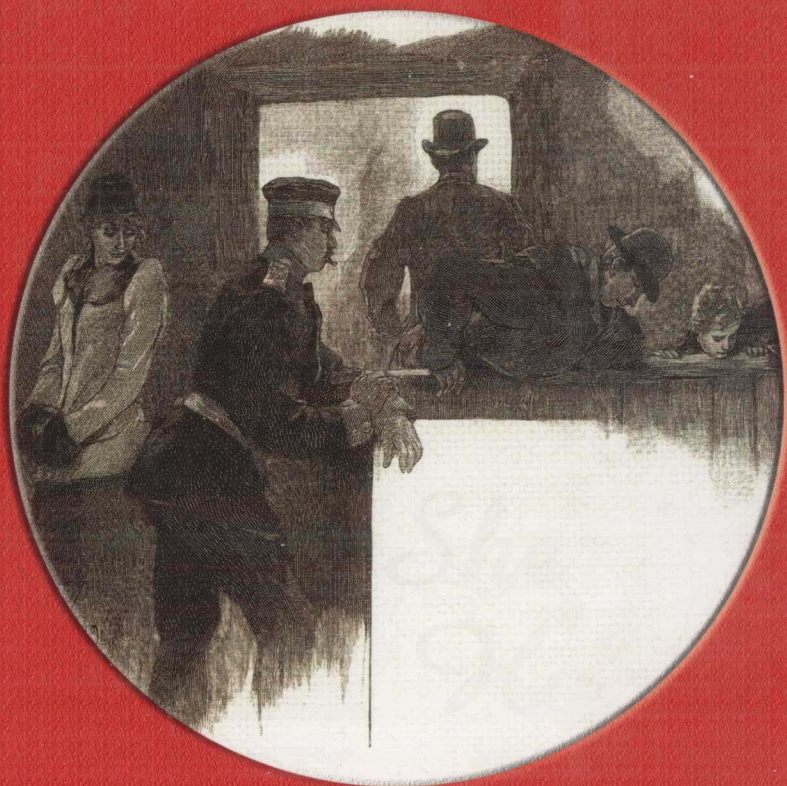


THE HAX WORLD CLASSICS THE HAX WORLD CLASSICS THE HAX WORLD CLASSICS

THE HAX WORLD CLASSICS BILINGUAL EDITION

世界文学名著精品 中英文对照全译本

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



The Best of Volume II Sherlock Holmes (英) 柯南道尔

福尔摩斯探案集

下

INNER MONGOLIA PRESS

内蒙古人民出版社

世界文学名著精品 中英文对照全译本

BILINGUAL EDITION

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Best of Sherlock Holmes **Volume II**

福尔摩斯探案集

下册

〔英〕柯南道尔 著
朴海宇 译

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The Valley of Fear

恐 怖 谷

PART 1

THE TRAGEDY OF BIRLSTONE

Chapter 1

The Warning

"I am inclined to think -" said I.

"I should do so," Sherlock Holmes remarked impatiently.

I believe that I am one of the most long-suffering of mortals; but I'll admit that I was annoyed at the sardonic interruption. "Really, Holmes," said I severely, "you are a little trying at times."

He was too much absorbed with his own thoughts to give any immediate answer to my remonstrance. He leaned upon his hand, with his untasted breakfast before him, and he stared at the slip of paper which he had just drawn from its envelope. Then he took the envelope itself, held it up to the light, and very carefully studied both the exterior and the flap.

"It is Porlock's writing," said he thoughtfully. "I can hardly doubt that it is Porlock's writing, though I have seen it only twice before. The Greek e with the peculiar top flourish is distinctive. But if it is Porlock, then it must be something of the very first importance."

He was speaking to himself rather than to me; but my vexation disappeared in the interest which the words awakened.

"Who then is Porlock?" I asked.

"Porlock, Watson, is a nom-de-plume, a mere identification mark; but behind it lies a shifty and evasive personality. In a former letter he frankly informed me that the name was not his own, and defied me ever to trace him among the teeming millions of this great city. Porlock is important, not for himself, but for the great man with whom he is in touch. Picture to yourself the pilot fish with the shark, the jackal with the lion - anything that is insignificant in companionship with what is formidable: not only formidable, Watson, but sinister - in the highest degree sinister. That is where he comes within my purview. You have heard me speak of Professor Moriarty?"

第一部

伯尔斯通的悲剧

第一章

警告

"依我看——"

"我只能那么做。" 福尔摩斯烦躁地打断了话头。

我自认为素来自我感觉还是颇有修养的，但是我承认，他今天这么无礼地轻视我，还是令我无法忍受了。

"说真的，福尔摩斯，"我严厉地说，"你的确常常令人感到无法忍受。"

对我的驳斥，他没说一句，而是用一只手撑着头，仍然是一脸深思的模样，就像身临天外。他双眼盯着餐桌上的那封信。信封和信纸都平铺在那里，他把信封凑到灯下面，仔细地查看着。早饭在一边放着，一动也没动。

"我敢肯定，这是波洛克写的字，"他喃喃自语道，"虽然他的笔迹我过去只看到过两次，不过我的判断肯定是正确的。这个希腊字母 ε 的上半部分往上飘，他写的字就有这个特征。要真是他写的信，那就肯定出大事了。"

他的自言自语使我把方才的愤怒都抛诸脑后了，由于他的话让我很感兴趣。

"那波洛克到底是个什么人呢?"

"波洛克一看就知道是个化名，华生。那是个高深莫测、让人想不到的入物。上一次他在信封里明目张胆地对我说这是他的化名，还说要想在千百万人里见到他就像大海里捞针。他的价值并不在于他本人，而是表现在隐藏于他背后的那个人物上。你应该知道‘狼狽为奸’、‘狐假虎威’是什么意思吧？一条鲸鱼加上一条鲨鱼、一头恶狼加上一头狮子，意思是说一个凶狠的家伙和一个异常恶毒的家伙，两个人凑到一块儿，它的凶恶和毒辣也就不得而知了。华生，你听说过莫亚迪教授吗？"

“The famous scientific criminal, as famous among crooks as —”

“My blushes, Watson!” Holmes murmured in a deprecating voice.

“I was about to say, as he is unknown to the public.”

“A touch! A distinct touch!” cried Holmes. “You are developing a certain unexpected vein of pawky humour, Watson, against which I must learn to guard myself. But in calling Moriarty a criminal you are uttering libel in the eyes of the law — and there lie the glory and the wonder of it! The greatest schemer of all time, the organizer of every deviltry, the controlling brain of the underworld, a brain which might have made or marred the destiny of nations — that’s the man! But so aloof is he from general suspicion, so immune from criticism, so admirable in his management and self-effacement, that for those very words that you have uttered he could hale you to a court and emerge with your year’s pension as a solatium for his wounded character. Is he not the celebrated author of *The Dynamics of an Asteroid*, a book which ascends to such rarefied heights of pure mathematics that it is said that there was no man in the scientific press capable of criticizing it? Is this a man to traduce? Foul-mouthed doctor and slandered professor — such would be your respective rôles! That’s genius, Watson. But if I am spared by lesser men, our day will surely come.”

“May I be there to see!” I exclaimed devoutly. “But you were speaking of this man Porlock.”

“Ah, yes — the so-called Porlock is a link in the chain some little way from its great attachment. Porlock is not quite a sound link — between ourselves. He is the only flaw in that chain so far as I have been able to test it.”

“But no chain is stronger than its weakest link.”

“Exactly, my dear Watson! Hence the extreme importance of Porlock. Led on by some rudimentary aspirations towards right, and encouraged by the judicious stimulation of an occasional ten-pound note sent to him by devious methods, he has once or twice given me advance information which has been of value — that highest value which anticipates and prevents rather than avenges crime. I cannot doubt that, if we had the cipher, we should find that this communication is of the nature that I indicate.”

Again Holmes flattened out the paper upon

“你说的是那个道行高超的罪犯，他在黑社会里名望真能称得上——”

“华生，不要再说外行的话了。”福尔摩斯再次打断了我的话，显得漫不经心。

“我还没说完呢，他在这里面知名度一点儿都不高。”

“好了，华生，你什么时候变得狡猾了！你得提防着点儿，你要是叫他罪犯，从法律的角度来考虑，你可是犯下了诽谤罪。这恰恰是这个人最狡猾的地方。他是万般罪恶的源泉，黑帮的指挥者，甚至整个民族的命运都掌握在他的手里！可是没有几个普通人能看穿他。不管什么事他都不大肆张扬，从来都不为了出名而跑上前台。他高尚的品格和隐藏本领那一招简直令人称奇。这么一来，你要是再叫他罪犯，他就可以把你送上法庭！那你就必须用一年的俸禄为他名誉上受到的损害作为赔偿！他的著作《小行星力学》高深严密、名扬天下！那里面的纯数学研究达到的水平，很多的同行里面是没几个人有资历来评头论足。你和他并肩而站，舆论界就会断言说，一个是血口喷人的小人，一个是无辜遭人诽谤的教授。华生，只要他们整不死我，我终究会把他们送上法庭！”

“或许我能看到！”我脱口而出，“可是你谈论的是波洛克那个人。”

“当然，想捕获他必须先是从波洛克着手。他挡在莫亚迪前边，是整条链子里的最薄弱的一环。”

“损坏了一环，整条链子就不会坚固了。”

“说得太棒了，华生。这就是波洛克对我们来说为什么这么重要的原因。他的良心并不是全部泯灭了，加上我时而背地里接济接济他，有去就有回，他已有两次提前为我送来了有一定价值的情报，这些情报让我能预见而且防止发生某件犯罪案件，而不是事情发生以后让我去逮捕犯人。毋庸置疑，如果有密码，就将看到这封信为我们带来的是我刚刚讲过的那种价值不菲的情报。”

福尔摩斯把那张纸平铺在了空盘

his unused plate. I rose and, leaning over him, stared down at the curious inscription, which ran as follows:

534 C2 13 127 36 31 4 17
21 41 Douglas 109 293 5 37
Birlstone 26 Birlstone 9 47 171

“What do you make of it, Holmes?”

“It is obviously an attempt to convey secret information.”

“But what is the use of a cipher message without the cipher?”

“In this instance, none at all.”

“Why do you say ‘in this instance’?”

“Because there are many ciphers which I would read as easily as I do the apocrypha of the agony column: such crude devices amuse the intelligence without fatiguing it. But this is different. It is clearly a reference to the words in a page of some book. Until I am told which page and which book I am powerless.”

“But why ‘Douglas’ and ‘Birlstone’?”

“Clearly because those are words which were not contained in the page in question.”

“Then why has he not indicated the book?”

“Your native shrewdness, my dear Watson, that innate cunning which is the delight of your friends, would surely prevent you from inclosing cipher and message in the same envelope. Should it miscarry, you are undone. As it is, both have to go wrong before any harm comes from it. Our second post is now overdue, and I shall be surprised if it does not bring us either a further letter of explanation, or, as is more probable, the very volume to which these figures refer.”

Holmes’s calculation was fulfilled within a very few minutes by the appearance of Billy, the page, with the very letter which we were expecting.

“The same writing,” remarked Holmes, as he opened the envelope, “and actually signed,” he added in an exultant voice as he unfolded the epistle. “Come, we are getting on, Watson.” His brow clouded, however, as he glanced over the contents.

“Dear me, this is very disappointing! I fear, Watson, that all our expectations come to nothing. I trust that the man Porlock will come to no harm.

子里，我站了起来，在他背后低下头头看着那些古里古怪的字符。那些字符是这样排列的：

五三四 C二 一三 一二七
三六 三一 四 一七 二一 四一
道格拉斯 一〇九 二九三 五 三
七 伯尔斯通 二六 伯尔斯通 九
四七 一七一

“福尔摩斯，你对这么多的数字有什么高明的见解吗？”

“显而易见，它们是用来传送秘密信息的。”

“没有密码本，密码信可怎么能破解呢？”

“在这种情况下，根本没用。”

“你是说‘在这种情况下’？”

“因为有的密码对我来说比那些报纸上登载的寻人招领启示还简单一点儿。它只是一个很有意思的智力测验。可是这次多少有点儿不一样，它显然是提示我们必须寻求某一本书某一页上的某一个词语的帮助，如果没有那本书，我可就无计可施了。”

“可怎么会有‘道格拉斯’和‘伯尔斯通’呢？”

“因为这本书上找不到那两个词儿。”

“他为什么不讲明是哪本书呢？”

“聪明的华生大夫，你的那些朋友都为你生来就聪明而感到骄傲，你难道会把密码及密码信放到一个信封里吗？万一出了差错，那不就暴露无遗了吗？有两封信，前面一封后面一封，那就不会出错了。第二封信里一定是破密码的文字或用作解释的资料。”

果然不出他所料，过了几分钟，仆人毕利呈上来一封我们正在企盼着的来信。

福尔摩斯拆了信：“字迹一样，并且署的是真实的名字。这么说我们有进展了。”他高兴地看起信来。可是，看了一会儿，他的眉头不由得又蹙紧了。

“唉，白高兴了，华生，我们什么都没等到。希望波洛克没什么意外。”

Dear Mr. Holmes [he says]:

I will go no further in this matter. It is too dangerous – he suspects me. I can see that he suspects me. He came to me quite unexpectedly after I had actually addressed this envelope with the intention of sending you the key to the cipher. I was able to cover it up. If he had seen it, it would have gone hard with me. But I read suspicion in his eyes. Please burn the cipher message, which can now be of no use to you.

Fred Porlock.

Holmes sat for some little time twisting this letter between his fingers, and frowning, as he stared into the fire.

"After all," he said at last, "there may be nothing in it. It may be only his guilty conscience. Knowing himself to be a traitor, he may have read the accusation in the other's eyes."

"The other being, I presume, Professor Moriarty."

"No less! When any of that party talk about 'He' you know whom they mean. There is one predominant 'He' for all of them."

"But what can he do?"

"Hum! That's a large question. When you have one of the first brains of Europe up against you, and all the powers of darkness at his back, there are infinite possibilities. Anyhow, Friend Porlock is evidently scared out of his senses – kindly compare the writing in the note to that upon its envelope; which was done, he tells us, before this ill-omened visit. The one is clear and firm. The other hardly legible."

"Why did he write at all? Why did he not simply drop it?"

"Because he feared I would make some inquiry after him in that case, and possibly bring trouble on him."

"No doubt," said I. "Of course." I had picked up the original cipher message and was bending my brows over it. "It's pretty maddening to think that an important secret may lie here on this slip of paper, and that it is beyond human power to penetrate it."

Sherlock Holmes had pushed away his untasted breakfast and lit the unsavoury pipe which was the companion of his deepest meditations. "I wonder!" said he, leaning back and staring at the ceiling. "Perhaps there are points which have escaped your Machiavellian intellect. Let us

亲爱的福尔摩斯先生：

我不能继续与您合作了。我的处境非常危险。他对我起了疑心。我能感觉得出来。我刚把信封填好，想把密码信为您寄出去的时候，意想不到他走到了我身旁，幸好我赶紧遮盖住了。如果他知道我在做什么，真不知道等着我的是什么样的后果。可是他对我有了疑心，他的眼睛明明白白地显示了这一点。请您把我寄给您的上一封信毁掉吧，它对您来说已经没用了。

波洛克谨上

福尔摩斯用两个手指头夹着信，同时，他眉头紧蹙，沉思着纹丝不动地坐在那里，盯着炉子里的火焰。

他总算开口了：“恐怕是他心怀鬼胎，因为他做了‘内奸’，因此他感觉那个人对他起了疑心。”

“是莫亚迪教授对他讲话吗？”

“是的。在那帮人里，无论是谁，只要一说‘他’这个字，其他的人就知道说的是谁。‘他’特指这个生杀予夺的人。”

“他究竟有什么本事呢？”

“说来话长。他黑道白道一起走，一手遮天，不管什么事都能办到。唉，我的朋友波洛克这次肯定吓得魂飞胆破了——你认真看一下信纸上和信皮上的字，那个人没到以前，信皮上的字刚劲有力，那个人忽然到来以后，信纸上的字就潦潦草草、模模糊糊了。”

“那么他为什么还要继续写这封信呢？他可以索性不写它了嘛。”

“因为他怕我会探明原因，让他感到棘手。”

“有道理。”我拿起那封密码信，眉头不由得皱了起来，“太让人着急了，明明知道此信里面有花样，但又找不到解码。”

福尔摩斯把他眼前刀叉一动没动的早饭推到一边，点着了难闻刺鼻的烟斗，每逢他要凝神沉思的时候，他非得吸上几口。他倚在长背椅上，抬起眼睛看着天花板：“有的事还真不好懂！可能真的是聪明的人终究有失

consider the problem in the light of pure reason. This man's reference is to a book. That is our point of departure."

"A somewhat vague one."

"Let us see then if we can narrow it down. As I focus my mind upon it, it seems rather less impenetrable. What indications have we as to this book?"

"None."

"Well, well, it is surely not quite so bad as that. The cipher message begins with a large 534, does it not? We may take it as a working hypothesis that 534 is the particular page to which the cipher refers. So our book has already become a large book, which is surely something gained. What other indications have we as to the nature of this large book? The next sign is C2. What do you make of that, Watson?"

"Chapter the second, no doubt."

"Hardly that, Watson. You will, I am sure, agree with me that if the page be given, the number of the chapter is immaterial. Also that if page 534 finds us only in the second chapter, the length of the first one must have been really intolerable."

"Column!" I cried.

"Brilliant, Watson. You are scintillating this morning. If it is not column, then I am very much deceived. So now, you see, we begin to visualize a large book, printed in double columns, which are each of a considerable length, since one of the words is numbered in the document as the two hundred and ninety-third. Have we reached the limits of what reason can supply?"

"I fear that we have."

"Surely you do yourself an injustice. One more coruscation, my dear Watson - yet another brain-wave! Had the volume been an unusual one, he would have sent it to me. Instead of that, he had intended, before his plans were nipped, to send me the clue in this envelope. He says so in his note. This would seem to indicate that the book is one which he thought I would have no difficulty in finding for myself. He had it - and he imagined that I would have it, too. In short, Watson, it is a very common book."

"What you say certainly sounds plausible."

"So we have contracted our field of search to a large book, printed in double columns and in common use."

"The Bible!" I cried triumphantly.

手的时候。好了，我们就从‘存在者肯定有他的道理’这个角度来推理一下，密码信的破译肯定藏在哪本书中，我们就由此入手。”

“这么一来可像是大海里捞针呢。”

“我们可以先尝试着缩小一点儿范围，我相信只要我全神贯注地去想一件事情，它肯定会真相大白的。有关这本书，我们已经得到了什么线索？”

“一点儿线索都没有。”

“不，不，不会糟糕到这个地步的。密码信开始的一个密码数字是五三四，对吗？我们就先把它设想成这本书的总页码，那么这是本非常厚的书。我们已经有一定的进展了。这本书属于哪一类别，我们有证据来明确一下吗？第二个密码是C二，华生，在你看来它是什么意思？”

“应当说的是第二章。”

“华生，不一定。我相信你会赞成我的推论：既然已经指明了页码，那么何必指出章节呢，何况，假如第五百三十四页是第二章的话，那第一章不就太长了吗？”

“指某一栏！”我大声喊道。

“华生，你太有见解了，今天清晨你的智慧大放光芒啊！假如它指的不是某一栏，那么我可就真的无计可施了。我们再来确定一下，这是本相当厚的书，书里的每一页分成两栏来排，每一栏还都很长，因为有一个密码是二九三。我们的推理是不是已经把我们得到的线索都用上了？”

“几乎都用上了。”

“华生先生，你真看不起自己，再仔细想一下，你的聪明才智向来都是用之不竭的嘛。假如这本书是不常见的那一类，他肯定早就为我寄来了，可是在他打算撒手不干以前他并不是这样做的，而只是想在信里指明密码的解译法，说明他觉得我能很容易就得到它，因为他有这么一本书，并且相信我同样也有，总而言之，这是一本很普通的书。”

“多么合乎情理的推理啊！”

“对，我们要探寻的范围已经缩小到一本厚书上了，并且已经知道了这本书排成了两栏，人们经常翻看。”

我兴奋地大喊：“《圣经》！”

“Good, Watson, good! But not, if I may say so, quite good enough! Even if I accepted the compliment for myself, I could hardly name any volume which would be less likely to lie at the elbow of one of Moriarty’s associates. Besides, the editions of Holy Writ are so numerous that he could hardly suppose that two copies would have the same pagination. This is clearly a book which is standardized. He knows for certain that his page 534 will exactly agree with my page 534.”

“But very few books would correspond with that.”

“Exactly. Therein lies our salvation. Our search is narrowed down to standardized books which anyone may be supposed to possess.”

“Bradshaw!”

“There are difficulties, Watson. The vocabulary of Bradshaw is nervous and terse, but limited. The selection of words would hardly lend itself to the sending of general messages. We will eliminate Bradshaw. The dictionary is, I fear, inadmissible for the same reason. What then is left?”

“An almanac!”

“Excellent, Watson! I am very much mistaken if you have not touched the spot. An almanac! Let us consider the claims of Whitaker’s Almanac. It is in common use. It has the requisite number of pages. It is in double column. Though reserved in its earlier vocabulary, it becomes, if I remember right, quite garrulous towards the end.” He picked the volume from his desk. “Here is page 534, column two, a substantial block of print dealing, I perceive, with the trade and resources of British India. Jot down the words, Watson! Number thirteen is ‘Mahratta.’ Not, I fear, a very auspicious beginning. Number one hundred and twenty-seven is ‘Government’; which at least makes sense, though somewhat irrelevant to ourselves and Professor Moriarty. Now let us try again. What does the Mahratta government do? Alas! The next word is ‘pig’s-bristles.’ We are undone, my good Watson! It is finished!”

He had spoken in jesting vein, but the twitching of his bushy eyebrows bespoke his disappointment and irritation. I sat helpless and unhappy, staring into the fire. A long silence was broken by a sudden exclamation from Holmes, who dashed at a cupboard, from which he emerged with a second yellow-covered volume in his hand.

“华生，容我说一句，你做出的结论总的来说没错，可并非完全是正确的。虽然你对我的推理给予很高的评价，同时我也很愿意接受，可是，莫亚迪的人不会个个都有《圣经》，另外，《圣经》的版本分类很多，无法假设两个不一样的版本有相同的页码。很明显这是一本统一版本的书，他知道他的第五百三十四页与我的第五百三十四页的内容完全一样。”

“符合这几个条件的书可能很少。”

“你说得很对，可是我们的人口恰恰就在这儿。范围已经缩小到统一版本并且大家常常翻看这一点上了。”

“肖伯纳著的书？”

“华生，它们与前提条件不相符。肖伯纳的文笔精练简短，所以词汇量不大，用它来传递普通信息有一定的难度，应当排除它们。基于同种缘由，我认为字典也不可选择。那么，我们还有什么？”

“《年鉴》。”

“太对了，华生！我对你的赏识是完全正确的！我们来把那些条件套到惠特克年鉴上。这一本书大家常常翻阅，非常厚，排成两栏。它的词语简单，只是越往后越有些复杂，假如我记得正确的话。”福尔摩斯从写字桌上抓起一本书：“这是第五百三十四页的第二栏，长篇幅，是介绍英属印度的贸易问题和资源问题的。华生，请你记下来，第十三个字‘马那塔’，这个字有些不太对劲，第一百二十七个字是‘政府’，它对我们及莫亚迪教授都没什么用，可是多少有那么点儿意思，下面的字是‘出口猪毛’，呸，华生，这么说我们想得完全不对！”

他话语中有那么一点儿戏谑的味道，可是他那颤抖的眉毛却明显地暴露了他的气恼和失望。顿时我也不知所措，只得闷声闷气地坐到了椅子上，愣愣地望着炉火。突然，福尔摩斯兴高采烈的呼喊声赶走了弥漫在屋子里的沉默。他朝书橱奔去，从上边拿下来一本黄色封皮的书。

"We pay the price, Watson, for being too up-to-date!" he cried. "We are before our time, and suffer the usual penalties. Being the seventh of January, we have very properly laid in the new almanac. It is more than likely that Porlock took his message from the old-one. No doubt he would have told us so had his letter of explanation been written. Now let us see what page 534 has in store for us. Number thirteen is 'There,' which is much more promising. Number one hundred and twenty-seven is 'is' - 'There is' " - Holmes's eyes were gleaming with excitement, and his thin, nervous fingers twitched as he counted the words - "'danger.' Ha! Ha! Capital! Put that down, Watson. 'There is danger - may - come - very - soon - one.' Then we have the name 'Douglas' - 'rich - country - now - at - Birlstone - House - Birlstone - confidence - is - pressing.' There, Watson! What do you think of pure reason and its fruit? If the green-grocer had such a thing as a laurel wreath, I should send Billy round for it."

I was staring at the strange message which I had scrawled, as he deciphered it, upon a sheet of foolscap on my knee.

"What a queer, scrambling way of expressing his meaning!" said I.

"On the contrary, he has done quite remarkably well," said Holmes. "When you search a single column for words with which to express your meaning, you can hardly expect to get everything you want. You are bound to leave something to the intelligence of your correspondent. The purport is perfectly clear. Some devilry is intended against one Douglas, whoever he may be, residing as stated, a rich country gentleman. He is sure - 'confidence' was as near as he could get to 'confident' - that it is pressing. There is our result - and a very workmanlike little bit of analysis it was!"

Holmes had the impersonal joy of the true artist in his better work, even as he mourned darkly when it fell below the high level to which he aspired. He was still chuckling over his success when Billy swung open the door and Inspector MacDonald of Scotland Yard was ushered into the room.

Those were the early days at the end of the '80's, when Alec MacDonald was far from having attained the national fame which he has now achieved. He was a young but trusted member of the detective force, who had distin-

"华生，我们吃亏是因为我们过于赶时髦了，那一下子挨得不冤枉。现在才一月七号，我已经使用新年鉴了，但是波洛克也许用的仍然是旧年鉴。假如他是在顺利的情形下写给我的第二封信，他肯定会说到这点的。好了，让我们来看一下；旧年鉴上的第五百三十四页上边写的内容是什么。第十三个字是‘有’，很好，很顺畅。第一百二十七个字是‘危险’，啊！”福尔摩斯两眼放光，非常激动，修长的手指头不住地颤动着，使劲地指着那些依据数字核对出来的字，“华生，请你记录一下：‘危险—很快要—降临—到—富豪—道格拉斯—身上—他—目前—居住在—伯尔斯通—村—伯尔斯通—城堡—’华生，我们的分析和成绩真伟大！应当让毕利去鲜花店里买一对花环来套在我们的头上！”

我聚精会神地体会着慌忙之下写在一大页纸上的语句。它们全都是福尔摩斯解密的结果。

"他的表达方式过于古怪离谱了！"我说。

"正好相反，而是太绝妙了！因为你不会在一栏文字中查寻出你所要找的每个字，有的东西还必须靠着写信人的智力。这封信清清楚楚地向我们表明，一位名叫道格拉斯的富绅，也许即将会发生危险。我们的分析可真称得上收获颇丰呢。"

作为一个地地道道的艺术家，福尔摩斯在他没有达到自己勤勉劳作想要达到的高水平而暗暗叹息的时候，对已经取得的艺术上的成绩还是会感到喜悦的。当毕利打开门，把从伦敦来的警察厅麦多纳探长带到房间里来的时候，福尔摩斯仍然双眼含笑，沉浸于获胜的喜悦当中。

早在八十年代末的日子里，亚历克·麦多纳在国内远远不如现在有那么大的名声。他虽然年轻，却在侦探中十分可靠，由于自己所接纳的案件而鹤立鸡群。他身材魁梧威猛，体力

guished himself in several cases which had been intrusted to him. His tall, bony figure gave promise of exceptional physical strength, while his great cranium and deep-set, lustrous eyes spoke no less clearly of the keen intelligence which twinkled out from behind his bushy eyebrows. He was a silent, precise man with a dour nature and a hard Aberdonian accent.

Twice already in his career had Holmes helped him to attain success, his own sole reward being the intellectual joy of the problem. For this reason the affection and respect of the Scotchman for his amateur colleague were profound, and he showed them by the frankness with which he consulted Holmes in every difficulty. Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself; but talent instantly recognizes genius, and MacDonald had talent enough for his profession to enable him to perceive that there was no humiliation in seeking the assistance of one who already stood alone in Europe, both in his gifts and in his experience. Holmes was not prone to friendship, but he was tolerant of the big Scotchman, and smiled at the sight of him.

"You are an early bird, Mr. Mac," said he. "I wish you luck with your worm. I fear this means that there is some mischief afoot."

"If you said 'hope' instead of 'fear,' it would be nearer the truth, I'm thinking, Mr. Holmes," the inspector answered, with a knowing grin. "Well, maybe a wee nip would keep out the raw morning chill. No, I won't smoke, I thank you. I'll have to be pushing on my way; for the early hours of a case are the precious ones, as no man knows better than your own self. But - but -"

The inspector had stopped suddenly, and was staring with a look of absolute amazement at a paper upon the table. It was the sheet upon which I had scrawled the enigmatic message.

"Douglas!" he stammered. "Birlstone! What's this, Mr. Holmes? Man, it's witch-craft! Where in the name of all that is wonderful did you get those names?"

"It is a cipher that Dr. Watson and I have had occasion to solve. But why - what's amiss with the names?"

The inspector looked from one to the other of us in dazed astonishment. "Just this," said he, "that Mr. Douglas of Birlstone Manor House was horribly murdered last night!"

过人，眼睛炯炯有神，两道眉毛非常浓密。他话语不多，办事小心谨慎，外地口音。麦多纳出道不久，不过因为手段高超，处理的案件大多数都办得既出色又麻利，受到同行们的特别赞扬。要说威慑人间，享受到英雄豪杰的名誉，那得到以后再说。他沉默寡言，审慎严厉，说话带有很重的阿伯丁口音。

福尔摩斯已经和他共同办理了两个案件，全部以胜利告终，他获得的报酬不过是费尽心思以后看到水落石出时的喜悦。他得到的是警官对一个业余同行的敬佩和仰慕。警官只要有麻烦，肯定来此虚心讨教。他们的关系是英雄识英雄。警官知道请教福尔摩斯不会辱没自己的身份，因为不管是智慧还是经验，福尔摩斯肯定在欧洲称霸，他知道：只有愚钝庸俗的人才不会看见其他人比自己高明的地方。福尔摩斯不善于交往，可是他却很喜欢和麦多纳交往，每当碰到他，总是面带微笑。

"您来得可真早呀，麦多纳先生。"他说，"但愿您走运。我担心即将发生什么不好的事情。"

"福尔摩斯先生，我觉得，假如您不说'恐怕'而是说'但愿'，或许更合乎情理。"警官心领神会地笑着说："多谢，清早来一小口酒真的能驱散冷气，不，我不会吸烟。我必须抓紧时间，案子发生以后的开始那一刻是最宝贵的，但是——但是——"

警官忽然停住了，异常吃惊地望着桌子上的那一页纸。那是我记录的密码信解译的一张纸。

警官吱吱唔唔："道格拉斯！伯尔斯通！福尔摩斯先生，您不是在变戏法吧？您是从哪里搞到这两名字的？真没想到！"

"这是华生医生和我无意间解出来的密码，它们是从一封密码信里来的，怎么，有什么不对的地方吗？"

警官目瞪口呆，望了望我，又望了望福尔摩斯，神态庄重地说："确实是这样的！在伯尔斯通居住的道格拉斯先生，昨天晚上，有人残忍地杀害了他！"

Chapter 2

Sherlock Holmes Discourses

It was one of those dramatic moments for which my friend existed. It would be an overstatement to say that he was shocked or even excited by the amazing announcement. Without having a tinge of cruelty in his singular composition, he was undoubtedly callous from long overstimulation. Yet, if his emotions were dulled, his intellectual perceptions were exceedingly active. There was no trace then of the horror which I had myself felt at this curt declaration; but his face showed rather the quiet and interested composure of the chemist who sees the crystals falling into position from his over-saturated solution.

"Remarkable!" said he. "Remarkable!"

"You don't seem surprised."

"Interested, Mr. Mac, but hardly surprised. Why should I be surprised? I receive an anonymous communication from a quarter which I know to be important, warning me that danger threatens a certain person. Within an hour I learn that this danger has actually materialized and that the person is dead. I am interested; but, as you observe, I am not surprised."

In a few short sentences he explained to the inspector the facts about the letter and the cipher. MacDonald sat with his chin on his hands and his great sandy eyebrows bunched into a yellow tangle.

"I was going down to Birlstone this morning," said he. "I had come to ask you if you cared to come with me - you and your friend here. But from what you say we might perhaps be doing better work in London."

"I rather think not," said Holmes.

"Hang it all, Mr. Holmes!" cried the inspector. "The papers will be full of the Birlstone mystery in a day or two; but where's the mystery if there is a man in London who prophesied the crime before ever it occurred? We have only to lay our hands on that man, and the rest will follow."

"No doubt, Mr. Mac. But how do you propose to lay your hands on the so-called Porlock?"

MacDonald turned over the letter which Holmes had handed him. "Posted in Camberwell - that doesn't help us much. Name, you

第二章

歌洛克·福尔摩斯的论述

这一时刻是颇有几分戏剧性的。我的朋友就是为了这一刻而等着。不过，警官带给他的消息并没有让他感到惊讶，他的面部甚至丝毫都看不出激动的模样。他天性并不冷酷，只是因为长期过于激动，他已经变得极端冷漠。可是，这种感情上的冷漠塑造了他理智的极其敏感。在我感到这个消息里面包含的恐惧时，他却满不在乎，神情非常镇静，一副司空见惯、漫不经心的气势。

"有趣！"他说，"真有趣！"

"您好像并不震惊！"

"麦多纳先生，真的谈不上震惊，我只感到很有趣。我没有理由震惊，因为我收到了一封信，它报警说某个地方某个人正面临着危险，只是一个钟头以内警报变为事实罢了。"

他把那封信及密码的前后经过简单地告诉了警官。麦多纳两手支着下巴坐在那里，两条眉毛紧锁，浓眉的颜色愈加深了。

"今天早上我原本是想赶到伯尔斯通去的，我顺道转到这儿来，是想探寻一下您和您的朋友是不是想跟我一道去，可是，听了您的一席话，我觉得我们呆在伦敦或许更好一些。"

"我看不是这样。"

"那就走着瞧吧，福尔摩斯先生，"警官提高声调道，"一两天之内，报纸就会满版刊载伯尔斯通谜案；然而问题是那桩在案件发生以前预见到的神秘南人究竟在哪里呢？我们只要逮着那个有先见之明的男人，剩下的事儿就很简单了。"

"确实是这样的，麦多纳先生，可是你想怎么来抓住这个先见人物波洛克呢？"

麦多纳在福尔摩斯递到他手里的信封上发现了邮戳："是从坎伯韦尔邮出的，这条线索没什么用处。他也

say, is assumed. Not much to go on, certainly. Didn't you say that you have sent him money?"

"Twice."

"And how?"

"In notes to Camberwell post-office."

"Did you ever trouble to see who called for them?"

"No."

The inspector looked surprised and a little shocked. "Why not?"

"Because I always keep faith. I had promised when he first wrote that I would not try to trace him."

"You think there is someone behind him?"

"I know there is."

"This professor that I've heard you mention?"

"Exactly!"

Inspector MacDonald smiled, and his eyelid quivered as he glanced towards me. "I won't conceal from you, Mr. Holmes, that we think in the C. I. D. that you have a wee bit of a bee in your bonnet over this professor. I made some inquiries myself about the matter. He seems to be a very respectable, learned, and talented sort of man."

"I'm glad you've got so far as to recognize the talent."

"Man, you can't but recognize it! After I heard your view I made it my business to see him. I had a chat with him on eclipses. How the talk got that way I canna think; but he had out a reflector lantern and a globe, and made it all clear in a minute. He lent me a book; but I don't mind saying that it was a bit above my head, though I had a good Aberdeen upbringing. He'd have made a grand meenister with his thin face and grey hair and solemn-like way of talking. When he put his hand on my shoulder as we were parting, it was like a father's blessing before you go out into the cold, cruel world."

Holmes chuckled and rubbed his hands. "Great!" he said. "Great! Tell me, Friend MacDonald, this pleasing and touching interview was, I suppose, in the professor's study?"

"That's so."

"A fine room, is it not?"

"Very fine - very handsome indeed, Mr. Holmes."

"You sat in front of his writing desk?"

"Just so."

许用的是化名，那算不上什么线索。您说您曾经给过他钱?"

"有两次。"

"怎么送的?"

"把钱邮到坎伯韦尔邮局。"

"你没有想办法去查明是什么人领走的钱?"

"没有。"

警官惊讶不已："什么原因呢?"

"因为我必须信守诺言。收到他的第一封信以后，我曾经向他保证，不去盯他的梢儿。"

"您觉得他背后有人?"

"是的。"

"就是他曾经说过的那个教授吗?"

"完全正确。"

麦多纳警官不赞成地微笑了一下，而且还对我眨了眨眼睛："说真的，福尔摩斯先生，我们都觉得您对这个教授持有看法，关于这件事我亲自调查过一次，可以说，他是一位可敬的教授。"

"很高兴你们能这么欣赏这个天才。"

"朋友，他真的是一个了不起的人。听到大家对他的种种舆论以后，我决定去拜访他。我和他谈到了日蚀，此刻我还是不记得那时我们是怎么扯到那个话题上去的。那时，他拿出一个反光灯和一个地球仪，三言两语就把日蚀的问题解释得清清楚楚了。他借给我一本关于这一问题的书，不怕你嘲笑我，虽然我在一所很不错的学校里念过书，那本书对于我而言，还真是云遮雾障，莫测高深。他脸极瘦，头发花白，说话高贵严谨，活像一个牧师。当我们临别时，他把手搭在我的肩膀上，就像一位父亲在为儿子踏入莫测的社会而祈福。"

福尔摩斯忍不住笑了，他摩擦着自己的手，说："多么让人感动啊！麦多纳，请你对我说，你们那次让人开心、难以忘记的谈话是在教授的书房中进行的，是吗?"

"没错儿。"

"书房很别致?"

"非常别致——可以说非常豪华，先生。"

"你正对着他的写字台而坐?"

"对。"

“Sun in your eyes and his face in the shadow?”

“Well, it was evening; but I mind that the lamp was turned on my face.”

“It would be. Did you happen to observe a picture over the professor's head?”

“I don't miss much, Mr. Holmes. Maybe I learned that from you. Yes, I saw the picture – a young woman with her head on her hands, peeping at you sideways.”

“That painting was by Jean Baptiste Greuze.”

The inspector endeavoured to look interested.

“Jean Baptiste Greuze,” Holmes continued, joining his finger tips and leaning well back in his chair, “was a French artist who flourished between the years 1750 and 1800. I allude, of course, to his working career. Modern criticism has more than indorsed the high opinion formed of him by his contemporaries.”

The inspector's eyes grew abstracted. “Hadn't we better –” he said.

“We are doing so,” Holmes interrupted. “All that I am saying has a very direct and vital bearing upon what you have called the Birlstone Mystery. In fact, it may in a sense be called the very centre of it.”

MacDonald smiled feebly, and looked appealingly to me. “Your thoughts move a bit too quick for me, Mr. Holmes. You leave out a link or two, and I can't get over the gap. What in the whole wide world can be the connection between this dead painting man and the affair at Birlstone?”

“All knowledge comes useful to the detective,” remarked Holmes. “Even the trivial fact that in the year 1865 a picture by Greuze entitled *La Jeune Fille à l'Agneau* fetched one million two hundred thousand francs – more than forty thousand pounds – at the Portalis sale may start a train of reflection in your mind.”

It was clear that it did. The inspector looked honestly interested.

“I may remind you,” Holmes continued, “that the professor's salary can be ascertained in several trustworthy books of reference. It is seven hundred a year.”

“Then how could he buy –”

“Quite so! How could he?”

“Ay, that's remarkable,” said the inspector thoughtfully. “Talk away, Mr. Holmes. I'm just loving it. It's fine!”

Holmes smiled. He was always warmed by genuine admiration – the characteristic of the

“你迎着日光，而他的脸却在阴影里？”

“嗯，是在夜里见的，可是，那时灯光射着我的脸。”

“我猜对了。你看到他的座位上方的有张油画挂在墙上吗？”

“我想我看到了所有的东西，先生，这一招还是跟您学的呢。是的，我看到了那张油画。画里的人是一位用手拖着腮，目光斜视的少妇。”

“那是油画家格罗兹的名画。”

警官好像有点儿不知所措。

福尔摩斯仰面坐在椅子上，两手交叉，自管自顾地继续说：“法国油画家格罗兹，他的艺术生涯在一七五〇年至一八〇〇年达到了顶峰。那个时候，他已名扬海内外，人们的好评如海水般涌来，直到今天，人们对他的崇拜敬仰比当时更甚。”

警官显得有点儿茫然：“我们还是——”

“我并没有跑题。”福尔摩斯打断了警官的话，“我方才说的那一番话和你带来的伯尔斯通案子密切相关。实际上可以说它们从某种意义上来说恰恰是这个案子的核心问题。”

麦多纳求援似地看了看我，勉强地微微一笑：“我认为我对您的思维有些反应不过来。先生，可能您只忽略了一两个环节，可是我却愈听愈糊涂了。这个已经去世的油画大师怎么能和伯尔斯通案子联系起来呢？”

“只要是知识就对破案有利。一八六五年，格罗兹的油画《牧羊女》在波梯利斯拍卖部拍卖了一百二十万法郎——四万多英镑，难道这件微小的事情还不能引起你的思考吗？”

警官真的不再漠不关心了。

“我还可以提示你一下，”福尔摩斯继续侃侃而谈：“根据确切消息，教授每年的薪金是七百英镑。”

“那他哪能买得起——”

“是啊，他哪能买得起呢？”

“是有点儿不对劲。请您继续讲吧，先生，您的话真是太妙了！”警官深深地思忖着。

福尔摩斯微笑了一下。仰慕者对他的称赞总是让他沾沾自喜。真正的

real artist. "What about Birlstone?" he asked.

"We've time yet," said the inspector, glancing at his watch. "I've a cab at the door, and it won't take us twenty minutes to Victoria. But about this picture: I thought you told me once, Mr. Holmes, that you had never met Professor Moriarty."

"No, I never have."

"Then how do you know about his rooms?"

"Ah, that's another matter. I have been three times in his rooms, twice waiting for him under different pretexts and leaving before he came. Once - well, I can hardly tell about the once to an official detective. It was on the last occasion that I took the liberty of running over his papers - with the most unexpected results."

"You found something compromising?"

"Absolutely nothing. That was what amazed me. However, you have now seen the point of the picture. It shows him to be a very wealthy man. How did he acquire wealth? He is unmarried. His younger brother is a station master in the west of England. His chair is worth seven hundred a year. And he owns a Greuze."

"Well?"

"Surely the inference is plain."

"You mean that he has a great income and that he must earn it in an illegal fashion?"

"Exactly. Of course I have other reasons for thinking so - dozens of exiguous threads which lead vaguely up towards the centre of the web where the poisonous, motionless creature is lurking. I only mention the Greuze because it brings the matter within the range of your own observation."

"Well, Mr. Holmes, I admit that what you say is interesting: it's more than interesting - it's just wonderful. But let us have it a little clearer if you can. Is it forgery, coining, burglary - where does the money come from?"

"Have you ever read of Jonathan Wild?"

"Well, the name has a familiar sound. Someone in a novel, was he not? I don't take much stock of detectives in novels - chaps that do things and never let you see how they do them. That's just inspiration: not business."

"Jonathan Wild wasn't a detective, and he wasn't in a novel. He was a master criminal, and

艺术家还不就是这种品格。"我们不去伯尔斯通吗?"他转变了话题。

"还来得及。"警官瞧了一眼表说:"我的马车正在门口等着,二十多分钟就能赶到维多利亚车站。有关那张油画的事,先生,您曾告诉过我,您从来没和莫亚迪教授见过面呀。"

"对,我从没和他见过面。"

"那您是怎样知道那个房间的种种情况的呢?"

"嗯,话要这样说,我光临过他那个房间里三次,其中有两次找了不同的理由等他,他还没有回家,而我已经走了。还有一次,啊,原谅我不便对一位皇家警官叙述其详情了。那是最后一次,我慌忙中偷偷地翻阅了他的文件,那次的收获令我吃惊不小。"

"看到了什么可疑物件?"

"令我吃惊不已的是丝毫都没有看到值得怀疑的物品。还是谈谈油画吧。它能证明莫亚迪是一个非常有钱的人。这是什么原因呢?要知道,他还没有结婚,来源不是陪嫁的物品,他的弟弟在一个西部小车站上当站长,没有亲戚朋友的资助,他做教授,年薪只有七百英镑,而他竟然有格罗兹的油画!"

"您是说?"

"从我的分析中已经得出了我的结论。"

"您的意思是:他极其富有,而事实上是非法收入?"

"很对。他非法收入的路子就像蜘蛛网一样,密密层层,到处都是,他就是这面蜘蛛网上的毒蛛,只不过他不随便移动。我之所以只说那张油画,只是因为您已亲眼所见罢了。"

"啊,先生,您讲的这些真是太奇妙了,不,几乎是让人心乱神迷了,可是,您能不能讲得再细致一点儿呢?他拥有的那么多的钱是从印制假钞得来的呢,还是由抢劫所得呢?"

"你看过维尔德的故事吗?"

"这个名字好像有点儿熟悉。嗯,他是哪篇侦探小说中的人物吗?我对侦探小说向来不感兴趣,那些同行太虚,处理案件单纯得靠动脑子,实际生活中破案压根儿就不是那样的。"

"维尔德并不是侦探小说里的人物。他是上一世纪里的一个臭名远扬