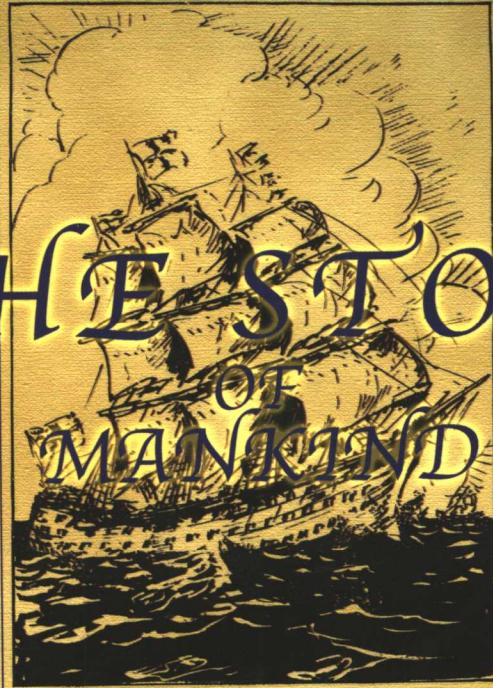


中英双语本

THE STORY



[美]房龙著 秦立彦 冯士新译

人类的故事



[美]房龙著
秦立彦 冯士新译

THE STORY OF MANKIND



人类的故事



广西师范大学出版社

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FOREWORD

For Hansje and Willem:

WHEN I was twelve or thirteen years old, an uncle of mine who gave me my love for books and pictures promised to take me upon a memorable expedition. I was to go with him to the top of the tower of Old Saint Lawrence in Rotterdam.

And so, one fine day, a sexton with a key as large as that of Saint Peter opened a mysterious door. "Ring the bell," he said, "when you come back and want to get out." and with a great grinding of rusty old hinges he separated us from the noise of the busy street and locked us into a world of new and strange experiences.

For the first time in my life I was confronted by the phenomenon of audible silence. When we had climbed the first flight of stairs, I added another discovery to my limited knowledge of natural phenomena—that of tangible darkness. A match showed us where the upward road continued. We went to the next floor and then to the next and the next until I had lost count and then there came still another floor, and suddenly we had plenty of light. This floor was on an even height

前 言

给汉斯杰与威廉：

我十二三岁的时候，我的一个叔叔(是他教我热爱书籍和绘画)答应带我进行一次值得回味的探险。我将跟他一起，登上鹿特丹的老圣劳伦斯塔顶。

就这样，在天气晴好的一天，一位教堂司事拿了一把大钥匙(像圣彼得的钥匙那么大)，打开了一道神秘的门。他说，“等你回来，想出去的时候，按门铃就行”。生锈的古老铁链子发出沉重的轧轧声，他就这样把我们与外面喧嚣的街道隔开了，把我们锁进了一个充满奇特新体验的世界。

我平生第一次面对触耳可闻的寂静。爬完了第一道楼梯后，在我对自然现象的有限知识中，又添了一个新发现——触手可及的黑暗。一支火柴告诉我们朝上去的路在哪里。我们到了上面一层，然后又是上一层，直到我已经记不清是第几层了，然后又是一层。突然，我们周围有了足够的光亮。这一层跟教堂的顶在同一个高度，被当做储藏室使用。几英寸厚的灰尘下，覆盖着一个神圣信仰的弃物，这城中的好居民多年前就已抛弃那一信仰了。这些东西对我们的祖先

with the roof of the church, and it was used as a storeroom. Covered with many inches of dust, there lay the abandoned symbols of a venerable faith which had been discarded by the good people of the city many years ago. That which had meant life and death to our ancestors was here reduced to junk and rubbish. The industrious rat had built his nest among the carved images and the ever watchful spider had opened up shop between the outspread arms of a kindly saint.

The next floor showed us from where we had derived our light. Enormous open windows with heavy iron bars made the high and barren room the roosting place of hundreds of pigeons. The wind blew through the iron bars and the air was filled with a weird and pleasing music. It was the noise of the town below us, but a noise which had been purified and cleansed by the distance. The rumbling of heavy carts and the clinking of horses' hoofs, the winding of cranes and pulleys, the hissing sound of the patient steam which had been set to do the work of man in a thousand different ways—they had all been blended into a softly rustling whisper which provided a beautiful background for the trembling cooing of the pigeons.

Here the stairs came to an end and the ladders began. And after the first ladder (a slippery old thing which made one feel his way with a cautious foot) there was a new and even greater wonder, the town-clock. I saw the heart of time. I could hear the heavy pulsebeats of the rapid seconds—one—two—three—up to sixty. Then a sudden quivering noise when all the wheels seemed to stop and another minute had been chopped off eternity. Without pause it began again—one—two—

曾经意味着生与死,现在则成了垃圾。兢兢业业的老鼠,在雕刻的神像里筑了自己的窝。永远警觉的蜘蛛,则在一位和蔼圣人伸出的胳膊之间忙碌着。

再往上一层,我们才知道刚才的光来自哪里。敞开的大窗户上筑着粗大的铁栏,这又高又荒凉的一间屋子,成了几百只鸽子的巢穴。风从铁栏中吹进来,空气中充满了奇特、悦耳的音乐。这是我们下面的市井之声,但由于距离遥远,这声音已经被净化了。大车轰隆声,马蹄得得声,起重机和滑轮的轧轧声,耐心的蒸汽机发出的嘶嘶声(它以成百上千种方式,干着人该干的活)——这些都融合为一种轻柔的、沙沙的低语,鸽子震颤颤的咕咕叫声,则衬托在这美丽的背景前面。

楼梯到这里就结束了,梯子则从这里开始。第一节梯子很古老,滑溜溜的,叫人不得不小心地用脚摸索。爬过这段梯子后,又是一个新的、更大的奇观——城市的大钟。我看到了时间的心脏。我可以听到快速行走的秒针的沉重脉搏——一声、两声、三声,一直到六十声。然后突然出现了一种战栗,似乎大钟所有的轮子都停止了走动,一分钟的时间就这样被从永恒中切割了下来。大钟不停步地又开始了下一分钟:一分钟——两分钟——三分钟。直到最后,一声轰鸣,似在发出警告,许多轮子摩擦在一起,然后在我们头顶上发出雷鸣般的声音,向世界宣告正午的来临。

再往上一层是钟楼。有精美的小钟,以及可畏的大钟,中间是最大的钟。当我夜半听到它的此为试读,需要完整PDF请访问: www.ertongbook.com

three—until at last after a warning rumble and the scraping of many wheels a thunderous voice, high above us, told the world that it was the hour of noon.

On the next floor were the bells. The nice little bells and their terrible sisters. In the centre the big bell, which made me turn stiff with fright when I heard it in the middle of the night telling a story of fire or flood. In solitary grandeur it seemed to reflect upon those six hundred years during which it had shared the joys and the sorrows of the good people of Rotterdam. Around it, neatly arranged like the blue jars in an old-fashioned apothecary shop, hung the little fellows, who twice each week played a merry tune for the benefit of the country-folk who had come to market to buy and sell and hear what the big world had been doing. But in a corner—all alone and shunned by the others—a big black bell, silent and stern, the bell of death.

Then darkness once more and other ladders, steeper and even more dangerous than those we had climbed before, and suddenly the fresh air of the wide heavens. We had reached the highest gallery. Above us the sky. Below us the city—a little toy-town, where busy ants were hastily crawling hither and thither, each one intent upon his or her particular business, and beyond the jumble of stones, the wide greenness of the open country.

It was my first glimpse of the big world.

Since then, whenever I have had the opportunity, I have gone to the top of the tower and enjoyed myself. It was hard work, but it repaid in full the mere physical exertion of climbing a few stairs.

声音时，我会不寒而栗，因为那预示着出现了火情或洪水。它孤独而庄严，似乎在反思着过去六百年的历史，在这六百年里，它分享着鹿特丹市民的苦乐。它周围整齐地挂着小钟，仿佛老式药房里整齐排列的蓝色罐子一样。每两周的时间，乡村百姓会来赶集，或买或卖，探听大千世界的新闻，这时，这些钟就为他们演奏一首美妙的音乐。角落里则有一口黑色大钟，孑然独立，远离众人，无声而又严厉——这是宣布死亡的钟。

再往上去又是黑暗，又是更多的梯子，比我们刚刚爬过的更陡、更险，然后就突然是宏阔天宇的清新空气了。我们已经到了最高的阁楼，头上是天空，脚下是城市：一个小小的玩具般的城市，里面是忙碌的蝼蚁般的人们来去匆匆，每个人都一心想着自己的事。在石头的城墙之外，则是开阔原野的苍茫绿色。

这是我第一次看到广大的世界。

从那以后，一有机会，我就爬到塔顶上自娱自乐。爬起来不容易，但我爬那些楼梯费的力气完全值得。

而且，我也知道我的回报将是什么。我会看到大地和天空，我会听到我的好友更夫讲的故事——他住在一个小棚子里，在阁楼避风的一角。他照管大钟，是这些钟的父亲。他还发出火警。但他也有很多闲暇的时间，那时他就吸着烟斗，悠然地想着他的事。他在几乎五十年前上过

Besides, I knew what my reward would be. I would see the land and the sky, and I would listen to the stories of my kind friend the watchman, who lived in a small shack, built in a sheltered corner of the gallery. He looked after the clock and was a father to the bells, and he warned of fires, but he enjoyed many free hours and then he smoked a pipe and thought his own peaceful thoughts. He had gone to school almost fifty years before and he had rarely read a book, but he had lived on the top of his tower for so many years that he had absorbed the wisdom of that wide world which surrounded him on all sides.

History he knew well, for it was a living thing with him. "There," he would say, pointing to a bend of the river, "there, my boy, do you see those trees? That is where the Prince of Orange cut the dikes to drown the land and save Leyden." Or he would tell me the tale of the old Meuse, until the broad river ceased to be a convenient harbour and became a wonderful highroad, carrying the ships of De Ruyter and Tromp upon that famous last voyage, when they gave their lives that the sea might be free to all.

Then there were the little villages, clustering around the protecting church which once, many years ago, had been the home of their Patron Saints. In the distance we could see the leaning tower of Delft. Within sight of its high arches, William the Silent had been murdered and there Grotius had learned to construe his first Latin sentence. And still further away, the long low body of the church of Gouda, the early home of the man whose wit had proved mightier than the armies of

点儿学,很少读什么书,但他在塔顶上住了这么多年,已经吸取了那从四面环抱着他的广大世界的智慧。

关于历史,他知道得很多,对他来说历史是活生生的。他会指着河的一个转弯处说:“在那,那儿,我的孩子,你看到那些树了吗?奥兰治公爵就是在那儿凿开大堤,淹了地面,拯救了莱顿[荷兰西部城市。——译者]。”或者,他会给我讲老默兹河[西欧河流,在荷兰入海。——译者]的故事,一直讲到这条宽阔的河不再是个方便的港口,而是成了一条奇妙的“大道”,载着勒伊特与特龙普的船[都是荷兰17世纪的海军将军。——译者],踏上他们那著名的最后一次征程。后来他们为了让大海属于所有人,献出了生命。

我们还看到了那些小村庄,环绕在佑护它们的教堂周围,多年前,那教堂曾是它们的圣人保护者的家。在远方,我们可以看到戴尔夫特[荷兰城市。——译者]的斜塔。沉默者威廉[指威廉一世(1533~1584),领导荷兰反抗西班牙国王,被西班牙刺客暗杀。——译者]就是在离它的穹拱不远的地方被暗杀的。也就是在那儿,格劳秀斯[1583~1645,荷兰法学家和诗人。——译者]学会了造自己的第一个拉丁句子。再朝远处,是又长又低矮的高德教堂,那是伊拉斯谟[1469?~1536,荷兰人文主义者。——译者]最早的家园。历史证明,他的智慧的力量,胜过好几个皇帝的大军,整个世界都知道这个救济院出身的人的大名。

many emperors, the charity-boy whom the world came to know as Erasmus.

Finally the silver line of the endless sea and as a contrast, immediately below us, the patchwork of roofs and chimneys and houses and gardens and hospitals and schools and railways, which we called our home. But the tower showed us the old home in a new light. The confused commotion of the streets and the market-place, of the factories and the workshop, became the well-ordered expression of human energy and purpose. Best of all, the wide view of the glorious past, which surrounded us on all sides, gave us new courage to face the problems of the future when we had gone back to our daily tasks.

History is the mighty Tower of Experience, which Time has built amidst the endless fields of bygone ages. It is no easy task to reach the top of this ancient structure and get the benefit of the full view. There is no elevator, but young feet are strong and it can be done.

Here I give you the key that will open the door.

When you return, you too will understand the reason for my enthusiasm.

HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON.

前 言 5

最后是无边大海的银色海岸线。就在我们脚下,与大海形成鲜明对比的,则是斑驳的屋顶、烟囱、房子、花园、医院、学校、铁路,我们称之为我们的家,但这座塔让我们以一种新眼光看待我们的家。混乱嘈杂的街道、集市、工厂、作坊,成了人类能力与意志的清晰表述。最好的东西,则是从四面包围着我们的辽阔、辉煌的过去。当我们重回到日常的生活中,这过去会给我们新的勇气,来面对未来的问题。

历史就是雄伟的经验之塔,是时间在过去时代的无边原野中构筑起来的。想到达这一古老建筑的顶部,看到全貌,并非易事。塔里没有电梯,但年轻人的双脚是强有力的,能登上去。

现在,我把打开大门的钥匙给你们。

你们回来的时候,就会明白我为什么热衷于此。

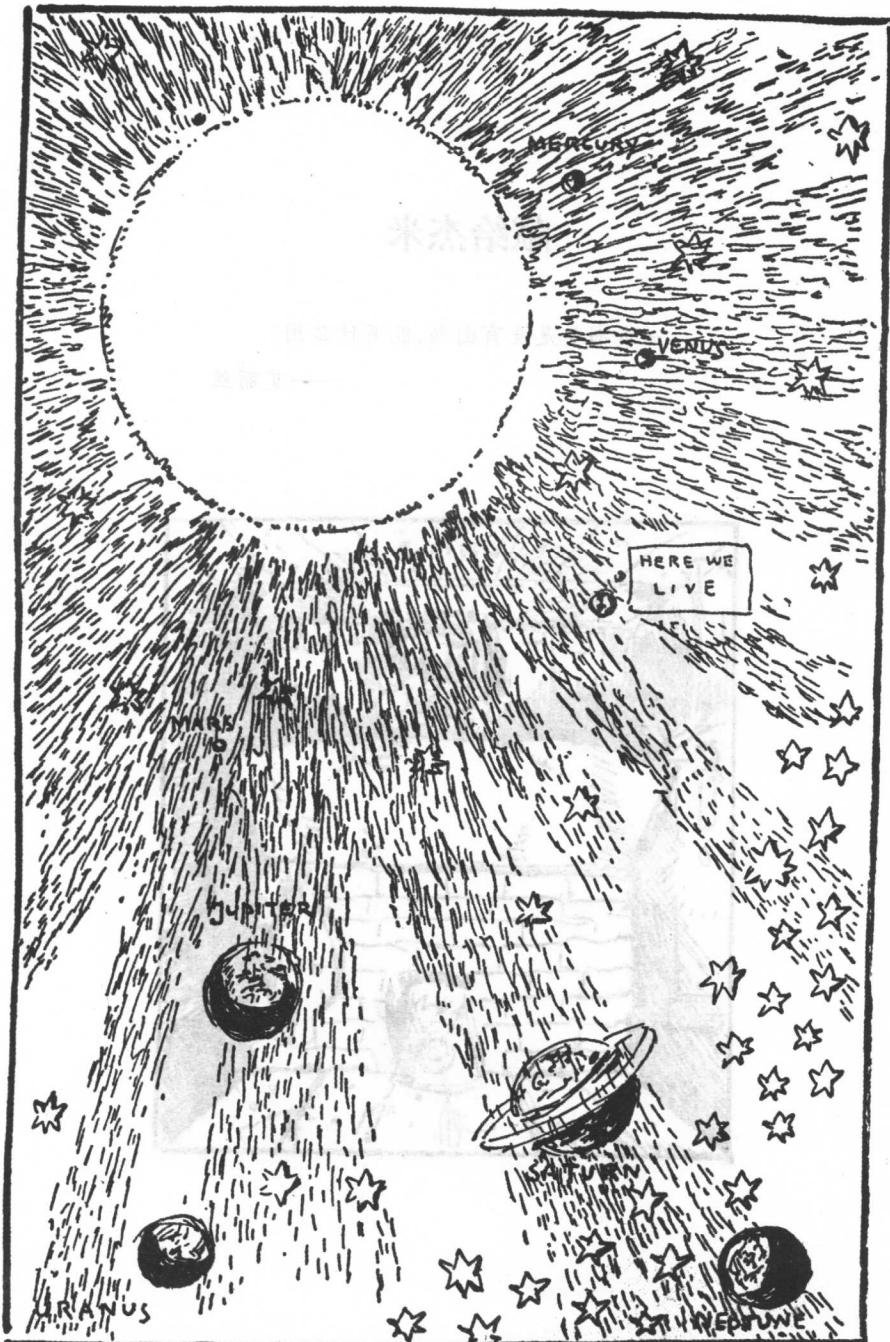
亨里克·威廉·房龙

献给杰米

一本书要是没有图画，能有什么用？

——艾丽丝





我们的历史,发生在浩瀚宇宙中的一个小小星球上



在北方一个叫斯维斯约德的土地上，耸立着一块巨石。它有一百英里高，一百英里宽。每隔一千年，就有一只小鸟飞到这块石头上，磨砺自己的喙。

巨石就这样被磨光之后，永恒中才过了一天。

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