

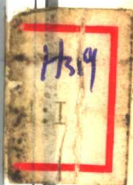
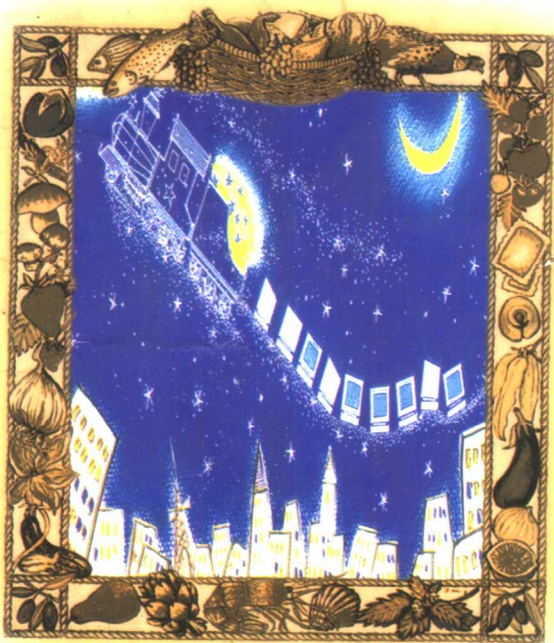
星火

5元

丛书

天方夜谭选粹

Stories from the Arabian Nights



李彦文 编注

中國對外經濟貿易出版社

元丛书第四辑 英语经典漫忆

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丛书王缉 张晓博 马健高

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那天陪朋友逛“科技市场”，感觉到从未有过的累。

得跟您说明一下。这个科技市场是山东济南靠近山大南院的一个计算机商场。一座三层楼里面，汇集三百多家计算机商，经销整机，硬软件，耗材，配套设施，当然还有节目光盘。

说到那些节目光盘，我困惑得头大。都是些什么呀。我奶奶——愿她在地下安息——如果还活着，逢此盛世，肯定乐得再活几十年。七仙女，白娘子，老包，目连，说书的瞎子，算命的先生，都在。麻将和桥牌可能让她皱眉，三国游戏可能玩不来了；可是，金庸和琼瑶，韦小宝和小燕子，她一定喜闻乐见。

朋友曾怜悯我至今还用着十几年前的 286 和 WPS：“呵，很多享受你错过了。”But dear Grandmother，要是“享受”指的是这些，俺宁可回俺村去看俺的蚂蚁上树。

临出门，上高中的儿子对我说：“要是多媒体上能看欧几里德和牛顿讲数学，那咱就买一台。”

我问了。没那节目。有些商家连这些名字都没听说过。“有孩子看的科技节目吗？”“有。”拿过一张盘，套封上列着“地球奥秘”，“人体奥秘”，什么什么，不用看就知道，小学三年级以下的孩子可能感兴趣。

那天是个“秋老虎”，预报说 33 度。可是，包围在那些媒体里面，我觉得怎么也有 34 度。除了一身一身的汗，没感到别的享受，也没看到什么科技。

所以，让我选择，还是看书，白纸黑字的书。最好是五块钱一本的，可看可不看的闲书（注意，这是广告）。花明柳媚时，梧桐秋雨时，长夏无聊时，没有功课也没有约会；当此时也，手执一卷，卧榻上，树荫里，安安静静，读上一叶两叶，三叶五叶，是一种心境，是一种活法儿——一种在闹市尘嚣电化声光威凌之下离我们越来越远的活法儿。

绍明

前 言

流畅细腻的语言
精确到位的用词
荒诞怪异的情节
引人入胜的故事

千姿百态的君王
经历不同的商贾
光彩照人的女性
吉人天相的俗子

充分利用人物之间对话
巧妙安排角色生死别离

在很久很久以前,有这样一些阿拉伯的故事,写得如此精彩美妙,译得如此洗练地道,注得如此详细可靠,让那些想多快好省地学习英文的人能够轻松地读,愉快地学,顺手地用。

编者者

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How the Stories Came to be Told

It is well known^① that in former days^② the Sultans^③ of the East were great tyrants^④, and knew no law but their own will^⑤. Now one of them had a wife who did not obey him, and he was so angry that he had her put to death; and because he no longer had any faith in^⑥ women, he caused it to be known that he meant to have a new wife every day; he would be married at night, and in the morning his wife was to have her head cut off. This threw all the women in the kingdom into a great fright^⑦, for the Sultan would have only a beautiful woman for his wife, and no one knew when her turn would come.

It was the duty of the Grand Vizier^⑧ to find a new wife for the Sultan each day, and you may be sure that he had to drag these poor girls to the palace, for no one wanted the honor of being the Sultan's wife for one night if she was to have her head cut off the next day. What was the terror, then, of the Grand Vizier, when his own daughter, Schehera-zade, came forward and begged to be the Sultan's wife!

① well known 众所周知

② in former days 古时

③ Sultan *n.* 苏丹(某些伊斯兰教国家最高统治者的称号)

④ tyrant *n.* 暴君

⑤ know no law but their own will 认为自己的意志就是法律

⑥ have faith in 信任,对某人有信心

⑦ This threw all the women in the kingdom into a great fright 这使全国的妇女陷入了恐慌。

⑧ Grand Vizier (伊斯兰国家的)宰相; vizier *n.* (伊斯兰教国家元老,高官)维齐尔

"Do you know, my daughter," he asked, "what that means? Though you are the daughter of the Grand Vizier, that will not save your life." Now Schehera-zade was as brave as she was beautiful, and she said:—"I know it well, but I have thought of a plan by which I may put an end to this dreadful state of things^①. If you do not take me to the Sultan, I shall go by myself." So the Grand Vizier went to the Sultan and told him that his own daughter begged for the honor of being the Sultan's wife for one night. The Sultan was filled with wonder.

"Do not err,"^② he said to the Grand Vizier. "Though she is your daughter, her head must be cut off in the morning."

"I know it well," said the Grand Vizier sadly; "but you know how it is with daughters^③. It is hard to say 'no' to them."

Now when Schehera-zade was led into the presence of the Sultan^④, her veil^⑤ was lifted, and the Sultan saw that she was very fair^⑥. But he saw also that there were tears in her eyes.

"Why do you weep?" said he.

"I weep," she said, "because of my sister. I have the honor to be the wife of the Sultan; but I love my sister, and I cannot bear the thought of saying good-by to her now. Grant me one favor. Let her pass this one night on a couch near me." The Sultan had already been won by the beauty of Schehera-zade, and he

① put an end to this dreadful state of things 结束这种残酷可怕的情况

② "Do not err" 这就像我们现在常说的：“有没有搞错啊”

③ how it is with daughters 女孩通常的样子（意思是说女儿往往会向父亲撒娇，胡搅蛮缠）

④ be led into the presence of the Sultan 被带到苏丹的面前

⑤ veil *n.* 面巾，面纱

⑥ fair *a.* 美丽的

found it easy to grant the favor^①. So the younger sister, Dinar-zade, was brought in. Now Schehera-zade had told her sister how she was to act, and about an hour before dawn Dinar-zade, who was wide awake, spoke and said: —

“Sister, if you are not asleep, I wish you would tell me one of those delightful stories you know so well. It will soon be light.” Schehera-zade turned to the Sultan and said: —

“Will your Highness^② suffer me to tell my sister a story?”

“Freely,” said the Sultan, who liked stories himself; and Schehera-zade began to tell a story, and she told it in such a way that, when daylight came, she had reached the most interesting point. But at daylight the Sultan must needs^③ rise and go to his council^④.

“That is a most interesting story,” said Dinar-zade, “but how does it end?”

“The end is more strange than the beginning,” said her sister. “If your Highness,” she said, turning to the Sultan, “will let me live one more day, I can then finish the story.”

The Sultan wanted very much to hear the end, so he gave Schehera-zade one more day to live, meaning to have her head cut off after that. But when the next morning came, and Dinar-zade asked for the rest of the story, Schehera-zade told it in such a way that it carried her into the middle of another story; and daylight came, and that story was not done. Sultan put off her death one day more.

Thus it went on and on; a story was never done, and for a

① grant the favor 恩准

② your Highness 殿下

③ must needs = must necessarily, 必须

④ council n. 国务会议

thousand and one nights Schehera-zade told her stories to the Sultan. By that time, though she had not told nearly all her stories, the Sultan had grown so fond of her, and had come to have such faith in her, that he forgot the wife who once did not obey, and made it known throughout the kingdom that Schehera-zade was to be the one Sultanness^① so long as he lived. The Grand Vizier and all the people had great joy at this; all the girls in the kingdom once more breathed freely, and Schehera-zade kept on telling her stories.

Now these are some of the tales of the Thousand and One Nights.

① Sultanness n. 伊斯兰教国王妃；伊斯兰教君主之母

The Story of the Enchanted^① Horse

I

New Year's Day is a great feast day in Persia^②. On one of these feast days the Emperor of Persia was seated on his throne in the midst of his people, when a Hindu^③ appeared leading a strange horse. At first sight the horse looked like any other horse, except that it was very handsome and bore a very costly saddle^④ and bridle^⑤. But, on looking more closely, one saw that it was not a live horse, but one that had been very artfully made by man. The Hindu knelt before the throne and pointed to the horse.

"This horse," he said to the Emperor, "is a great wonder. If I mount him I can make him go through the air to any place I choose, and he will go in a very short time. No one has ever seen such a wonder, and I have brought him here to show to you. If you wish, I will show you what he can do."

The Emperor was very fond of strange things, and he was much pleased at such a sight. So he told the Hindu to mount his horse. The Hindu did so, and asked where he was to ride.

"Do you see that far-off mountain?" said the Emperor. "Ride your horse there, and bring me a branch of palm-tree^⑥

① enchanted *a.* 被施魔法的;被魔法所驱使的

② Persia *n.* 波斯(西南亚国家,现在的伊朗)

③ Hindu *n.* 印度人

④ saddle *n.* 鞍

⑤ bridle *n.* 缰绳

⑥ palm-tree *n.* 棕榈树

that grows at the foot of it." No sooner had the Emperor said this than the Hindu turned a peg^① which was in the horse's neck near the saddle, and away went the horse into the air and straight toward the mountain. The Emperor and all the people gazed after him till the horse was a mere speck^②. Then he was out sight. But in a quarter of an hour the horse had come back. The Hindu got off his back, and came to the throne with the palm-branch in his hand.

The Emperor had a great wish to own the horse, and he offered to buy him of the Hindu.

"I will sell him," said the Hindu, "if you will pay me my price."

"And what is your price?" asked the Emperor.

"If you will give me your daughter for a wife, you may have my horse." At this all the people laughed aloud, but the son of the Emperor was very angry.

"Do not listen to the wretch^③," said the Prince. "This juggler^④ to come into the family of the greatest of kings!"^⑤

"I will not grant him what he asks," said the Emperor. "Perhaps he does not mean really to ask such a price, and I have another bargain to propose. But before I say anything more I should like to have you try the horse yourself."

The Hindu was quite willing and ran forward to help the Prince mount, and to show him how to manage the horse. But the Prince was too quick for him, and sprang into the saddle without

① peg *n.* 钉, 栓

② a mere speck 仅为一个小点

③ wretch *n.* 卑鄙的人, 可耻之徒

④ juggler *n.* 骗子, 术士

⑤ This juggler to come into the family of the greatest of kings! 这个江湖术士居然想跟世界上最伟大的君王家谈婚论嫁!

aid, turned the peg, and away they flew. In a few moments neither Prince nor Enchanted Horse was to be seen.

The Hindu flung himself at^① the foot of the throne and begged the Emperor not to be angry with him.

"Why did you not call to him when you saw him going?" said the Emperor.

"Sire^②," said he, "you yourself saw how quickly he went. I was so taken by surprise^③ that I lost my wits; and when I came to my senses^④ he was out of sight and hearing. But, sire, let us hope that the Prince may find the other peg. If he turns that the horse will come back to earth again."

"Even if my son does find the other peg," said the Emperor, "how do we know that the horse may not come down in the middle of the sea?"

"Be at ease about that," said the Hindu. "The horse crosses seas without ever falling into them, and he will obey the rider who turns the peg."

"That may be," said the Emperor. "But know that unless my son does come home safe, or I hear that he is alive and well, you shall lose your head." And so he bade^⑤ the officers shut up the Hindu in prison.

II

Now when the Prince turned the key on the neck of the Enchanted Horse, horse and rider flew through the air like the

① fling oneself at 一下子跪倒在

② sire *n.* [古]大王,殿下

③ be taken by surprise 惊慌失措

④ come to one's senses 恢复常态

⑤ bade *v.* (bid 的过去式)命令;吩咐

wind. Up and up they went, and, as the horse was not a real horse, it did not get tired and stop. The Prince did not know what to do. He turned the peg backward, but that did not stop the horse. Then he began to search for another peg, and at last he found a small peg behind the ear. He turned that, and at once the horse began to move toward the earth. They did not go back as swiftly as they went up. It grew dark and the Prince did not know where they would alight^①. He could do nothing, so he let the reins^② lie on the neck of the horse and sat still.

At last he felt the earth beneath the horse's feet. The horse stopped, and the Prince got off, cold and stiff and very hungry. He looked about him as well as he could in the middle of the night, and saw that they were before the door of a palace.

The door stood ajar^③, and the Prince went in. He found himself in a hall lighted by a dim lamp. There, fast asleep, were some soldiers, with swords by their side. They were there to guard some one, and, as another door stood open, the Prince passed through into the inner room. There he saw lying on a couch a most beautiful woman, asleep, and about her, also asleep, were her maids.

The Prince knelt by the side of the couch and gaze at the fair creature. Then he gently twitched^④ her sleeve, and she awoke. Her eyes fell on the Prince kneeling there, but she showed no fear, for, as soon as her eyes opened, he said: —

"Beautiful Princess, I am the Prince of Persia. I have come here by a very strange way, and I ask you to protect me. I do not

① alight *v.* 落下

② rein *n.* 缰绳

③ ajar *a.* (门窗等)微开的

④ twitch *v.* 拉

know where I am, but I know no harm can come to me when I see before me so fair a Princess. ”

“You are in the kingdom of Bengal, ①” she replied, “and I am the daughter of the King. I am living in my own palace in the country. You may be sure that no harm will come to you. If you have come from Persia, you have come a long way, and must be hungry and tired. I am very curious to know how you came, but first you shall have food and sleep. ”

Then the Princess called her maids, and they awoke and wondered much at what they saw. At the command of ② the Princess they led the Prince into a hall, where they gave him food and drink. Then they led him to a room where he could sleep and left him.

As soon as it was light the Princess of Bengal arose and dressed herself in the most splendid robes ③ she had. She put on her finest things and wore her most precious rings and bracelets ④. Indeed, she quite tired out ⑤ her maids, making them bring her one beautiful thing after another before she could make up her mind what to wear. When she was at last ready, she sent word to the Prince that she would receive him.

Now the Prince had slept well, and had risen and dressed himself. So when the Princess sent for him he went at once into her presence and made a low bow, and thanked her for the honor she had done him ⑥. He then gave her an account of the strange

① Bengal *n.* 孟加拉

② at the command of 奉某人之命

③ splendid robes 华服

④ bracelet *n.* 手镯

⑤ tire out 使疲劳, 累垮

⑥ thanked her for the honor she had done him 感谢她所给予他的礼遇

way in which he had come, and said that he would now mount his horse and go back to Persia; for his royal father must be in great pain, not knowing where his son might be.

“Nay^①,” said the Princess, “you must not go so soon. I wish to show you the glories of Bengal, that you may tell something of what you have seen in the court of Persia.” The Prince could not refuse such a request, and thus he became the guest of the Princess.

Each day some new sport or feast was had. They hunted; they had music; they saw games and plays; and the time went swiftly by.

III

But when two months had thus been spent, the Prince could put off his return no longer, and said as much to the Princess. It was indeed much harder for him now to go, for each had come to care greatly for the other. The Prince had often ridden the Enchanted Horse to show the Princess what he could do, and now, when the time was come for him to take leave, he said boldly:

“You see, dear Princess, what a wonderful horse this is, and how perfectly I can manage him. Will you not trust yourself to me? We will ride together to my home. My father will be rejoiced^② to see me, and will welcome you. We will be married at the Court of Persia, and all will be well.”

The Princess of Bengal was not loath^③ to go, and so in the early morning, when no one was awake, she made herself ready. The Prince and the Princess got up on the Enchanted Horse; the

① *nay ad.* [古]不, 否

② *rejoiced a.* 欣喜, 狂喜

③ *loath a.* 不情愿, 勉强