

Irving Selected Stories

新课标·英汉对照课外名著必读
(普及版)

Washington Irving

欧文作品选

【美】 华盛顿·欧文 著



北方妇女儿童出版社

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RIP VAN WINKLE

Whoever has made a voyage up the Hudson must remember the Kaatskill Mountains^①. They are a dismembered branch of the Appalachian family, and are seen away to the west of the river, swelling up to a noble height and lording it over the surrounding country. Every change of season, every change of weather, indeed, every hour of the day, produces some change in the magical hues and shapes of these mountains, and they are regarded by all the good wives far and near as perfect barometers. When the weather is fair and settled, they are clothed in blue and purple, and print their

里普·范温克尔

在哈德逊河上旅游过的人一定都知道卡茨基尔山脉。它是著名的阿巴拉契亚山脉的一个分支,远远地矗立在河的西岸,巍然耸立,雄视四面。四季代谢,气候变化,乃至昼夜时辰的运行,都会使那山的颜色和形状发生魔幻般的变化,住在远近的家庭主妇们就把这些变幻当成了准确的晴雨表。当天气晴朗和时,山色青紫,黄昏时分的碧空映衬出那山的险峻轮廓,有如鬼斧神工一样。有时候周围晴朗无云,只有山峰的绝顶雾气蒙蒙,被落日余辉映射得灿烂夺目,仿佛戴上了神圣的光环。

① The Kaatskill(现用 Catskill)Mountains 卡茨基尔山脉。山脉之东麓去哈德逊河西岸约七英里。“此山极富雄伟壮丽之景观。悬崖,大瀑布,以及绝壁之间的深谷,使这里的风景绚烂多姿。”

bold outlines on the clear evening sky; but sometimes when the rest of the landscape is cloudless, they will gather a hood of gray vapors about their summits, which, in the last rays of the setting sun, will glow and light up like a crown of glory.

At the foot of these fairy mountains, the voyager may have descried the light smoke curling up from a village whose shingle - roofs gleam among the trees just where the blue tints of the upland melt away into the fresh green of the nearer landscape. It is a little village of great antiquity, having been founded by some of the Dutch colonists in the early times of the province, just about the beginning of the government of the good Peter Stuyvesant^① (may he rest in

到这里来的人从远处就能发现,在那仙境般的高山脚下有炊烟围绕,从一个小村庄袅袅升起,木瓦板屋顶在绿树掩映中依稀可见。那山地高处的青紫色调就在近村处化入一片嫩绿。那是一个古风盎然的小村庄,是北美殖民地开创的早期一些荷兰殖民者建造的,那时正当可尊重的彼得·斯图伊弗桑特(愿他的在天之灵安息!)刚刚当任总督。村里的房屋有些是最早的移民在几年之内建起来的,盖房

① Peter Stuyvesant 彼得·斯图伊弗桑特,新荷兰(现纽约)最后一任荷兰总督,约在1645年任命。他在欧文的《纽约史话》(以虚构作者尼克博克的语气叙述)中是一个主要角色。

peace!), and there were some of the houses of the original settlers standing within a few years, built of small yellow bricks brought from Holland, having latticed windows and gable fronts, surmounted with weather - cocks.

In that same village, and in one of these very houses (which, to tell the precise truth, was sadly time - worn and weather - beaten), there lived many years since, while the country was yet a province of Great Britain, a simple goodnatured fellow of the name of Rip Van Winkle. He was a descendant of the Van Winkles who figured so gallantly in the chivalrous days of Peter Stuyvesant, and accompanied him to the siege of Fort Christina^①. He inherited, however, but little of the martial charac -

的用料是从荷兰运来的黄色小砖,装着格子窗,房子的正面是三角墙,房顶上装有风信鸡(做成雄鸡形状的风向标——译注)。

就在这个小村子,也就在这些房子里面,有一座房子(说句实在话,这房子受尽雨打风摧,已经陈旧不堪了)里面住着一个朴素温厚、好脾气的人,名字叫里普·范温克尔。从这个地方还是大不列颠的一个殖民省的时候起,他就住在这里,已经住了多年。他是范温克尔家族的后裔,这个家族在彼得·斯图伊弗桑特时代武功显赫,而且在将军麾下参与过克里斯蒂娜要塞包围战。然而里普从祖先那儿承袭的尚武精神却微乎其微。依

① Siege of Fort Christina 克里斯蒂娜堡之围。斯图伊弗桑特于1655年占领了这个要塞和瑞典人在特拉华河上建造的另几个堡垒,结束了瑞典的殖民地。

ter of his ancestors. I have observed that he was a simple good-natured man; he was, moreover, a kind neighbor and an obedient hen-pecked husband. Indeed, to the latter circumstance might be owing that meekness of spirit which gained him such universal popularity; for those men are most apt to be obsequious and conciliating abroad who are under the discipline of shrews at home. Their tempers, doubtless, are rendered pliant and malleable in the fiery furnace of domestic tribulation; and a curtain lecture is worth all the sermons in the world for teaching the virtues of patience and long-suffering. A termagant wife may, therefore, in some respects, be considered a tolerable blessing; and if so, Rip Van Winkle was thrice blessed.

Certain it is, that he was a great favorite among all the good wives of

我看,他不仅是一个纯朴温厚的人,而且是一个好邻居,还是一个惟命是从的、怕老婆的丈夫。说起他怕老婆这件事,也许是出于本性顺从温和,然而这种本性恰恰又使他赢得了极佳的人缘。其实,那些看上去谦谦君子模样的人,多半是在家里被悍妻教育出来的。毫无疑问,在家里经过烈火熔炉的炼适,他们的脾气自然就变得柔韧圆通、可捏可塑了。而且,闺帏中的调教抵得过世上一切关于种种美德的说教。所以,从某些方面看来,有一个凶悍的妻子也不失为一种福气。这么说,里普是大大地幸福了。

确实,他是村子里所有贤德主妇们的宠儿,这些和蔼可亲的

the village, who as usual with the amiable sex, took his part in all family squabbles; and never failed whenever they talked those matters over in their evening gossipings to lay all the blame on Dame Van Winkle. The children of the village, too, would shout with joy whenever he approached. He assisted at their sports, made their playthings, taught them to fly kites and shoot marbles, and told them long stories of ghosts, witches, and Indians. Whenever, he went dodging about the village, he was surrounded by a troop of them, hanging on his skirts, clambering on his back, and playing a thousand tricks on him with impunity; and not a dog would bark at him throughout the neighborhood.

The great error in Rip's composition was an insuperable aversion to all kinds of profitable labor. It

女人们在评判里普的家庭争吵时,总是站在他的一边。每当黄昏时分空闲无事,她们谈起这些家长里短的闲话,总是把所有的错误都加于范温克尔太太的身上。村里的孩子们也喜欢里普,一看见他走近,就要大声高呼起来。他跟孩子们一块儿游戏,给他们做玩具,教他们放风筝、打弹子,还给他们讲很长的故事,鬼故事呀,女巫呀,印第安人呀等等。当他在村子里走来走去的时候,总有一大群孩子围着他。他们揪着他的衣裳下摆,爬到他的背上,放心大胆地在他身上玩着各种鬼把戏,绝对不担心受到惩罚。连街坊四邻的狗见了他也不会冲他叫。

里普对于一切有利可图的营生有着不可控制的反感,这乃是他性格中的一大缺点。这并

could not be from the want of assiduity or perseverance; for he would sit on a wet rock, with a rod as long and heavy as a Tartar's lance, and fish all day without a murmur, even though he should not be encouraged by a single nibble. He would carry a fowling - piece on his shoulder for hours together, trudging through woods and swamps, and up hill and down dale, to shoot a few squirrels or wild pigeons. He would never refuse to assist a neighbor even in the roughest toil, and was a foremost man at all country frolics for husking Indian corn, or building stone - fences; the women of the village, too, used to employ him to run their errands, and to do such little odd jobs as their less obliging husbands would not do for them. In a word Rip was ready to attend to anybody's business but his own; but as to doing

不能说他缺少吃苦耐劳的品质, 因为他会坐在一块潮乎乎的大石头上, 拿着一根像鞑靼长矛那么笨重的鱼竿, 一钓就是一整天。哪怕一条鱼都不来咬钩, 他也没有一句报怨。他会扛着一支猎枪, 一连好几个小时在森林和沼地里艰苦跋涉, 攀山越岭, 只不过射几只松鼠或是野鸽子。他从来不会回绝帮助邻居去做哪怕是最苦累的活儿。当全村欢聚在一起剥玉米皮或是垒筑石头院墙时, 他更是一把好手。村里的女人们也常叫他去跑腿, 干一些她们的丈夫懒得帮着干的杂活儿。总而言之, 除了自己的事之外, 里普愿意帮任何人做事, 随传随到。然而, 说到干自己的家务或是把农田治理得井井有条, 他认为是办不到的。

family duty and keeping his farm in order, he found it impossible.

In fact, he declared it was of no use to work on his farm; it was the most pestilent little piece of ground in the whole country; everything about it went wrong, and would go wrong, in spite of him. His fences were continually falling to pieces; his cow would either go astray or get among the cabbages; weeds were sure to grow quicker in his fields than anywhere else; the rain always made a point of setting in just as he had some out-door work to do; so that though his patrimonial estate had dwindled away under his management, acre by acre, until there was little more left than a mere patch of Indian corn and potatoes, yet it was the worst conditioned farm in the neighborhood.

他曾公开声明,在他的农田里耕作是白费力气,那是全村里最让人头痛的一小块地;在那块地里样样事情都做不好,而且会越来越糟,不管他怎么努力也不行。他的院墙不停地坍塌;他的牛不是走丢了就是跑到菜地里去;在他田地里的野草的的确确比在其他任何地方长得都快;而且老天也总是专挑他出门耕作的时候下雨。就这样,祖传的产业经他的手一亩接一亩地减少,最后只剩下非常小的一块地,种玉米和马铃薯。即使是这硕果仅存的一小块地,也仍然是远近四乡经营最差的。

His children, too, were as ragged and wild as if they belonged to nobody. His son Rip, an urchin begotten in his own likeness, promised to inherit the habits, with the old clothes of his father. He was generally seen trooping like a colt at his mother's heels, equipped in a pair of his father's cast-off galligaskins^①, which he had much ado to hold up with one hand, as a fine lady does her train in bad weather.

Rip Van Winkle, however, was one of those happy mortals, of foolish, well-oiled dispositions, who take the world easy, eat white bread or brown, whichever can be got with least thought or trouble, and would rather starve on a penny than work for a pound. If left to himself, he would have whistled life away in

他的孩子们也是衣衫褴褛、野调无腔,好像少爹没娘的样子。他的儿子里普,像是跟他从一个模子里刻出来的顽童,大有希望承接他的衣钵,包括他的脾性还有他的旧衣服。人们常发现他像一匹小马驹似地绕着她妈妈的脚跟转,穿着一条他爸爸不要了的宽大裤子。他用一只手用尽力气提着裤子,就似贵妇淑女在下雨天出门时提着她们的裙裾。

不管怎么说,里普·范温克尔是那种天生快乐的人,乐呵呵、傻乎乎地,好性子。他把生活世事看得很简单,白面包也好,黑面包也好,吃什么都好;只要是不费力气、不费脑筋、得来容易就行。他宁愿为了缺一个便士而挨饿,也不情愿花点儿力气去挣一镑钱。要是依着他自

① Galligaskins 宽松的裤子。

perfect contentment; but his wife kept continually dinning in his ears about his idleness, his carelessness, and the ruin he was bringing on his family. Morning, noon, and night, her tongue was incessantly going and everything he said or did was sure to produce a torrent of household eloquence. Rip had but one way of replying to all lectures of the kind, and that, by frequent use, had grown into a habit. He shrugged his shoulders, shook his head, cast up his eyes, but said nothing. This, however, always provoked a fresh volley from his wife; so that he was fain to draw off his forces, and take to the outside of the house - the only side which, in truth, belongs to a henpecked husband.

Rip's sole domestic adherent was his dog Wolf, who was as much hen - pecked as his master; for

己,只要能听天由命、自由自在地打发日子就心满意足了。可是他的妻子却成天在他耳边聒噪不休,数落他懒散,不用心,把一个家弄得如此穷困。从早上到中午,再从中午到晚上,她的舌头一刻不停。无论他说句什么话,做点儿什么事,都一定会引起一场出洪爆发般的吵骂。对于这种吵骂,里普只能有一种回答,那就是耸耸肩,摇摇头,两眼朝天,什么话也不说。久而久之,这种姿势就成了他的一种惯例。然而,这样做的结果总是惹来他妻子一场更厉害的、连珠炮似地痛骂。因此他只能拿出最后的一招,撤到屋外——说实在的,这是怕老婆的人所能保有的最后阵地了。

在家里惟一亲密里普的是他的狗,名字叫做狼。它像它的主人怕老婆一样害怕女主人。

Dame Van Winkle regarded them as companions in idleness, and even looked upon Wolf with an evil eye, as the cause of his master's going so often astray. True it is, in all points of spirit befitting an honorable dog, he was as courageous an animal as ever scoured the woods - but what courage can withstand the ever - during and all - besetting terrors of a woman's tongue? The moment Wolf entered the house his crest fell, his tail drooped to the ground or curled between his legs, he sneaked about with a gallows air, casting many a sidelong glance at Dame Van Winkle, and at the least flourish of a broomstick or ladle, he would fly to the door with yelping precipitation.

Times grew worse and worse with Rip Van Winkle as years of matrimony rolled on; a tart temper never mellows with age, and a sharp

因为范温克尔太太把他们两个看作是一对儿懒货,甚至认为正是狼引得它的主人游手好闲,所以总是用恶毒毒的眼光盯着它。事实上,从精神和气质各方面来说,它都够得上是一条既忠实又体面的好狗。在森林里搜寻猎物的时候,它向来都是勇往直前——但是,什么样的勇气能够阻挡得住一条妇人的舌头那无时无刻不断袭击的恐怖?狼一进家门立刻就蔫头耷脑,尾巴搭拉到地上,要不就夹在两条后腿之间,悄悄地溜墙根,不时斜瞟一眼范温克尔太太,一副半死不活的模样。只要扫帚把儿或是长柄勺子一挥,它就哀叫着飞也似地向门口跑去。

里普·范温克尔娶妻以后的日子一年比一年难过;暴戾的脾气永远不会随着年龄的增加而变得柔和,而一条刻薄的舌头则

tongue is the only edged tool that grows keener with constant use. For a long while he used to console himself, when driven from home, by frequenting a kind of perpetual club of the sages, philosophers, and other idle personages of the village, which held its sessions on a bench before a small inn, designated by a rubicund portrait of His Majesty George the Third. Here they used to sit in the shade through a long lazy summer's day, talking listlessly over village gossip, or telling endless sleepy stories about nothing. But it would have been worth any statesman's money to have heard the profound discussions that sometimes took place, when by chance an old newspaper fell into their hands from some passing traveller. How solemnly they would listen to the contents as drawled out by Derrick Van Bum -

是人身上惟一能够越用越锋利的利器。有很长一段时间了,当里普被驱出家门之后,经常来到一个类似俱乐部的聚会处,从那里求得宽慰。到这里来的人有村子里的贤达和闲散人等。聚集的地方就是一家小旅店门前的一条长凳,小旅店的招牌上画的是脸色红润的乔治三世的像。他们惯于坐在树荫下度过一个慵困的夏日长天,懒懒散散地议论着村子里的闲闻琐事,或者没完没了地述说令人昏昏欲睡的无味故事。但是,如果有一天他们不经意从过路的旅人手中得到一份旧报纸,便会展开很有见地的讨论,值得任何一位政治家洗耳恭听。他们聚精会神地听着德瑞克·范巴麦尔慢条斯理地读出那报纸上的内容,那神情是多么专注啊!这位短小精悍的教师是很有学问的,字典里最难的艰词鉅字也吓不倒他。

mel, the schoolmaster, a dapper learned little man, who was not to be daunted by the most gigantic word in the dictionary; and how sagely they would deliberate upon public events some months after they had taken place.

The opinions of this junto were completely controlled by Nicholas Vedder, a patriarch of the village, and landlord of the inn, at the door of which he took his seat from morning till night, just moving sufficiently to avoid the sun and keep in the shade of a large tree; so that the neighbors could tell the hour by his movements as accurately as by a sun-dial. It is true he was rarely heard to speak, but smoked his pipe incessantly. His adherents, however (for every great man has his adherents), perfectly understood him, and knew how to gather his opinions. When

他们谨慎而从容不迫地详剖细论那些几个月之前出现的国家大事,那样子又是多么贤明睿智啊!

这个小小的政治团体的政见完全在尼古拉斯·维德尔的控制之中。他是村子里的一位族长元老,又是这家小旅店的主人。他从早到晚坐在小店门前一棵大树的下面,只是跟着树荫缓慢移动,以便始终位于荫凉之下,不让太阳晒着自己。邻居们从他移动的位置就知道是几点钟了,准确的程度和日晷不相上下。事实上他很少说话,只是不断地抽他的烟斗。但是他的追随者们(每个大人物都有自己的追随者),非常了解他的意思,也知道怎样猜测他的看法。要是读的或是讲的事不符他的意了,

anything that was read or related displeased him, he was observed to smoke his pipe vehemently, and to send forth short, frequent, and angry puffs; but, when pleased, he would inhale the smoke slowly and tranquilly, and emit it in light and placid clouds; and sometimes, taking the pipe from his mouth and letting the fragrant vapor curl about his nose, would gravely nod his head in token of perfect approbation.

From even this stronghold the unlucky Rip was at length routed by his termagant wife, who would suddenly break in upon the tranquillity of the assemblage and call the members all to naught; nor was that august personage, Nicholas Vedder himself, sacred from the daring tongue of this terrible virago, who charged him outright with encouraging her husband in habits of idl -

人们就会看到他猛抽烟斗,并不断喷出一口口短促而带着怒气的烟;要是他听得高兴,他就缓慢地、平静地把烟吸进去,再轻轻地、静静地喷云吐雾;有时他把烟斗从嘴里拿出来,让他的鼻子四围香烟缭绕,这时候他会郑重其事地点头,表示完全的称赞。

就是藏进这样的堡垒,倒霉的里普到底还是逃不脱,要被他那凶悍的妻子揪出来。她会忽然破门而入,打破那聚会的安静气氛,把所有在场的人都叫做没用的东西;即使是尊严的尼古拉斯·维德尔本人也难逃这恐怖的泼妇一场恶骂。她毫不客气地加给他一个罪名,说正是他助长了她丈夫的懒散。