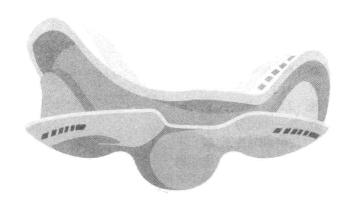
### THE NEW NOAH'S ARK THE NEW NOAH'S ARK

刘兴诗 著 温绍贤 译 [英]蒂娜・巴莱 审校



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### 前言:太空浪游记第一篇

我,阿里·赛义德·辛伯达,从巴索拉机场扬起飞船的太阳帆,飞上宇宙太空啦!临行的时候,年迈的妈妈泪眼婆娑地望着我。许多亲密的朋友都紧紧地握住我的手,对我说:"辛伯达,快打消你的脑瓜子里的这个古怪念头吧!太空里没有可口的羊肉馅饼,也没有阴凉的椰枣树。那儿一片黑暗,充满了寂寞、寒冷和致命的危险,甚至安拉的使者也从来不光顾那些遥远的阴暗角落。弄不好你会像你那著名的同名祖先(指《一千零一夜》中的水手辛伯达,他曾经从波斯湾内的巴索拉港出发,历尽艰险,在海上做了七次航行)一样,遭遇种种不测的灾难。与其这样担惊受怕,倒不如安安稳稳地坐在巴格达的家里,享受人世间的天伦乐趣。"

可是,当年我正年少气盛,胸膛里跳跃着一颗愚蠢透 顶的好奇心,血管里燃烧着渴求探索和发现的炽热的火焰, 对我们这个狭窄的星球上的生活早就感到厌倦了。试问,

### FOREWORD: THE FIRST STORY OF ADVENTURES IN THE OUTER SPACE

I, Ali-Sa'id Sindbad by name, hoisted the sun-sails of my spaceship in readiness for taking off into the space at Basalla Airport. Before I started, my old mother said nothing, but just gazed at me with tears in her eyes. Many good friends shook me by the hand, and said: "Sindbad, do give up this ridiculous idea. You won't find anything pleasant in the space - no mutton pies, no shady date palms to lie under! Space is dark, solitary, cold, and deadly dangerous. Even Allah's envoy never visited those remote and dark corners. If you don't do a good job there, you will probably suffer all manner of unforeseen disasters, just like your unfortunate well-known ancestor whose name you bear. He set out from Basalla Port in Persian Gulf and made seven voyages in the sea and suffered a lot during his voyages. Much better for you to stay at home in Baghdad and lead a normal happy life with your own family."

At the time I was young and full of energy, and my foolish head was bursting with curiosity: I yearned to be an explorer and make exciting discoveries. The life in our earth which offered me limited scope bored me long ago. Should I



除了神秘的太空外,我还能到哪儿去溜达?难道还要去沉闷的红海、枯燥乏味的北极冰场或印度洋底的水下迷宫,寻求生活的乐趣和刺激吗?

不,古老的地球已经像沙漠里的金字塔似的丧失了一切神秘感。对一个充满热烈的理想和勇气的新一代的青年来说,只有广袤无边的宇宙才是唯一的出路。说真的,那时我整天都沉溺在五彩缤纷的幻梦里,一心指望能一下子就发现一大串没有人知道的新星球,用亲爱的故乡巴格达,以及妈妈和我的名字给它一一命名。唉,我那死心眼儿的老妈妈呀!您可懂得孩子真诚挚爱您的心?我将要通过自己的冒险活动,来为您在天空中取得一个永恒的星座位置,那该有多好!

噢,我实在是太激动了,兴冲冲地拉开了启动阀,只来得及回头挥了挥手,就一溜烟飞进了无边无际的宇宙太空。想不到为了满足幼稚的好奇心,我终于为此吃尽了种种难以形容的苦头。

如今当我重新握笔安坐在巴格达的家中,一面喝着妈

look for life, pleasure, and excitement in the Red Sea, or the monotonous ice fields of the North Pole, or the undersea labyrinth of the Indian Ocean?

No! The old earth is like the pyramids in the desert, and it had lost all its mystery. To a go-ahead young man like me, courageous and imaginative, the only choice was the vastness of space: it was that or nothing. I indulged in the rosiest dreams, seeing myself as the discoverer of a whole string of new planets previously unknown to mankind. I would name them after my dear native town of Baghdad, after my mother, and after myself. Oh, my stubborn old mother! You should have known how much of my ambition sprang from love of you – how I longed to win eternal fame amongst the stars for you by my adventures.

I was far too excited. I started the engine. I just had time to turn my head and shout goodbye to them all as my spaceship rose into air and then to the boundless space. I never really believed that my childish curiosity would result in my enduring serious suffering.

Now, as I sit safely at home in Baghdad writing this, drinking



妈端送在面前的热气腾腾的鲜羊奶,一面抬头眺望耸立在窗外街心广场上的水手辛伯达的花岗石像时,不禁思绪起伏,感慨万端。是的,我也曾和他一样,不多不少地离乡背井做了七次冒险航行,见识过不少异星球的风土人情。可是远航给我带来了什么好处呢?只是如今我才深深明白,除了我们脚下的古老大地外,宇宙空间里并没有任何理想中的乐园。如果说我在这些航行中也曾有所收获的话,那就是一连串使人永远难以忘怀的教训。啊,万能的真主,请您大发慈悲,千万别让我们的星球也蒙受那些遥远的天外世界所遭受的不幸吧!

亲爱的朋友们,从这一点出发,我奉献给你们的,就不仅是一些离奇古怪的故事了。记得阿拉伯国家的一位先哲曾经说过:"在怪诞的神话里,也许寓有一颗严肃的心。" 当你们仔细读完这一篇篇回忆录的时候,就会领悟到这的确是一句颠扑不破的至理名言!

现在,请您赏光先倾听我的第一次宇宙航行的故事吧!

a mug of steaming hot fresh goat's milk brought me by my mother, and looking through the window at the marble statue of Sindbad the Sailor in the Central Square, all sorts of feelings well up in my mind. Like him, I have left home seven times to make voyages of adventure, and it is true that I have learned a lot of the local conditions and customs of some other planets. But what benefits have my space flights brought me? Only the full realization that this old earth under my feet is the best place to be – there are no ideal paradises in space. If I have gained anything from those adventures of my youth, it is a series of unforgettable lessons. Oh omnipotent Allah, I beg you to have pity on us and save our world from suffering the same miserable fates as those planets in outer space.

Dear readers, taking this as the starting point, you should bear in mind that what I am going to tell you is not just a series of marvellous tales. I remember an Arabian sage once said, "There may be a serious heart in the most fantastic fairy tales". When you have finished reading these memoirs of mine, you will appreciate the irrefutable truth of those golden words.

This, then, is the story of my first space flight.

### 可恶的长尾人

我无法用恰当的语言来形容刚飞进太空时的兴奋心情。蔚蓝的阿拉伯晴空,在我的眼前一下子就幻化成无边无际的宇宙长夜。这儿那儿,到处缀饰着成列成串的璀璨明星。由于没有空气这个顽皮精灵的捉弄,它们变得更加星光灿烂,再也不无缘无故地眨巴着眼睛,仿佛都换了一张张陌生面孔似的,予人以一种特殊的新鲜感觉。我怀着无限欢愉的心情熄灭了发动机,把安装在飞船顶上的一面金属薄膜大帆升得更高,任随万能的太阳用它那无所不在的光压推动着飞船,朝向迷迷茫茫的晨空深处飘去。

我记不清飞行了多少日子,说不完曾从飞船的舷窗里朝外眺见了多少幅太空奇景。终于有一天,一颗陌生的星星出现在我的飞行轨道上,在我的面前越变越大。我选择了一块平地降落下去。

它给我的第一印象是满意的。这儿有连绵起伏的山 冈,闪烁着翡翠般碧绿亮光的湖泊和河流,比我的阿拉伯

### THE DETESTABLE LONG-TAILED CREATURES

My feelings as I first headed into space were beyond all description. As I watched, the bright blue sky over Arabia was gradually revealed as a boundless cosmic night studded with brilliant stars. Away from the mischievous interference of the earth's atmosphere, they no longer winked and twinkled, but shone with a steady brilliance. They looked entirely different, and they rendered me a wonderful and refreshed feeling just to gaze at them. With boundless joy I cut the engine and lifted higher the huge sail made of metal film spread above my spaceship, letting the omnipresent light pressure of the omnipotent sun propel it onwards deep into the vast and hazy realms of space.

I cannot remember now how many days I flew on, and how many strange scenes passed by outside my porthole. Then one day an uncharted planet appeared on my flight path, growing larger and larger as I headed towards it. I chose a flat piece of ground, and landed on it.

My first impression was very favourable. There were rolling hills, and lakes and rivers glistening dark green like jade.



故乡更加惹人喜爱。

"这是宇宙海洋中的一座青葱的小岛。在我的航程中首先遇见它,准是一个好兆头!"我乐滋滋地想道。

可是,噢——,当我打开飞船的舱门,刚踏下一只脚时,这个甜蜜蜜的印象立刻颠倒过来了,一大群尖嘴蚊子密密匝匝地猛扑上来,立刻在我的面孔和手臂上叮了许多青皮疙瘩,加上四周一阵阵吵闹个不停的昆虫鸣叫声,弄得人心烦意乱,欣赏风景的兴致一下子就烟消云散了。至于风景嘛,我这才看清楚。几乎所有的树木都被虫蛀坏了,枝头的树叶稀稀拉拉,黄不黄、绿不绿的,非常难看。不知这里有没有专门除虫的啄木鸟,它们都躲到哪儿去了?

"这准是安拉的疏忽,"我想,"为什么要在这个美丽的星球上,撒下这么多讨厌的小虫子?"

我捂着脑袋往前走了一段路,越来越感到有些不对劲儿。为什么在碧净如洗的天空中,竟没有一只雀鸟?唉,现在要是有一只燕子,哪怕是小麻雀也好,准能把眼前这群死死纠缠我的毒蚊消灭得一干二净。

It was more attractive than my native Arabia.

"A small green island in the ocean of space! It must be a good omen that I have first found it on my space voyage." I thought happily.

I opened the module door and climbed out. However, no sooner had one of my feet touched the ground than my good impression was hastily modified. A thick swarm of mosquito-like insects attacked me from all directions, and my face and arms instantly began to swell from their bites. I was further annoyed by a ceaseless hum of innumerable other sorts of insects all around me. My enjoyment of the beautiful scenery quickly evaporated; and indeed, now that I looked more closely at the scenery I could see that almost all the trees were damaged, evidently moth-eaten – their leaves sparse and withered. I wondered whether there were any birds like woodpeckers here, expert at catching insects, and if so where they had hidden themselves.

"It must be carelessness on the part of Allah," I thought to myself. "Why did he put so many nasty little insects on this beautiful planet?"

I protected my head with my hands around and walked away from my spaceship for some distance, gradually becoming aware that there was something else unusual: why weren't there any birds in the clear sky? I longed to see a swallow, or even just a little sparrow, which could have eaten all the poisonous mosquitoes that kept attacking me.



可是,在继续探索这个新世界的好奇心的激发下,我 却没有用心思考到底是什么原因,不知不觉地离开飞船越 走越远,步入了一个阴沉沉的大森林。在这里,我发现了 第一个野兽活动的痕迹。

这是一串巨兽的脚印。从它的大小、步距和深陷程度估算,比地球上的大象和犀牛都壮实多了。如果此时此刻我和它在森林小径迎面相逢,必将会带来许多意想不到的麻烦。值得庆幸的是,这串泥地上的脚印已经半硬结了,其间还簇生了一丛丛青草,显然是很早以前留下的"化石"脚印,谁知这种巨兽是否还存在于世间呢?

仿佛是对我作出回答,忽然,我听见林间传来一阵"簌簌"声,一头半鹿半羊状的野兽从我的面前飞也似地蹿跳过去,接着,从对面的树丛里响起"砰"的一声,这头野兽就应声栽倒在血泊中一动也不动了。

这一切很像一场标准的科学幻想电影。我还没有弄清楚 是怎么一回事,就从枪声响的地方走出两个装饰古怪的人形 动物。和我们不同的是,他们的面孔像刷了一层石灰样的苍 But, urged on by curiosity and eagerness to explore this new world, I did not stop to think of a possible reason for these peculiarities. I wandered further and further away from my spaceship, until eventually I came to a huge and gloomy forest. Here I came across the first signs of animal life.

Those were some footmarks of a huge animal. Judging by their size, the distance between them and their depth, this was an animal bigger and heavier than our elephant or rhinoceros. If I were to meet it face to face on that forest narrow track, I would certainly have been in a great deal of unforeseen trouble. Fortunately, they were evidently made some time ago, since the prints were half obliterated, with tufts of grass growing in them. I wondered whether there were any of this sort of huge creatures still around.

Almost at once, as if in answer to my question, there was a rustling in the forest undergrowth. Then an animal like a cross between a deer and a goat dashed out and sped by me. Immediately afterwards, a gun sounded from the trees beyond me, and the animal fell to the ground and lay motionless in a spreading pool of blood.

It was all very sudden and melodramatic like a SF movie. Before I could make out what was going on, two oddly attired creatures, human in shape, emerged from the part of the forest where the gun had been fired. Of course, they were not actually humans – I could see several differences. Their faces were as pale as though they had been painted with a layer of lime, like the case that they suffered from malnutrition. They had