed for his **coronation**^①, and the young King was sitting alone in his beautiful **chamber**^②. His courtiers had all taken their leave of him, bowing their heads to the ground, according to the **cerenionious**^③ usage of the day, and had **retired**^④ to the Great Hall of the Palace, to receive a few last lessons from the Professor of **Etiquette**^⑤; there being some of them who had still quite natural manners, which in a courtier is, I need hardly say, a very grave **offence**^⑥.

The lad—for he was only a lad, being but sixteen years of age — was not sorry at their **departure**^⑦, and had flung himself back with a deep **sigh**^⑧ of relief on the soft cushions of his embroidered couch, lying there, wild-eyed and open-mouthed, like a brown woodland **Faun**^⑨, or some young animal of the forest newly **snared**^⑩ by the hunters.

And, indeed, it was the hunters who had found him, coming upon him almost by chance as, bare-**limbed**^⑪ and pipe in hand, he was

年轻的国王

——献给玛格丽特，布鲁克小姐

① coronation /kɒrə'neɪʃ(ə)n;
(ʊS)kɔːrə'neɪʃ(ə)n/
n. 加冕礼

② chamber /'tʃeɪmbə/ n.
室, 会所

③ ceremonious
/'serɪ'məʊnjəs, -niəs/ a.
正式的

④ retire /rɪ'taɪə/ v. 退下;
离开

⑤ etiquette
/'etrɪ'ket, 'etɪket/ n. 礼
仪, 礼节

⑥ offence /ə'fens/ n. 过错,
冒犯

⑦ departure /drɪ'pɑːtʃə/ n.
离开

⑧ sigh /saɪ/ n. 叹息

⑨ Faun /fɔːn/ n. 半人半羊
的农牧神

⑩ snare /sneə/ v. 以陷阱
捕获

⑪ limb /lɪm/ n. 四肢, 臂,
腿

一天夜晚，年轻的国王独自坐在他的美丽的宫殿里，第二天就是他加冕典礼的日子了。他的大臣都告辞离去，行前按加冕典礼那天的习俗纷纷头顶着地行大礼，退回宫殿的大厅，听礼仪教授的最后几节课；他们中的一些人依然还是老样子，我毋需多说，这对一个朝臣来说是大不敬的。

这位小伙子——他才十六岁，确是一个小青年——巴不得他们早早离去，他如释重负地长出一口气，一下倒在他那绣花御榻的软垫上，躺在那里，瞪着眼睛，大张着嘴，既像一尊褐色林中人兽神，又像猎人刚刚捕捉的林中的小动物。

一点不假，他真的是被猎人们非常偶然地发现的；当时他四肢裸露，手持笛子，跟在一群山羊后面；他是那个牧羊人一手拉扯大的，一直认为自己

following the **flocks**^① of the poor goatherd who had brought him up, and whose son he had always fancied himself to be. The child of the old King's only daughter by a secret marriage with one much beneath her in station — a stranger, some said, who, by the wonderful magic of his **lute**^②-playing, had made the young Princess love him; while others spoke of an artist from Rimini, to whom the Princess had shown much, perhaps too much honour, and who had suddenly disappeared from the city, leaving his work in the Cathedral unfinished — he had been, when but a week old, stolen away from his mother's side, as she slept, and given into the charge of a common peasant and his wife, who were without children of their own, and lived in a **remote**^③ part of the forest, more than a day's ride from the town. Grief, or the **plague**^④, as the court physician stated, or, as some suggested, a **swift**^⑤ Italian poison **administered**^⑥ in a cup of spiced wine, **slew**^⑦, within an hour of her waking, the white girl who had given him birth, and as the trusty messenger who bare the child across his saddle-bow, **stooped**^⑧ from his **weary**^⑨ horse and knocked at the rude door of the goatherd's hut, the body of the Princess was being lowered into an open grave that had been dug in a deserted churchyard, beyond the city gates, a grave where, it was said, that another body was also lying, that of a young man of marvellous and foreign beauty, whose hands were tied behind him with a **knotted**^⑩ **cord**^⑪, and whose breast was stabbed with many red wounds.

Such, at least, was the story that men whispered to each other. Certain it was that the old King, when on his death-bed, whether moved by **remorse**^⑫ for his great sin, or merely desiring that the kingdom should not pass away from his line, had had the lad sent for, and, in the presence of the Council, had acknowledged him as his heir.

① flock /flɒk/ n. 群

② lute /ljut/ n. 琵琶

③ remote /ri'məut/ a. 偏僻的, 遥远的

④ plague /pleɪg/ n. 瘟疫

⑤ swift /swɪft/ a. 快的, 迅速的

⑥ administer /əd'mɪnɪstə/ v. 给与, 用药

⑦ slew 是 slay 的过去式

⑧ stoop /stu:p/ v. 弯下, 弯腰

⑨ weary /'weəri/ a. 疲倦的

⑩ knot /nɒt/ v. 打结

⑪ cord /kɔ:d/ n. 绳索

⑫ remorse /ri'mɔ:s/ n. 懊悔, 悔恨

是牧羊人的儿子。这个少年是老国王唯一的千金和人偷情的结果, 对方的身份和她极不相配——有人说就是一个陌生人, 因为笛子吹奏得动听迷人, 让年轻的公主爱上了他; 另有人说对方是一位里米尼^①画家, 公主对他表示过许多、也许过分的敬意, 他却突然从城里消失, 他在大教堂的活儿没有干完——这孩子刚刚出生一星期就在他母亲睡觉时被人偷走, 交给一个普通农民和他的妻子照料, 他们夫妇正好膝下没有儿女, 住在森林中偏僻的地方, 从城里要赶一天多的路程才能到达。按宫廷御医说, 那个生下他的白人姑娘是死于悲伤或瘟疫; 而另有人则说是用一杯配制好的意大利烈性毒酒让她服下, 不到一小时就活活弄死了她; 那个可靠的信差, 把这孩子放在鞍子前面就跑了, 等他跳下疲劳的马、敲开牧羊人小屋的柴门时, 公主的尸体正在往挖开的墓穴里放。那是一片荒凉的墓地, 位于城外。据说那个墓穴里还躺着一个人, 死者是一个异常英俊美丽的青年, 他的双手用绳子反绑着, 胸部被捅了很多刀, 衣服都被血染红了。

起码可以说这是个暗地里流传的故事。可以肯定的是, 老国王弥留之际不知是追悔他的深重罪孽还是打心眼儿里希望他的王国能代代相传, 命人去把这个小伙子找来, 当着全体大臣的面, 指定他是他的继位人。

译注:

① 系意大利一海港。

And it seems that from the very first moment of his recognition he had shown signs of that strange passion for beauty that was destined to have so great an influence over his life. Those who **accompanied**^① him to the **suite**^② of rooms set apart for his service, often spoke of the cry of pleasure that broke from his lips when he saw the **delicate**^③ **raiment**^④ and rich jewels that had been prepared for him, and of the almost fierce joy with which he flung aside his rough leathern **tunic**^⑤ and **coarse**^⑥ sheepskin cloak. He missed, indeed, at times the fine freedom of his forest life, and was always **apt to**^⑦ **chafe**^⑧ at the tedious Court ceremonies that occupied so much of each day, but the wonderful palace — Joyeuse, as they called it — of which he now found himself lord, seemed to him to be a new world fresh-fashioned for his delight; and as soon as he could escape from the council-board or audience-chamber, he would run down the great staircase, with its lions of gilt bronze and its steps of bright **porphyry**^⑨, and wander from room to room, and from corridor to corridor, like one who was seeking to find in beauty an **anodyne**^⑩ from pain, a sort of **restoration**^⑪ from sickness.

Upon these journeys of discovery, as he would call them — and, indeed, they were to him real **voyages**^⑫ through a marvellous land, he would sometimes be accompanied by the **slim**^⑬, fair-haired Court pages, with their floating **mantles**^⑭, and gay fluttering ribands; but more often he would be alone, feeling through a certain quick instinct, which was almost a **divination**^⑮, that the secrets of art are best learned in secret, and that Beauty, like Wisdom, loves the lonely worshipper.

Many curious **stories**^⑯ were related about him at this period. It was said that a stout Burgomaster, who had come to deliver a **florid**^⑰ **oratorical**^⑱ address on behalf of the citizens of the town, had caught

① accompany /ə'kʌmpəni/
v. 陪伴

② suite /swi:t/ n. 套房，一组

③ delicate /'delɪkət/ a. 细致优雅的，微妙的

④ raiment /'reɪmənt/ n. 衣服

⑤ tunic /'tju:nɪk/ n. 束腰外衣

⑥ coarse /kɔ:s/ a. 粗糙的，下等的

⑦ apt to a. 易于

⑧ chafe at v. 发怒

⑨ porphyry /'pɔ:fɪrɪ/ n. 斑岩

⑩ anodyne /'pɔ:fɪrɪ/ n. 斑岩

⑪ restoration
/'restə'reɪʃən/ n. 恢复，复原

⑫ voyage /'vɔɪdʒ/ n. 航行，旅程

⑬ slim /slɪm/ a. 苗条的，细长的

⑭ mantle /'mæntl/ n. 斗篷

⑮ divination /'dɪv'neɪʃən/
n. 占卜，预知

⑯ stout /staut/ a. 强壮的，肥胖的

⑰ florid /'flɒrɪd/ a. 华丽的，炫耀的

⑱ oratorical /'ɒrə'tɔrɪkəl/
a. 演说的，雄辩的

好像从他被承认的那一刻起，他就对注定会对他的生活发生重大影响的美，显示出种种古怪的激情。凡是陪他去留给他使用的那套房间的人，都经常提到他一看见为他准备的精美衣服和大量珠宝快活得脱口惊叫；提到他脱掉他那粗糙的皮束腰外衣和破旧的羊皮长袍时欣喜若狂的样子。一点不假，他有时会怀念起他在森林中无拘无束的生活，会对每天占去许多时间的宫廷繁礼缚节动辄大发脾气，但这令人入迷的宫殿——如人称所谓的“欢乐宫”——似乎是他寻欢觅乐的全新世界，他发现自己成了宫中的君王。但凡能摆脱宫中事务或接见下臣，他就会跑下镶满金色铜狮和明亮斑岩的大阶梯，从一间房子逛到另一间房子，从一道通廊走进另一道通廊，像一个人专心在美中寻找解痛灵，在美中寻找治病秘方。

在探索性旅行中——他就是这样称呼这些活动的，因为在他看来，他的确是在一块奇妙的土地上旅行，有时他由身穿飘拂的披风、饰带欢快跳动的细高红发宫廷侍从们陪着；但是更多的时候他独自行动，在某种敏捷的本能——简直就是一种本能的预知——支配下，他感悟到艺术的秘密最好秘密地识破；而美，如同智慧一样，钟情于那寂寞的崇拜者。

这时候，许多有意思的故事都是讲述他的。据说，一位健壮的市长前来代表本城的全体市民发表一份华丽的演说，却发现他五体投地地跪在一幅刚刚从威尼斯运来的大画像前，好像在对某些新神顶

sight of him kneeling in real **adoration**^① before a great picture that had just been brought from Venice, and that seemed to **herald**^② the worship of some new gods. On another occasion he had been missed for several hours, and after a lengthened search had been discovered in a little chamber in one of the northern **turrets**^③ of the palace gazing, as one in a **trance**^④, at a Greek gem carved with the figure of Adonis. He had been seen, so the tale ran, pressing his warm lips to the marble brow of an antique statue that had been discovered in the bed of the river on the occasion of the building of the stone bridge, and was **inscribed**^⑤ with the name of the Bithynian slave of Hadrian. He had passed a whole night in noting the effect of the moonlight on a silver image of Endymion.

All rare and costly materials had certainly a great fascination for him, and in his eagerness to **procure**^⑥ them he had sent away many merchants, some to traffic for amber with the rough fisher-folk of the north seas, some to Egypt to look for that curious green **turquoise**^⑦ which is found only in the tombs of kings, and is said to possess magical **properties**^⑧, some to Persia for silken carpets and painted pottery, and others to India to buy gauze and stained ivory, moonstones and bracelets of jade, **sandalwood**^⑨ and blue **enamel**^⑩ and **shawls**^⑪ of fine wool.

But what had occupied him most was the robe he was to wear at his coronation, the robe of **tissued**^⑫ gold, and the mby-studded^⑬ crown, and the **sceptre**^⑭ with its rows and rings of pearls. Indeed, it was of this that he was thinking tonight, as he lay back on his **luxurious**^⑮ couch, watching the great pinewood log that was burning itself out on the open **hearth**^⑯. The designs, which were from the hands of the most famous artists of the time, had been submitted to him many months before, and he had given orders that the **artificers**^⑰ were to **toil**^⑱ night and day to

① adoration
/ˈædɔː'reɪʃən/ *n.* 崇拜,
爱慕

② herald /ˈherəld/ *v.* 传达

③ turret /ˈtʌrɪt/ *n.* 小塔,
角楼

④ trance /traɪns/ *n.* 梦幻
之境,恍惚

⑤ inscribe /ɪnˈskraɪb/ *v.*
登记,铭记于

⑥ procure /prəˈkjʊə/ *v.* 取
得,促成

⑦ turquoise
/ˈtɜːkwaɪz,-kwɒɪz/ *n.* 土
耳其玉,蓝玉

⑧ property /ˈprɒpəti/ *n.* 性
质,特征

⑨ sandalwood
/ˈsændlwud/ *n.* 檀香木

⑩ enamel /ɪˈnæməl/ *n.* 珐
琅,瓷釉

⑪ shawl /ʃɔːl/ *n.* 披肩,围
巾

⑫ tissued /ˈtɪsjʊd/ *a.* 金
银线织的

⑬ stud /stʌd/ *v.* 镶嵌,点
缀

⑭ sceptre /ˈseptə/ *n.* 权杖

⑮ luxurious /lʌgˈzjuəriəs/
a. 奢侈的,豪华的

⑯ hearth /hɑːθ/ *n.* 炉床,灶
台

⑰ artificer /aːˈtɪfɪsə/ *n.* 工
匠,巧匠

⑱ toil /toɪl/ *v.* 苦干,费力
地做

礼膜拜。又有一次,他一连数小时不知哪里去了,人们找了半天才在宫殿北边塔楼的一间小屋子找到了他,他一副神情恍惚的样子,正在细细端详一枚雕刻着阿多尼斯^①人像的希腊宝石。另有故事传说,有人看见他用温暖的嘴唇深吻一尊修石桥时在河床里发现的古代石雕像冰冷的额头;这石雕像被认为是哈德良^②的俾泰尼亚人奴隶。他还曾度过一个不眠之夜,观察月光下的思底弥翁^③的银塑像。

事实上一切珍奇贵重的东西都深深地迷住了他,他迫不及待想弄到手中,就派遣许多商人四面出击:有的和北边海域粗俗的渔民一起去收买琥珀;有的去埃及搜寻只有在国王陵墓才找得到的珍奇绿松石,据说这种东西具有不可思议的魔力;有的去波斯购置丝毯和彩绘陶器;另有一些去印度置办彩色象牙、月长石、翡翠镯子、檀香、蓝珐琅和细羊毛披巾。

然而,最让他念念不忘的是他将在加冕典礼上用的东西:皇袍,金线织的皇袍、镶嵌红宝石的皇冠、珍珠裹身的权杖。的确,这天夜里他躺在奢侈的御榻上,注视着壁炉里正在熊熊燃烧的大松木圆木,脑子里转悠的就是这个。皇袍图案出自当今最负盛名的艺术家们之手,数月前他就躬身审查,下旨交给技工不分昼夜赶制出来,并在全世界收集和图案般配的珠宝。他在幻觉中看见自己站立于大教

译注:

① 古希腊罗马神话中的一著名美少年,为女神维纳斯所深爱。

② 哈德良(76-138)罗马皇帝,于117-138年在位。在不列颠曾修筑“哈德良长城”。

③ 系月神深深恋爱的美少年。

carry them out, and that the whole world was to be searched for jewels that would be worthy of their work. He saw himself in fancy standing at the high **altar**^① of the cathedral in the fair raiment of a King, and a smile played and lingered about his boyish lips, and lit up with a bright **lustre**^② his dark woodland eyes.

After some time he rose from his seat, and leaning against the carved **penthouse**^③ of the chinmey, looked round at the dimly-lit room. The walls were hung with rich tapestries representing the Triumph of Beauty. A large press, inlaid with **agate**^④ and! **apls-lazu-li**^⑤, filled one comer, and facing the window stood a curiously wrought cabinet with **lacquer**^⑥ panels of powdered and mosaiced gold, on which were placed some delicate **goblets**^⑦ of Venetian glass, and a cup of dark-veined **onyx**^⑧. Pale poppies were broidered on the silk coverlet of the bed, as though they had fallen from the fired hands of sleep, and tall reeds of **fluted**^⑨ ivory bare up the velvet canopy, from which great **tufts**^⑩ of **ostrich**^⑪ **plumes**^⑫ sprang, like white foam, to the **pallid**^⑬ silver of the **fretted**^⑭ ceiling. A laughing Narcissus in green bronze held a polished mirror above its head. On the table stood a flat bowl of **amethyst**^⑮.

Outside he could see the huge **dome**^⑯ of the cathedral, **looming**^⑰ like a bubble over the shadowy houses, and the weary **sentinels**^⑱ pacing up and down on the misty terrace by the fiver. Far away, in an orchard, a nightingale was singing. A faint perfume of **jasmine**^⑲ came through the open window. He brushed his brown curls back from his forehead, and taking up a lute, let his fingers **stray**^⑳ across the cords. His heavy eyelids drooped, and a strange **languor**^㉑ came over him. Never before had he felt so keenly, or with such **exquisite**^㉒ joy, the magic and the mystery of beautiful things.

① altar /'ɔ:lta/ *n.* (教堂内的) 圣坛, 祭坛

② lustre /'lʌstə (r)/ *vt.* 使有光泽

③ penthouse /'penthaus/ *n.* 楼顶阁楼

④ agate /'æɡət/ *n.* 玛瑙

⑤ lazuli /'læzjulaɪ/ *n.* (= lapis lazuli) 天青石, 青金石

⑥ lacquer /'lækə/ *n.* 瓷漆, 漆

⑦ goblet /'ɡɒblɪt/ *n.* 有脚杯, 酒杯

⑧ onyx /'ɒnɪks/ *n.* 缟玛瑙

⑨ fluted /'flʊtɪd/ *a.* 有凹槽的

⑩ tuft /tʌft/ *n.* (头发, 羽毛等) 一绺

⑪ ostrich /'ɒstrɪtʃ/ *n.* 鸵鸟

⑫ plume /plu:m/ *n.* 羽毛

⑬ pallid /'pælɪd/ *a.* 苍白的, 暗淡的

⑭ fret /fret/ *v.* 使起波纹

⑮ amethyst /'æməθɪst/ *a.* 苍白的, 暗淡的

⑯ dome /dəʊm/ *n.* 圆屋顶

⑰ loom /lu:m/ *v.* 朦胧地出现, 隐约可见

⑱ sentinel /'sentɪnl/ *n.* 哨兵

⑲ jasmine /'dʒæsmɪn/ *n.* 茉莉

⑳ stray /streɪ/ *v.* 迷路, 彷徨

㉑ languor /'læŋɡə/ *n.* 疲倦, 无气力

㉒ exquisite /'ekskwɪzɪt/ *a.* 精致的, 细腻的

堂高高的祭坛上, 身穿华贵的龙袍, 他那孩童般的嘴角露出顽皮而持久的微笑, 他那黑黢黢林地般的眼睛放射出明亮的光芒。

过了一会儿, 他从御座站起身, 倚在烟囱的雕花斜墙上, 四下打量着灯光暗淡的屋子。四壁都挂着代表“美神胜利”的悬垂物, 摆放着玛瑙和天青石的大书柜占据一隅, 而面朝窗户的是一个做工讲究、镶金涂漆的展示柜, 只见上面摆着各种精致的威尼斯玻璃杯和一个暗纹石华杯。丝绸床罩上绣着淡白罂粟花, 仿佛它们是从入睡者疲劳的手里落下来的; 高高的槽形象牙细柱子把天鹅绒华盖支撑起来, 华盖上翻上去一束束硕大的鸵鸟羽毛, 如白色泡沫, 直指银白色的回纹装饰天花板。一尊用青铜铸就的那喀索斯^①雕像笑容满面, 将一面打磨得亮锃锃的镜子举过头顶。桌子上放着一只扁平的紫晶盒。

窗外, 他可以望见大教堂那巨大的圆顶, 它朦朦胧胧, 宛如从影影绰绰的房屋上面鼓出的气泡, 那无精打采的哨兵在河边薄雾笼罩的台地上来回走动。再往远处, 在一片果园里, 一只夜莺在欢唱。一抹淡淡的茉莉花香从敞开的窗子飘了进来。他把他那棕色的髻发从额头往后梳理一下, 拿起古琵琶, 手指在弦上随意弹动。他发沉的眼睑垂了下来, 一种少有的消沉一下子支配了他。他过去从来没有如此急切地、或说如此狂喜地感受到诸多美丽的东西的魔力和真谛。

译注:

① 希腊神话里的美少年, 深恋水中照出的他自己的影子。

When midnight sounded from the clock-tower he touched a bell, and his pages entered and disrobed him with much ceremony, pouring rose water over his hands, and **strewing**^① flowers on his pillow. A few moments after that they had left the room, he fell asleep.

* * *

And as he slept he dreamed a dream, and this was his dream.

He thought that' he was standing in a long, low attic, amidst the **whirr**^② and **clatter**^③ of many **looms**^④. The **meagre**^⑤ daylight **peered**^⑥ in through the grated windows, and showed him the **gaunt**^⑦ figures of the weavers bending over their cases. Pale, sickly-looking children were crouched on the huge crossbeams. As the shuttles dashed through the **warp**^⑧ they lifted up the heavy **battens**^⑨, and when the shuttles stopped they let the battens fall and pressed the threads together. Their faces were **pinched**^⑩ with **famine**^⑪, and their thin hands shook and trembled. Some **haggard**^⑫ women were seated at a table sewing. A horrible odour filled the place. The air was foul and heavy, and the walls dripped and streamed with damp.

The young King went over to one of the weavers, and stood by him and watched him.

And the weaver looked at him angrily, and said, "Why art thou watching me? Art thou a spy set on us by our master?"

"Who is thy master?" asked the young King.

"Our master!" cried the weaver, bitterly. "He is a man like myself. Indeed, there is but this difference between us — that he wears fine clothes while I go in **ragss**^⑬, and that while I am weak from hunger he suffers not a little from overfeeding."

"The land is free," said the young King, "and thou art no man's slave."

① strew /stru:/ v. 散播, 撒满

② whirr /hwɜ:/ n. 呼呼声

③ clatter /'klætə/ n. 卡搭声, 哗啦声

④ loom /lu:m/ n. 织布机

⑤ meagre /'mi:gə (r)/ a. 瘦的, 不足的

⑥ peer /piə/ v. 出现, 隐约出现

⑦ gaunt /ga:nt/ a. 憔悴的

⑧ warp /wɔ:p/ n. 经线

⑨ batten /'bætn/ n. 板条, 木条

⑩ pinch /pɪntʃ/ v. 掐, 使...困苦

⑪ famine /'fæmɪn/ n. 饥荒

⑫ haggard /'hægəd/ a. 憔悴的

⑬ rag /ræg/ n. 破布, 碎布

钟楼敲响午夜钟声时, 他按响了铃, 他的侍从进来毕恭毕敬地给他宽衣解带, 给他倒上玫瑰水洗手, 往他的枕头上撒了花瓣儿。过了一会儿, 他们离开了屋子, 他入睡了。

* * *

他在睡觉时做了一个梦, 下面就是他的梦:

他觉得他站在一间又长又矮的顶楼间, 周围一片丁丁当当的织机声。微弱的日光从格子窗户映照进来, 他借光看见一个个瘦削的织工们在织机前埋头忙活。苍白的病恹恹的孩子们蜷缩在大梁上。梭子嗖地穿过经线时, 他们就把沉重的筘座提上去; 梭子停下时, 他们放下筘座, 把线紧紧压在一起。他们一脸饥饿相, 瘦弱的手哆嗦个不停。一些憔悴的妇女围着一张桌子做针线活儿。到处都是刺鼻难闻的气味。空气又污浊又沉闷, 墙壁湿气淋淋, 淌着水流。

年轻的国王走向一个织工, 站在他身边打量他。

织工气愤地看着他, 说: “你看我干什么? 难道你是我们老板派来监视我们的探子吗?”

“谁是你的老板?” 年轻的国王问道。

“我们的老板!” 织工恶狠狠大声说, “是一个像我这样的人。当然, 我们之间是有区别的——他穿金戴银而我衣衫褴褛, 我饿得要死而他撑得难受。”

“这块土地是自由的,” 年轻的国王说, “你不是任何人的奴隶。”

“在战争中,” 织工回答说, “强者使弱者成为奴

"In war," answered the weaver, "the strong make slaves of the weak, and in peace the rich make slaves of the poor. We must work to live, and they give us such **means**^① wages that we die. We toil for them all day long, and they **heap**^② up gold in their **coffers**^③, and our children fade away before their time, and the faces of those we love become hard and evil. We **tread**^④ out the grapes, and another drinks the wine. We **sows**^⑤ the corn, and our own board is empty. We have chains, though no eye beholds them; and axe slaves, though men call us free."

"Is it so with all?" he asked.

"It is so with all," answered the weaver, "with the young as well as with the old, with the women as well as with the mee, with the little children as well as with those who are stricken in years. The merchants **grind**^⑥ us down, and we must needs do their **bidding**^⑦. The priest rides by and tells his beads, and no man has care of us. Through our sunless lanes creeps Poverty with her hungry eyes, and Sin with his **sodden**^⑧ face follows close behind her. Misery wakes us in the morning, and Shame sits with us at night. But what are these things to thee? Thou art not one of us. Thy face is too happy." And he turned away **scowling**^⑨, and threw the shuttle across the loom, and the young King saw that it was threaded with a thread of gold.

And a great terror **seized**^⑩ upon him, and he said to the weaver, What robe is this that thou art weaving?

"It is the robe for the coronation of the young King," he answered, "what is that to thee?"

And the young King gave a loud cry and woke, and lo! he was in his own chamber, and through the window he saw the great honey-coloured moon hanging in the dusky air.

① mean /mi:n, mɪn/ a. 低劣的, 吝啬的

② heap /hi:p/ v. 堆积

③ coffer /'kɒfə/ n. 储藏室, 保险箱

④ tread /tred/ v. 踏, 行走

⑤ sow /sau/ v. 播种

⑥ grind /graɪnd/ v. 折磨, 压榨

⑦ bid /bɪd/ v. 命令, 吩咐

⑧ sodden /'sɒdn/ a. 呆头呆脑的, 麻木的

⑨ scowl /skaʊl/ v. 皱眉头, 做出不高兴的脸

⑩ seize /si:z/ v. 抓住, 突然抓住

隶, 而和平年代, 富人使穷人成为奴隶。我们为活着干活儿, 他们给我们可怜的工资逼我们去死。我们整天为他们卖苦力, 他们在金库里堆砌金子, 我们的孩子们过早夭折了, 我们热爱的那些人的脸变得冷酷而邪恶。我们踩榨葡萄, 别人喝葡萄酒。我们种下玉米, 我们的餐桌上却没有吃的。我们戴着镣铐, 却没有人能看得见; 我们是奴隶, 人却说我们享有自由。”

“所有的人都是这样吗?” 他问道。

“所有的人都是这样的,” 织工回答说, “年幼的是这样, 年老的也是这样; 女人是这样, 男人也是这样; 小孩儿们是这样, 上了年纪的也是这样。商人虐待我们, 我们必须对他们言听计从。教士乘车而过, 捻珠祈祷, 谁都不关心我们。贫穷从我们不见阳光的小巷溜进来, 瞪着饥饿的眼睛; 罪恶面无表情地接踵而来。苦难在一大早就把我们弄醒, 耻辱夜里和我们坐在一起。可是这些事情与你有什么关系? 你不是我们当中的一员。你一脸幸福哪。”他愁眉苦脸地离去, 把梭子抛进织布机, 年轻的国王看见梭子里带着一丝金线。

他顿时感到一阵巨大的恐惧, 他跟织工说: “你在织什么样的长袍?”

“这是年轻的国王加冕典礼时要穿的袍子,” 他回答, “这和你有什么关系?”

年轻的国王大叫一声醒来, 瞧! 他在他自己的寝宫里, 透过窗户他看见一轮蜜黄色明月悬在暗淡的天空。