

希腊神话故事精选

The Greek Myths

II



贺明华 / 编译

天津人民出版社

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前 言



希
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希腊神话故事是世界文学宝库中的一颗璀璨的明珠,几千年来它对西方人的文学、语言、绘画、建筑、雕刻、宗教信仰、风俗习惯乃至审美情趣都产生了极其深远的影响,例如:“爱琴海”、“阿特拉斯”山等地理名称都是源于希腊神话人物的名字;美国首都华盛顿的林肯纪念堂等著名建筑正是模仿了古希腊神庙的建筑风格;意大利杰出画家波提切利从希腊神话中获得灵感,绘制出《春》、《维纳斯的诞生》等不朽之作;希腊悲剧作家埃斯库罗斯以希腊神话为素材创作出《七将攻底比斯》等千古名篇……正是因为有了希腊神话,才使得当今的语言如此丰富:那一个个生动的比喻(如:阿喀琉斯之踵——唯一致命的弱点;潘多拉的魔盒——后患无穷),一个个的心理学名词(如:恋母情结;弑母情结)无不出自于此。难怪专家学者们一致认为:要想学好西方语言,必须首先了解希腊神话;要想与西方文化交流,必须熟谙希腊神话。

为了满足读者、特别是学习英语的读者的需要,我应天津人民出版社之邀,从英文原版书中精选了数篇文章,编纂了这本《希腊神话故事精选》,翻译成中文,并对英文中出现的某些专

有名词、背景知识和语言点都做了注释,使读者在漫步于希腊神话王国的同时,轻松地提高英语水平。

希腊神话人物众多,故事庞杂。为了使读者更清楚地掌握故事的脉络,本套书共为46章,本书为第二册,从第30章至46章,篇幅较长的章节另设有小标题。本书首先概述了有关创世的神话和有关世界几个时代的神话,然后以宙斯等奥林波斯十二神及其子女的诞生、活动和爱憎为主线向读者展现了一个个美丽的神话故事,其中既有“阿尔戈诸英雄夺取金羊毛”、“特洛伊战争巧施木马计”等英雄史诗故事,也有“弥达斯长出驴耳朵”、“弥诺斯的迷宫”、“俄狄浦斯弑父娶母”等脍炙人口的传说。

本书在编选过程中得到天津外国语学院研究员董守信先生的大力帮助,特此表示真诚的谢意。因本人水平的局限,在选编和翻译过程中难免出现纰漏,敬请专家和广大读者斧正。

贺明华

2003/2/2



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希腊神话故事精选



30. Aeacus—The Judge in Tartarus



THE River-god Asopus had two sons and twelve daughters. Several of these had been carried off and ravished on various occasions by Zeus, Poseidon, or Apollo, and when the youngest, Aegina also disappeared, Asopus set out in search of her. At Corinth he learned that Zeus was once again the culprit, went vengefully in pursuit, and found him embracing Aegina in a wood. Zeus, who was unarmed, fled ignominiously through the thickets and, when out of sight, transformed himself into a rock until Asopus had gone by; whereupon he stole back to Olympus and from the safety of its ram parts pelted him with thunderbolts.

Having thus disposed of Aegina's father, Zeus conveyed her secretly to the island then called Oenone, where he lay with her in the form of an eagle. In course of time^① Hera discovered that Aegina had borne Zeus a son named Aeacus, and angrily resolved to destroy every inhabitant of Oenone, where he was now king. She introduced a serpent into one of its streams, which befouled the water and hatched out thousands of eggs; so that swarms of serpents went wriggling over the fields into all the other streams and rivers. Thick darkness and a drowsy heat spread across the island, which Aeacus had renamed Aegina, and the pestilential South Wind blew for no less than four months. Crops and pastures dried up, and famine ensued; but the islanders were chiefly plagued with thirst and, when their wine was

exhausted, would crawl to the nearest stream, where they died as they drank its poisonous water.

Appeals to Zeus were in vain: the emaciated suppliants and their sacrificial beasts fell dead before his very altars, until hardly a single warm-blooded creature remained alive.

One day, Aeacus's prayers were answered with thunder and lightning. Encouraged by this favourable omen, he begged Zeus to replenish the empty land, giving him as many subjects as there were ants carrying grains of corn up a near-by oak. The tree, sprung from a Dodonian acorn, was sacred to Zeus; at Aeacus's prayer, therefore, it trembled, and a rustling came from its widespread boughs, not caused by any wind. Aeacus, though terrified, did not flee, but repeatedly kissed the tree-trunk and the earth beneath it. That night, in a dream, he saw a shower of ants falling to the ground from the sacred oak, and springing up as men. When he awoke, he dismissed this as deceitful fantasy; but suddenly his son Telamon called him outside to watch a host of men approaching, and he recognized their faces from his dream. The plague of serpents had vanished, and rain was falling in a steady stream.

Aeacus, with grateful thanks to Zeus, divided the deserted city and lands among his new people, whom he called Myrmidons, that is 'ants'.

Aeacus, who married Endeis of Megara, was widely renowned for his piety, and held in such honour^② that men longed to feast their eyes upon^③ him. All the noblest heroes of Sparta and Athens clamoured to fight under his command, though he had made Aegina the most difficult of the Aegean islands to approach, surrounding it with sunken



rocks and dangerous reefs, as a protection against pirates. When all Greece was afflicted with a drought caused by the Athenians' murder of Androgeus, the Delphic Oracle advised the Greeks: 'Ask Aeacus to pray for your delivery!' Thereupon every city sent a herald to Aeacus, who ascended the highest peak in his island, robed as a priest of Zeus. There he sacrificed to the gods, and prayed for an end to the drought. His prayer was answered by a loud thunder clap, clouds obscured the sky, and furious showers of rain soaked the whole land of Greece.

Apollo and Poseidon took Aeacus with them when they built the walls of Troy, knowing that unless a mortal joined in this work, the city would be impregnable and its inhabitants capable of defying the gods. Scarcely had they finished their task when three grey-eyed serpents tried to scale the walls. Two chose the part just completed by the gods, but tumbled down and died; the third, with a cry, rushed at Aeacus's part and forced his way in. Apollo then prophesied that Troy would fall more than once, and that Aeacus's sons would be among its captors, both in the first and fourth generations; as indeed came to pass in the persons of Telamon and Ajax.

When Aeacus died, he became one of the three Judges in Tartarus.

·注 释·

- ① in course of time: 经过一段时间, 最后。
- ② hold sb. in honour: 敬重某人。
- ③ feast one's eyes upon: 以……大饱眼福。



冥界法官埃阿科斯

河神阿索波斯有 2 个儿子、12 个女儿，其中好几个都被宙斯、波塞冬和阿波罗乘各种时机诱拐、乃至奸污了。因此当他最小的女儿埃癸娜又失踪时，他立刻去寻找。他在科林斯获悉宙斯再次犯下这种罪恶时，新仇旧恨一起涌上心头。他穷追不舍，终于发现宙斯在一个小树林中拥抱着埃癸娜。没带武器的宙斯灰溜溜地穿过灌木丛逃跑，在逃出阿索波斯的视线后，宙斯变成了一块岩石，直到阿索波斯从他身旁走过，才偷偷地回到奥林波斯，从装有保险器的奥林波斯城墙后向阿索波斯投掷霹雳。

除掉埃癸娜的父亲后，宙斯将埃癸娜秘密运往当时叫做俄诺涅的岛屿，他在岛上以鹰的形象与她结合。过了一段时间，赫拉终于发现埃癸娜为宙斯生下一个名叫埃阿科斯的儿子，现已是俄诺涅的国王。赫拉一气之下决定灭绝该岛居民。她把一条毒蛇放进当地的一条小溪里，不但使水受到污染，而且孵化出成千上万条毒蛇，大批的幼蛇蠕动上岸，经过地里爬进全岛的大河小溪。这个被埃阿科斯更名为埃癸娜的岛屿很快就笼罩在一片黑暗中，弥漫着使人昏昏欲睡的热气。传播瘟疫的南风刮了至少四个月，庄稼和牧草干枯，颗粒无收。但最主要的是岛上居民被口渴折磨得死去活来，当他们的酒喝光后，就向最近的小溪爬去，饮溪里的毒水而死。

多次向宙斯祈求也是徒然，那些骨瘦如柴的祈求者和他们的献牲就死在他的祭坛前，直到几乎所有恒温动物都死



光了。

一天，埃阿科斯在祈祷时电闪雷鸣，这个吉兆使他备受鼓舞，他乞求宙斯给这个生灵绝迹的荒岛补充生物，送给他臣民的数量要像正在往附近一棵棵树上搬动谷物的蚂蚁一样多。在他祈祷下，这棵由一粒多多尼亚栎树籽儿长起来的献祭给宙斯的栎树摇晃起来，繁茂的树枝飒飒作响，当时一丝风都没有，埃阿科斯感到恐惧，但他没有逃跑，而是反复亲吻树干和树干下的泥土。当晚，他梦见从那棵栎树上落下大批蚂蚁，到地上便长成人，他醒来便将这梦当作不切实际的幻想忘掉了。但突然，他的儿子忒拉蒙叫他出来看正在走来的一大群人。他认出这些面孔曾在梦中见过。毒蛇造成的瘟疫结束了，雨水降落在缓缓流淌的小溪中。

埃阿科斯怀着对宙斯的感谢之情，将这座荒芜的城市和土地分配给他的新臣民，他称他们为密耳弥冬人即“蚁人”。

埃阿科斯同迈加拉的恩得伊斯结为伉俪，他以“忠顺”之名享誉天下，受人敬重。人人都渴望一睹他的风采，斯巴达和雅典所有名门望族出身的英雄们都吵闹着要求到他的麾下战斗，虽然他为了抵御海盗，已将埃癸娜岛用极具威胁力的暗礁包围起来，使它成为爱琴海诸岛中最难以靠近的岛屿。由雅典人杀死安德罗革俄斯而引发的一场大旱灾使全希腊人饱受摧残，得尔菲神托所向希腊人建议：“去请埃阿科斯向神祇祈求解救你们！”于是，每个城市都派使者去请埃阿科斯，埃阿科斯装扮成宙斯的祭司的样子，登上埃癸娜岛的最高峰，向诸神献祭，祈求结束这场旱灾。他的祈祷成功了，随着一声震耳欲聋的雷鸣，乌云布满天空，倾盆大雨使全希腊的土地都浸泡在水中。

阿波罗和波塞冬在筑特洛伊城墙时，知道除非有凡人参



加这个工程,特洛伊城才能坚不可摧,城中居民才可能与神对抗。于是他们便带着埃阿科斯和他们一起干。就在城墙刚刚竣工之际,三条灰眼毒蛇试图爬上城墙,有两条选择的地方是诸神筑的,却翻滚下去摔死了,第三条蛇大叫一声,猛然向埃阿科斯筑的那部分墙冲去,进入了城内。因此,阿波罗预言特洛伊将会不止一次被攻破,埃阿科斯的第一代和第四代的儿子们中将会出现攻破该城的人,的确,他的预言在忒拉蒙和埃阿斯身上得到实现。

埃阿科斯死后,成为塔耳塔罗斯的三位法官之一。

希腊神话故事精选



31. Telamon and Peleus



THE mother of Aeacus's two elder sons, namely Telamon and Peleus, was Endeis, Sciron's daughter. Phocus, the youngest, was a son of the Nereid Psamathe. They all lived together in the island of Aegina.

Phocus was Aeacus's favourite, and his excellence at athletic games drove Telamon and Peleus wild with jealousy. For the sake of peace, therefore, he led a party of Aeginetan emigrants to Phocis. One day Aeacus sent for Phocus, perhaps intending to bequeath him the island kingdom; but, encouraged by their mother, Telamon and Peleus plotted to kill him on his return. They challenged Phocus to a athletic contest, and whether it was Telamon who felled him, as if accidentally, by throwing a stone discus at his head, and Peleus who then despatched him with an axe, or whether it was the other way about, has been much disputed ever since. In either case, Telamon and Peleus were equally guilty of fratricide, and together hid the body in a wood, where Aeacus found it.

Telamon took refuge in the island of Salamis where Cychreus was king, and sent back a messenger, denying any part in the murder. Aeacus, in reply, forbade him ever again to set foot in Aegina, though permitting him to plead his case from the sea. Rather than stand and shout on the rocking deck of his ship anchored behind the breakers, Telamon sailed one night into what is now called the Secret Harbour,

and sent masons ashore to build a mole, which would serve him as rostrum; Aeacus, however, rejected his eloquent plea that Phocus's death was accidental, and Telamon returned to Salamis, where he married the king's daughter Glauce, and succeeded to Cychreus's throne.

This Cychreus, a son of Poseidon and Salamis, daughter of the river Asopus, had been chosen King of Salamis when he killed a serpent to end its widespread ravages. But he kept a young serpent of the same breed which behaved in the same destructive way until expelled by Eurylochus, a companion of Odysseus; Demeter then welcomed it at Eleusis as one of her attendants.

On the death of his wife Glauce, Telamon married Periboea of Athens, a grand-daughter of Pelops, who bore him Great Ajax; and later the captive Hesione, daughter of Laomedon, who bore him the equally well-known Teucer.

Peleus fled to the court of Actor, King of Phthia, by whose adopted son Eurytion he was purified. Actor then gave him his daughter Polymela in marriage, and a third part of the kingdom. One day Eurytion, who ruled over another third part, took Peleus to hunt the Calydonian boar, but Peleus speared him accidentally and fled to Iolcus, where he was once more purified, this time by Acastus, son of Pelias.

Acastus's wife, Cretheis, tried to seduce Peleus and, when he rebuffed her advances, lyingly told Polymela: 'He intends to desert you and marry my daughter Sterope.' Polymela believed Cretheis's mischievous tale, and hanged herself. Not content with the harm she had done, Cretheis went weeping to Acastus, and accused Peleus of having attempted her virtue.

