

中学生英汉对照小读物

希伯莱故事精选

本书编委会编

ENGLISH
CHINESE



民主与建设出版社

中学生英汉对照小读物

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

希伯莱故事精选:英汉对照/《中学生英汉对照小读物》编委会编. —北京:民主与建设出版社,1995.8

(中学生英汉对照小读物)

学校图书馆装备用书

ISBN 7-80112-035-3

I. 希… II. 中… III. ①英语—语言读物,文学②中学英语课—课外读物 IV. H319.4

民主与建设出版社出版发行

(地址:北京市东城区王府井大街22号 邮编:100006)

河北保定西城胶印厂印刷

开本:787×1092 1/32 印张:3.875

1995年8月第1版 1995年8月第1次印刷

字数:77千字 印数:0001—5000

(每套30本)总定价:105.00元

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新 约

New Testament

An Angel Visits Mary

God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to visit a young girl. She had been promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was descended from the family of King David. The girl's name was Mary.

The angel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, Mary, God's blessing is on you." When Mary saw the angel and heard what he said she was filled with wonder and unease.

"Do not be afraid, Mary," the angel continued, "God love you; he has filled you with his grace. You will have a child, a son whom you will call Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Highest. God will give him the throne of his forefather David, and he will reign over Israel for ever. His kingdom will never cease to exist."

"How can this be?" asked Mary. "I have never slept with a man."

The angel Gabriel replied, "The Holy Spirit of God is with you; God will take possession of you. And because of this, the holy child that will be born from your body will be called the Son of God."

The angel went on, "Through God's will your cousin Elizabeth will also have a son. You know she could not have children before and seemed too old to bear any now, but she will give birth before you. God can make everything possible."

Mary said, "I am God's servant. May everything happen just as you have said."

天使拜访马利亚

上帝派天使加百利到加利利的拿撒勒城，去访问一个年轻姑娘。她已许配给一个叫约瑟的人，他是大卫国王家族的后裔。这个姑娘名叫马利亚。

天使出现在她面前说：“祝贺你，马利亚，上帝赐福与你。”当马利亚看见天使并听到他说的话，她感到迷惑和不安。

“不要害怕，马利亚，”天使继续说。“上帝爱你；他给你恩典。你将有个孩子，一个名叫耶稣的儿子。他将会变得伟大，人们将叫他为至高者的儿子。上帝把他祖先大卫的位置赐给他，他将永远统治以色列。他的王国将会永存。”

“这怎么可能呢？”马利亚问。“我从未与一个男人睡过觉。”

天使加百利回答：“上帝的圣灵与你同在；上帝将占有你。因为这，神圣的孩子将从你的身体里诞生，他将被称为上帝的儿子。”

天使继续说：“根据上帝的意愿，你的亲戚以利沙伯也将有一个儿子。你知道她以前从未有过孩子，现在好象太老也不能生育，但她将在你之前生产。上帝能使每一件事变为可能。”

马利亚说：“我是上帝的仆人。愿你所说的每一件事都发生。”

The Birth of Jesus

The months passed from spring to summer, and then to autumn. The child that Mary carried slept in her and grew. Winter came, and Mary's body was heavy and full. It was time for her child to be born.

Now that Judaea was part of the Roman Empire Mary and Joseph had to obey the laws of Rome. "Every man and woman who lives in our lands must pay tax," went the proclamation of the Emperor Augustus. "A new register will be drawn up, on which the name of every citizen is written. The Emperor wants a complete record of his people."

When King Herod heard this command, he ordered everyone in his kingdom to return to the place of their birth to be put on the register. Because Joseph belonged to the family of David, he had to leave Nazareth where he lived and worked, and go back to Bethlehem, which lay some 70 miles to the south.

As his wife, Mary had to go too, although her child was expected any day. Together they set off on their mule over the hills to Bethlehem. In the evening they arrived in the city, and tried to find somewhere to stay. But Joseph was poor and the streets were crowded with people.

"Go away," the people said. "Bethlehem is full of outsiders like you, coming in from the hills and valleys to be registered."

They looked at Mary, who sat tired and heavy on the mule. "Move off," they said, and sent her away.

Night had fallen, and Joseph wrapped his cloak around Mary and led her down the street. He knocked at the door of another house. A woman opened it a crack to look at them. "No room," she said firmly, and shut the door in their faces.

Now Mary slipped gently off the mule, because it too was tired. They walked on until they came to an inn. Lamps burned in every window and the rooms inside were full of people eating and drinking. Horses, camels and donkeys stood munching their hay in the courtyard. Joseph knocked on the door. The landlord opened it.

"No room at the inn!" he called out, and waved them away. As they moved on, the light from the door fell on Mary.

"You can sleep in the stable, if you like. The straw there is fresh," the landlord called after her.

So Mary made a bed for herself in the sweetsmelling hay. And there, with the ox and the donkey beside her, she gave birth to her son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a manger filled with hay. She called him Jesus, which means, "God Saves".

That night the words of the prophet Isaiah came true:

"For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given:

And the government shall be upon his shoulders, And his name shall be Wonderful, Counsellor, the Prince of Peace, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father."

In the hills around Bethlehem shepherds were out in the fields, taking care of their flocks during the night. Suddenly an angel appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them. The shepherds were terrified because there was so much light.

"Don't be afraid," the angel said to them, "I have good news for you—tonight a Saviour has been born to you in Bethlehem, the city of David. His name is Christ, the Lord."

Then the light increased so that its splendour lit up the fields as if it was day, and the sky was filled with the angels of God. Their voices rose like the wind and swept over the hills and valleys as they sang:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men!"

Then the light and the music gradually faded away and the shepherds said to one another:

Come, let's go to Bethlehem and see the holy thing that has happened there!"

They ran down into the town and came to the stable where Mary and Joseph were resting. They saw the baby sleeping in the manger, and knelt down and worshipped it.

Then they went out and told the people of Bethlehem what had happened, and everyone was astonished.

Mary treasured all these memories and thought about them often as Jesus grew up.

耶稣的诞生

春去夏来，接着是秋天。马利亚怀的胎在她腹中睡觉长大。冬天来了，马利亚的身体很笨重。该是她的孩子诞生的时间了。

这时犹太是罗马帝国的一部分，马利亚和约瑟必须服从罗马的法律。“在我们国家居住的每一个男人和女人都必须纳税，”亚古士督皇帝颁布的法令规定。“将设立一个新的名册，每一个公民都要在上面登记注册。帝国对于他管辖的人民要有一个完整的花名册。”

希律王听到这个旨意，便命令他国中的每一个人都返回出生地去进行登记。因为约瑟属于大卫家族，他不得不离开他居住和工作的拿撒勒，返回南面约七十里外的伯利恒。

作为他的妻子，马利亚也必须去，尽管她的孩子可能随时降生。他们一起骑着骡子翻山越岭去伯利恒。晚上他们到达了这个城市，想找到地方歇脚。但是约瑟很穷，街上挤满了人。

“走吧，”人们说。“伯利恒到处是你这样的外来者，从山上和村庄来这里登记。”他们望着马利亚，她疲惫笨重地骑在骡子上。“离开吧，”他们说，并把她送走。

黑夜降临了，约瑟用他的外衣裹着马利亚，把她放在街旁。他敲着另一家屋门。一个妇女把门打开一条缝望着他们。“没有房间，”她粗暴地说，在他们面前关上了门。

马利亚轻轻地从骡子上下来，骡子也太累了。他们继续往前走，直到来到一个小旅店。每一个窗里都点着灯，房间里坐满了吃喝的人们。马、骆驼和驴在院中嚼着干草。约瑟敲门。

店主打开门。

“旅店没房间了！”他喊道，并挥手让他们走开。当他们走开时，门内的光线照到马利亚身上。

“如果你愿意，你可以在马厩中睡觉。那儿的稻草是新鲜的，”店主在她后面喊她。

于是马利亚用散发着香味的干草为自己铺了个床。在那里，在她周围的牛和驴子旁，她生下了她的儿子。她把他裹好，放在铺满干草的马槽中。她叫他耶稣，意思是“上帝拯救”。

那天夜里，以赛亚先知的話灵验了：

“为我们生一个孩子；给我们一个儿子；国家落在他的肩上，他的名字是美妙，顾问，和平王子，强大的上帝，永久的神父。”

在伯利恒四周的山上，牧羊人在晚间常到田野中照顾他们的羊群。忽然一个天使出现在他们面前，上帝的荣光照耀他们。牧羊人很害怕因为这里太亮了。

“不要害怕，”天使对他们说。“我有一个好消息告诉你们——今夜在大卫的城伯利恒为你们降生了一个救世主。他就是主基督。”

接着光更亮了，照耀着田野有如白天，天空中布满了上帝的天使。当他们歌唱时，他们的声音如风飘散，传到山上，传到村庄：

“在至高之处荣耀归于上帝，在地上平安归于人！”后来光明和音乐逐渐远去，牧羊人彼此说：

“走，让我们到伯利恒去，看看在那里发生的神圣的事！”

他们下山进入城镇，来到马利亚和约瑟休息的马厩。他们看见一个婴儿睡在马厩中，就跪下向他顶礼膜拜。

然后他们出来告诉伯利恒的人们发生的事，每一个都很惊愕。

马利亚铭记着这些事，并在耶稣长大的过程中常常想起。

The Visit of the Wise Men

The people of Judaea did not realize that a star had risen over Bethlehem. They did not notice that the nights were no longer dark, that a new star, brighter than any other had appeared in the sky, directly above the stable where Jesus had been born.

King Herod himself first heard of the star through strangers when three wise men came to visit him from the East. "What is this light that has appeared over your country?" They asked. "We have noticed a new star in heaven. It does not move like the other stars, but stays fixed in place above one spot in Judaea."

Herod looked at the wise men. They were old, and obviously skilled at understanding and interpreting the movements of stars and their meanings. But he could not understand what they were talking about. Their next question took him quite by surprise.

"Where is this child who is born to be king of the Jews?" they asked.

"Born to be what?" he exclaimed.

"King of the Jews. We think he is the Messiah, the Saviour that all the world is waiting for. That is why we are here."

Herod did not like the idea at all. He was king of the Jews