

英漢對照·世界名著

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良好的奮鬥

A Good Fight

鐵伯爾著
李秋男譯注

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石景宜先生贈書

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良好的奮鬥

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NOTE.—*This story is taken from 'The Cloister and the Hearth', a famous book by Charles Reade, first published in 1859 as 'A Good Fight'. In its earlier form the book was shorter and had a different ending.*

CHAPTER I

ELIAS AND CATHERINE, AND THEIR FAMILY

OUR tale begins at the middle of the fifteenth century. Louis the Eleventh was King of France and Philip 'the Good' was ruling in Holland.

Elias and Catherine his wife, lived in the little town of Tergou in Holland. The couple were free from want, but not from care, for they had nine children. When the bread was brought in for meals and was soon eaten up, Elias and Catherine would look at one another and say, 'Who is to find food for them all when we are dead?'

At this the younger children would smile. It seemed to them that their meals came like sunrise and sunset. They could not imagine a time when either the sun or their bread would fail them. But the older children thought more seriously about the saying.

By great care Elias and Catherine managed to provide food and clothes for their children and

第一章 伊利亞斯與凱瑟琳及他們的家庭

第一章 伊利亞斯與凱瑟琳及他們的家庭

我們這個故事開始在十五世紀中期，當時路易十一是法國的國王，而賢君腓力正統治着荷蘭。

伊利亞斯和妻子凱瑟琳居住在荷蘭的一個小城——特戈。這對夫婦衣食沒有匱乏，但却非全不須操心，因為他們有九個孩子。當麵包被帶進來當餐食而一下子被吃光時，伊利亞斯和凱瑟琳總會互相望了一眼，說道：「我倆去世後，什麼人將為他們準備食物呢？」

年紀比較小的孩子聽到這句話，總會微微一笑，因為對他們而言，他們的餐食正如日出日落般源源不絕，他們根本不會想到會有太陽或他們的食物中斷的時候。但是年紀較大的孩子對於父母親的話，就認為比較嚴重。

伊利亞斯和凱瑟琳煞費苦心設法供給孩子食物和衣服。

1. century ['sentʃəri] n. 世紀，百年

2. be free from 免於...

3. be + 不定詞 表示預定，確定或義務

4. manage + 不定詞 設法...

yet to ¹put away, week by week, a little money for future use. One day the *eldest* boy but one, aged nineteen, came to his mother and begged her to ask his father to let him go to Amsterdam, the largest city of the district, and to place him with a merchant to learn his trade.

‘I should like the life,’ he said. ‘I am good at figures, and merchants become wealthy. Besides, Mother, there are enough in the house, and without me you will not have so many mouths to feed.’

So Richard started his own life in the world, and cost his parents no more money.

Two years later his brother Jacob went to join Richard. The parents were very sad to see their children, one by one, leave home to ²take their part in the world. But it had to be so. There were left two that ³were unable to work and two that were unwilling to work. Giles, a very ugly and dull boy, and little Kate, who could only move about on two sticks, would never be able to work. Sybrandt, the youngest, a lazy lad, and Cornelis, the eldest, would not work. Cornelis had decided that there was no need for him to leave home.

But there was yet another son to whom the poor parents looked with hope. This was Gerard, and it is of him that our story mainly tells.

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而且每星期儲蓄一點錢以備將來之需。有一天，年紀第二大的男孩（十九歲）來到他母親面前，要求母親請求父親讓他到阿姆斯特丹（當地最大的城市）去，並且把他寄託給商人，以便學習經商的方法。

「我喜歡那種生活，」他說道，「我擅長算術，而且商人容易致富。還有，母親，家裡的人已經夠多了，沒有我，您將不須養活這麼多的人。」

因此里查便開始他自己的生涯，不再花費父母親的金錢。

兩年後，他的弟弟約柯加入與里查為伍。父母親看着他們的孩子一個接連一個離開家庭，投身於世界的大社會中，感到非常悲傷。然而，這是不得已的。家裡剩下兩個不能工作的孩子。紀利長得又醜又笨；小凱德，必須用兩根拐杖才能走動，是絕不能夠工作的。年紀最小的西柏是個小懶惰鬼，他和年紀最大的柯尼，都不肯做事。柯尼決定他沒有必要離開家庭。

但是還有一個這兩位可憐的父母親寄以厚望的兒子，就是奇拉，我們的故事主要就是談他的事情。

1. put away 儲存 (=put aside)
2. take part in 參加，參與
3. be unable to + 原形 不能(=can, not)

練習題

1. 本故事發生於何時？何地？

2. 伊利亞斯有幾個孩子？

CHAPTER II

GERARD LEAVES HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME

YOUNG GERARD 'was to become a priest.' He liked reading and writing, and was urged to continue at these studies by the priests of the district. They showed him how to paint beautiful pictures along the edges of the pages he wrote.

Now it 'happened' that about this time Philip, the Prince of Holland, offered prizes for the best painted and written book sent to his *palace*² before a certain day. At that time all books were written by hand. Gerard 'heard of' the prizes and determined to try for one. Accordingly he set out for the palace at Rotterdam.

When he was some distance from home he met an old man and a pretty young girl with lovely hair. The fur of the man's coat was old, and the girl 'was dressed in plain brown cloth.' Gerard saw that they were good people, but poor, and perhaps in trouble. He went up to them and said, 'Father, I fear you are tired. Can I help you?'

The old man said he was indeed tired and weak for want of food. Gerard at once started gathering sticks for a fire, and prepared a simple meal.

第二章 奇拉第一次離開家庭

年輕的奇拉準備當牧師。他喜歡閱讀及寫作，並且渴望跟當地的牧師們繼續學習這些科目。牧師們告訴他如何在他所寫的紙頁的邊緣繪畫美麗的圖畫。

却說，碰巧這時荷蘭王子腓力提供獎金給在期限內把圖文並茂的書送到他皇宮去的人。在那個時候，所有的書都是用手寫成的。奇拉聽到獎金的消息便決定去試一試，於是他出發往在鹿特丹的皇宮而去。

在他離家不遠的時候，他遇到一位老人和一個有着可愛的美麗姑娘，老年人外衣的皮毛已經很舊，而姑娘則穿着樸素的棕色衣服。奇拉知道他們是善良的人，但很窮，可能正遇到困難，他走到他們面前說道：「老伯，我想您一定很疲倦，我能給您什麼幫忙嗎？」

老年人說他的確疲倦而且因為缺少食物身體很虛弱。奇拉立刻去聚集一些樹枝生了一堆火，並且做了一頓簡單的餐食。

1. be + 不定詞 表示預定，確定或義務

例：A war is to break out soon. (表確定)

2. happened (['hæpən] 此處當「碰巧」解。

例：I to be out when he called.

3. hear of 聽人說及 ...

4. be dressed in + 衣物 = wear + 衣物

While he was doing this, Ghysbrecht, Tergou's chief citizen or 'burgomaster' as he was called, rode by. Ghysbrecht looked closely at them as he passed. He was a rich man, but the strange thing was that quite half his wealth did not belong to him at all, but to the poor old man



GHYSBRECHT LOOKED CLOSELY AT THEM AS HE PASSED

and the girl who sat by the roadside. Twenty years before, the cruel burgomaster had stolen this money from them without their knowing it. But when he saw them with Gerard he was afraid. 'Suppose they discover my wrongdoing!' he thought.

After the meal was finished, the three of them started out for Rotterdam. Gerard had fallen

當他做這些事時，特戈城的首要市民（大家都叫他市長）吉士布烈騎馬從旁邊經過，吉士布烈一面騎馬經過一面很仔細地看着他們。他是一位富翁，但是奇怪的是他的財產幾乎有一半根本



吉士布烈一面騎馬經過一面很仔細地看着他們

不是他的，而是坐在路旁的老年人和姑娘的。二十年前，這位殘酷的市長偷走了他們的錢財而沒有被發覺。但是當他看見他們和奇拉在一起時，他有些害怕。「假使他們發現我的罪行就糟了！」他心裡想着。

飯吃完以後，他們三個人向鹿特丹出發。奇拉已經

1. belong to 屬於…的
2. start(out) for 向…出發