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Sisyphus's Stone

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Sisyphus, son of Aeolus, married Atlas's daughter Merope, one of the Pleiades, and owned a fine herd of cattle on the Isthmus of Corinth.

Near him lived Autolycus, who was a past master in theft. Hermes having given him the power of metamorphosing whatever beasts he stole, from horned to unhorned, or from black to white, and contrariwise. Thus, although Sisyphus noticed that his own herds grew steadily smaller, while those of autolycus increased, he was unable at first to convict him of theft; and therefore, one day, engraved the inside of all his cattle's hooves with the monogram SS. That night Autolycus helped himself as usual, and at dawn hoof - prints along the road provided Sisyphus with sufficient evidence to summon neighbours in witness of the theft. He visited Autolycus's stable, recognized his stolen beasts by their marked hooves and, leaving his witnesses to remonstrate with the thief, hurried around the house, entered by the portal, and while the argument was in progress outside seduced Autolycus's daughter Anticleia, who bore him Odysseus.

After Zeus's abduction of Aegina, her father the River—god Asopus came to Corinth in search of her. Sisyphus knew well what had happened to Aegina but would not reveal anything unless Asopus undertook to supply the citadel of Corinth

with a perennial spring. Asopus accordingly made the spring Peirene rise behind Aphrodite's temple. Then Sisyphus told him all he knew.

Zeus, who had narrowly escaped Asopus's vengeance, ordered his brother Hades to fetch Sisyphus down to Tartarus and punish him everlastingly for his betrayal of divine secrets. Yet Sisyphus would not be daunted; he cunningly put Hades himself in handcuffs by persuading him to demonstrate their use, and then quickly locking them. Thus Hades was kept a prisoner in Sisyphus's house for some days—an impossible situation, because nobody could die, even men who had been beheaded or cut in pieces; until at last Ares, whose interests were threatened, came hurrying up, set him free, and delivered Sisyphus into his clutches.

Sisyphus, however, kept another trick in reserve. Before descending to Tartarus, he instructed his wife Merope not to bury him; and, on reaching the Palace of Hades went straight to Persephone, and told her that, as an unburied person, he had no right to be there but should have been left on the far side of the river Styx. 'Let me return to the upper world,' he pleaded, 'arrange for my burial, and avenge the neglect shown me. I will be back within three days,' Persephone was deceived and granted his request; but as soon as Sisyphus fond himself once again under the light of the sun, he repudiated his promise to Persephone. Finally, Hermes was called upon to hale him back by force.

It may have been because he had betrayed Zeus's secret, or because he had always lived by robbery and often murdered unsuspecting travellers; at any rate, Sisyphus was given an exemplary punishment. The Judges of the Dead showed him a huge block of stone and ordered him to roll it up the brow of a hill and topple it down the farther slope. He has never yet succeeded in doing so. As soon as he has almost reached the summit, he is forced back by the weight of the shameless stone, which bounces to the very bottom once more; where he wearily retrieves it and must begin all over again.

西绪福斯的石头

crease beyond the hind borrow Arabi Arabi and a

埃俄罗斯的儿子西绪福斯娶了阿特拉斯之女普勒阿得斯 姊妹中的墨洛珀为妻。他在科林斯地峡那里拥有一群良种牛。

他家附近住着奥托吕科斯,这家伙从前是个精明的窃贼,因为赫耳墨斯给他神力,使他可以把任何偷来的野兽改头换面,无角的变成有角的,黑的变成白的,也可以倒过来使白变黑,有角使无。因此,虽然西绪福斯发现自己的牛群数目越来越少,而奥托吕科斯的越来越多,但他一时无法定他犯有偷盗之罪。于是,有一天,他在所有的牛蹄里边都刻上他姓名的首字母"SS"。那天夜里,奥托吕科斯又象往常一样进行偷窃。天亮时,路上的蹄印使西绪福斯有足够的证据召集邻居来亲眼抓贼。他进入奥托吕科斯的牛圈,凭带记号的蹄子把被偷走的畜生一一认了出来。他让证人去规劝那个窃贼,自己却匆匆绕到房前,从正门入屋,乘外边的人还在争论的时候,诱骗了奥托吕科斯的女儿安提克勒亚。她为他生了奥德修斯。

宙斯拐走埃伊纳以后,她的父亲河神阿索波斯到科林斯来寻找她。西绪福斯对埃伊纳的情况知道得一清二楚,但他不肯告诉阿索波斯,除非阿索波斯肯为科林斯城堡提供一条四季不断的常流河。阿索波斯接受这一条件,使珀瑞倪泉在阿佛洛狄忒庙后涌出地面。于是,西绪福斯便把他所知道的一切和盘托出。

宙斯侥幸躲过了阿索波斯的报复,命令兄弟哈得斯把西 绪福斯永远拘到塔耳洛斯,惩罚他出卖神祗的秘密。然而,西 绪福斯毫不畏缩。他哄骗哈得斯给他表演手铐的用法,狡猾地 给哈得斯戴上了手铐,并马上上锁。于是,哈得斯被关在西绪福斯的家里,当了几天囚徒——这造成了不可收拾的局面,因为没有人能死去,连砍掉脑袋,切成碎块的人都死不了。最后,阿瑞斯因自己的利益受到威胁,匆匆赶来,释放了哈得斯,并把西绪福斯捉拿归案,交哈得斯处理。

可是,西绪福斯还留得一手。他在下塔耳塔洛斯以前,指示妻子墨洛珀不要埋他。他到哈得斯的宫殿以后径直去见珀耳塞福涅,告诉她,作为一个未被埋葬的人,他无权呆在冥国,而应留在斯堤克斯河彼岸。"让我回到上界,"他恳求道,"安排好我的葬事,惩治怠慢我的人。三天之内我就回来。"珀耳塞福涅上当受骗,答应了他的请求。西绪福斯一旦回到阳界,就推翻对珀耳塞福涅的诺言。最后,出动了赫耳墨斯才把他用武力硬拖回阴间。

也许因为他泄露了宙斯的秘密,也许因为他一直靠掠夺为生,常常杀害不抱戒心的过往行人,总之,西绪福斯受到了起杀一警百作用的惩罚。阴间法官们指给他看一块巨石,命令他把石头推到山顶,推出另一边的斜坡。他至今未能做到这一点。他快推到山顶时,石头的重量迫使他后退,而巨石再一次蹦到山底。他疲惫不堪地在山脚找到石头,又要从头推起。

(陶洁)

Ungrateful Ixion

Ixion, the Lapith king, agreed to marry Dia, daughter of Eioneus, promising rich bridal gifts and inviting Eioneus to a banquet; but had laid a pitfall in front of the palace, with a great charcoal fire underneath, into which the unsuspecting Eioneus fell and was burned.

Though the lesser gods thought this a heinous deed, and refused to purify Ixion, Zeus, having behaved equally ill himself when in love, not only purified him but brought him to eat at his table.

Ixion was ungrateful, and planned to seduce Hera who, he guessed, would be glad of a chance to revenge herself on Zeus for his frequent unfaithfulness. Zeus, however, reading Ixion's intentions, shaped a cloud into a false Hera with whom Ixion, being to far gone in drink to notice the deception, duly took his pleasure. he was surprised in the act by Zeus, who ordered Hermes to scourge him mercilessly until he repeated the words: 'Benefactors deserve honour', and then bind him to a fiery whell which rolled without cease through the sky.

忘恩负义的伊克西翁

拉庇泰国王伊克西翁答应娶伊俄纽斯的女儿<u>狄阿</u>为妻,保证赠送丰盛的聘礼并邀请伊俄纽斯前来赴宴。但他在宫殿前面设下陷坑,坑下点燃熊熊的炭火。毫无提防的伊俄纽斯掉进陷坑给烘死了。

次神们认为这是滔天大罪,拒绝为伊克西翁涤罪。但是宙斯不仅为他涤罪还把他领来同桌共餐,因为他自己恋爱时表现也很恶劣。

伊克西翁忘恩负义,谋划勾引赫拉,他认为赫拉会喜欢有这样的机会对宙斯经常发生的不贞行为进行报复。然而,宙斯看透了伊克西翁的用心,把一朵云彩化为假赫拉。伊克西翁喝得醉醺醺的,没有发现这是一场骗局,从而高高兴兴地寻欢作乐。他正干得高兴时,突然宙斯出现在他面前,命令赫耳墨斯无情地鞭笞他,打得他连声直说,"恩人应该受尊敬。"后来,宙斯让赫耳墨斯把伊克西翁绑在一个火焰熊熊的轮子上,不停地在天上滚动。

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(陶洁)

Achilles's Heel

Achilles now routed the Trojans and pursued them towards the city, but his course, too, was run. Poseidon and Apollo, pledged to punish certain insolent boasts that Achilles had uttered over Hector's corpse, took counsel together. Veiled with cloud and standing by the Scaean Gate, Apollo sought out Paris in the thick of battle, turned his bow and guided the fatal shaft. It struck the one vulnerable part of Achilles's body, the right heel (For Thetis his mother had dipped him when an infant in the River Styx, which made every part of him invulnerable except the heel by which she held him.), and he died in agony. But some say that Apollo, assuming the likeness of Paris, himself shot Achilles. A fierce battle raged all day over the corpse. Great Ajax struck down Glaucus, despoiled him of his armour, sent it back to the camp and, despite a shower of darts, carried dead Achilles through the midst of the enemy, Odysseus bringing up the rear.

According to another tradition, Achilles was the victim of a plot. Achilles by chance had seen Polyxena, daughter of King Priam, perhaps on occasion of the truce which was allowed the Trojans for the burial of Hector. he was captivated with her charms, and to win her in marriage agreed to use his influence with the Greeks to grant peace to Troy. While in the temple of Apollo, negotiating the marriage, Paris discharged at

him a poisoned arrow, which, guided by Apollo, wounded Achilles in the heel, the only vulnerable part about him.

阿喀琉斯的脚跟

阿喀琉斯大败特洛伊人,紧紧追赶他们到城墙下,但是他的气数也要尽了。波塞冬和阿波罗决意惩罚他,因为他对着赫克托耳的尸体说过一些傲慢无礼的大话。两位神祗进行了磋商。阿波罗以云彩为掩护,站在斯坎伊恩门前,找到鏖战中的帕里斯,转过他的弓箭,引导他射出致命的一箭,击中阿喀琉斯身上唯一能致命的地方——他的右脚跟(因为他母亲忒提斯在他还是婴儿时曾把他浸斯堤克斯河中,使他浑身上下,除了她抓住的那只脚后跟以外,全都刀枪不入)——他在痛苦中死去。但也有人说是阿波罗化身为帕里斯,亲手射死阿喀琉斯的。为了争夺阿喀琉斯的尸体,双方激战了一整天。巨人埃阿斯打倒格劳科斯,抢过他的盔甲,送回军营,他还冒着一阵箭雨,背着死去的阿喀琉斯,冲过敌军队伍,奥德修斯随后保护。

根据另一个传说,阿喀琉斯是一场阴谋的受害者。阿喀琉斯无意中见到普里阿摩斯国王的女儿波吕克塞娜,也许是在允许特洛伊人埋葬赫克托耳的停战期间。他为她的美貌所倾倒,为了赢得她结为夫妻,他答应利用他的影响劝说希腊人让特洛伊重享和平。他在阿波罗神庙里洽谈婚姻大事时,帕里斯向他射出一枝毒箭。在阿波罗的导引下,这枝箭射伤了他的脚跟,他身上唯一会遭受伤害的地方。

(陶洁)

Ulysses Triumphed over Polyphemus by Srategy

From Troy the returning vessels of Ulysses first made land at Ismarus, city of the Ciconians.

After going through a few countries, they arrived at the land of the Cyclopes. The Cyclopes were giants, who inhabited an island of which they were the only possessors. The name means "round eye," and these giants were so called because they had but one eye, and that placed in the middle of the forehead. They dwelt in caves and fed on the wild productions of the island and on what their flocks yielded. Ulysses left the main body of his ships at anchor and, with one vessel, went to the Cyclopes' island to explore for supplies. He landed with his companions, carrying with them a jar of wine for a present; and coming to a large cave, they entered it; and finding no one within, examined its contents. They found it stored with the riches of the flock, quantities of cheese, pails and bowls of milk, lambs and kids in their pens, all in nice order. Presently arrived the master of the cave, Polyphemus. he drove into the cave the sheep and goats to be milked, and, entering, rolled to the cave's mouth an enormous rock, that twenty oxen could not draw. Next he sat down and milked his ewes, preparing a part for cheese and setting the rest aside for his customary

drink. Then turning round his great eye, he discerned the strangers and growled out to them, demanding who they were and where from. Ulysses replied most humbly, stating that they were Greeks, from the great expedition that had lately won so much glory in the conquest of Troy; that they were now on their way home, and finished by imploring his hospitality in the name of the gods. Polyphemus deigned no answer, but reaching out his hand seized two of the Greeks, whom he hurled against the side of the cave and dashed out their brains. He proceeded to devour them with great relish and, having made a hearty meal, stretched himself out on the floor to sleep.

Next morning the giant seized two more of the Greeks and despatched them in the same manner as their companions, feasting on their flesh till no fragment was left. He then moved away the rock from the door, drove out his flocks, and went out, carefully replacing the barrier after him. When he was gone, Ulysses planned how he might take vengeance for his murdered friends and effect his escape with his surviving companions. He made his men prepare a massive bar of wood cut by the Cyclops for a staff, which they found in the cave. They sharpened the end of it, and seasoned it in the fire, and hid it under the straw on the cavern floor. Then four of the boldest were selected, with whom Ulysses joined himself as a fifth. The Cyclops came home at evening, rolled away the stone, and drove in his flocks as usual. After milking them and making