

THE WAR OF THE WORLDS

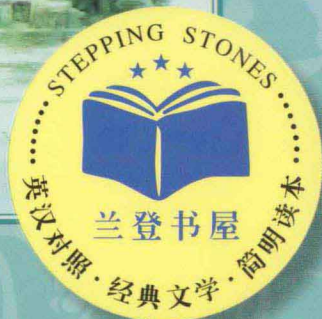
星际战争

[英] 赫·乔·威尔斯 著 By H.G.Wells

[美] 玛丽·安·埃文斯 改写

Adapted by Mary Ann Evans

赖大勤 译



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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

星际战争:英汉对照/(英)威尔斯(Wells, H. G.)
著;(美)埃文斯(Evans, M. A.)改写;赖大勤译. —杭州:
浙江文艺出版社, 2013. 8
(兰登英汉双语经典)
ISBN 978-7-5339-3637-2

I. ①星… II. ①威… ②埃… ③赖… III. ①英语-汉语-
对照读物 ②长篇小说-英国-近代 IV. ①H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2013)第 047108 号

H. G. Wells

The War of the Worlds

Copyright © 1991, Random House, Inc.

by Random House Children's Books Through Bardon-Chinese Media Agency

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版权合同登记号:图字:11-2011-186

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浙江文艺出版社出版发行

杭州市体育场路 347 号

浙江省新华书店集团有限公司经销

山东德州新华印务有限责任公司印刷

开本 890 毫米×1240 毫米 1/32 印张 4.25 插页 2 字数 52 千字

2013 年 8 月第 1 版 2013 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 978-7-5339-3637-2

定价:16.00 元

(如有印、装质量问题,请寄承印单位调换)



英 汉 对 照

兰登书屋经典文学简明读本

STEPPING STONES

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Chapter One

No one even dreamed that the planet earth was being watched. No one even gave much thought to life on other planets. A few scientists, at most, imagined that there might be some sort of life on mars. Some sort of plants or maybe animals. But no one thought of danger.

People went about their work and their play. They were sure that humans were more intelligent than any other living thing.

But those who watched us were more intelligent than we are. More intelligent than we could even imagine. And need had brightened their minds and made them sharp. Need had hardened their hearts.

Mars is much older than earth, and much smaller. It is also much farther from the sun. Mars



第一章

人们做梦也没有想到地球正在被监视着。人们甚至很少想过其他星球上的生命。最多也就几个科学家想象过火星上可能存在着某种生命：某种植物或者某种动物。但是没有人想到这有什么危险。

人们忙于自己的工作和其他活动。他们坚信人类比其他任何生物都更聪明。

但那些监视我们的，却比我们更聪明。它们的智慧甚至超出我们的想象。它们对生存的需求使它们才思敏捷，同样也使它们残酷冷血。

火星比地球古老得多，小得多，离太阳也远得多。

has become very cold in its old age. Its seas have shrunk, and its icecaps have grown. Soon life there will become impossible.

The Martians must have watched earth through telescopes. They saw green hills and blue water. And they felt hope. Warm earth was a place they could live. They carefully planned their move.

The Martians think of people on Earth as we think of monkeys. Or even ants. Human life means very little to them. Killing us so that they could live would not matter.

But don't judge them too quickly. We humans have killed off many animals with no thought. The bison is gone. So is the dodo. When Europeans moved to new lands, they swept away the people living there. So who are we to judge the Martians?

Our problem with the Martians started six years ago, on August 12, 1902. An astronomer, a scientist who studies stars, was watching Mars. At midnight he saw a huge ball of fire shooting toward Earth very fast. It disappeared in fifteen minutes.



古老的火星表面，温度很低，海洋面积缩减，冰帽持续上升。不久，那里将不适合生命生存。

火星人过去肯定用望远镜观察到地球。它们看到绿色的山峦和蓝色的水域；它们感到了希望，温暖的地球是它们的可居之所。于是，它们精心策划了它们的迁移。

对火星人来说，地球人就如同我们眼中的猴子，甚至蚂蚁。人类的生命对它们来说微不足道。它们觉得，为了自己的生存，杀害人类并不为过。

但请不要那么快地对火星人做出评断。我们人类也曾不加考虑地杀害了许多动物。美洲野牛消失了，渡渡鸟也不见了。欧洲人迁入新大陆时，曾将那里原先的居民赶尽杀绝。因此，我们有什么理由去评断火星人呢？

一九〇二年的八月十二日，也就是六年前的一天，人类和火星之间的麻烦开始了。那时，一位研究星体的天文学家正在观察火星。午夜，他看到一个巨大的火球以惊人的速度射向地球。火球十五分钟后消失。

There was almost nothing in the newspapers about it the next day. Just a few lines on a back page. Only a few scientists knew about the strange ball of fire.

My friend Ogilvy was a well-known astronomer. And he was excited! The next night he asked me to watch Mars with him.

I looked through Ogilvy's telescope. Mars looked so small in the blackness. After all, it is forty million miles away. Forty million miles of empty space.

That night we saw another ball of fire leave Mars. A reddish flash appeared just as the clock struck midnight. We watched the fireball travel toward Earth.

We had no idea then that these two balls of fire were spaceships. I thought that Mars was trying to signal us.

Ogilvy laughed. "There's one chance in a million that there is anything with a brain on Mars!"

然而，第二天的报纸却几乎没有这方面的消息，只在最后一页有几行简单的报道，也只有几个科学家知道这个奇异的火球。

我的朋友奥吉尔维是著名的天文学家，他对此感到很兴奋。第二天晚上，他邀请我和他一起观察火星。

透过奥吉尔维的望远镜，我看到在黑暗中的火星是那么小。毕竟，它离我们四千万英里，也就是四千万英里的空无。

那天晚上，我们又看到一个火球从火星出发。当时钟指向午夜十二点时，只见红光一闪，那个火球朝地球飞来。

我们当时并不知道这两个火球是宇宙飞船。我还认为是火星在向我们发信号呢。

奥吉尔维笑道：“火星上存在类人生命的几率只有百万分之一。”

He thought that we were seeing meteorites. That's the name astronomers give to falling stars. He thought that a shower of meteorites was hitting Mars. Or maybe a volcano was exploding.

But that was not the end of the strange balls of fire. Each night at midnight another flash was seen. Night after night for ten nights.

The newspapers picked up the news at last. But still no one was worried. Life went on as always.

Then came the night of the first "falling star." That is what we thought it was. Hundreds must have seen it. A line of fire high in the sky rushing to the east. People thought it was just another meteorite. But it wasn't.

That night no one looked for the meteorite. But Ogilvy went to look for it very early the next morning. He was sure it had fallen near Woking, our town.

And find it he did, in a field outside of Woking. The force of its landing had made a very large hole in the ground. Some nearby grass was on fire.



他认为我们看到的是陨石。这是天文学家给那些陨落的星星起的名字。他认为大批的陨石正在撞击火星，或者可能是火山爆发。

但这还不是奇异火球事件的结局。每晚午夜时分，我们都能看到这样的红光，连续十个晚上都是如此。

报纸对此事终于有了反应，但是仍然没有引起任何恐慌。生活一如既往。

然后第一颗“流星”坠落的夜晚来临了（当时我们是这样认为的）。成百上千的人一定看到了，高空中一道火光往东冲去，人们仅仅把它当作了一颗普通的流星。但实际上它不是。

那夜，没有人去寻找那颗流星。但是第二天一大早，奥吉尔维去找寻它了。他确信流星落在了我们居住的沃金镇附近。

果真，他在沃金镇外的一块地上找到了它。那块地被流星的冲击力砸出了个大坑，附近的一些草也着了火。

The Thing itself was almost all buried in sand. Only the top stuck out. It looked like a huge tin can. It was about ninety feet across.

Ogilvy was surprised at its size and shape. Most fallen stars are round. But this was a cylinder. A giant can that seemed designed by someone.

Ogilvy wanted to go right up to it. But the Thing was still too hot from its flight. He could not get near it.

A strange, hissing noise was coming from inside. But strangest of all to my friend was what he saw next. The top of the “can” was turning. This was no meteorite!

It took Ogilvy a few minutes to understand. Something was inside the Thing! And that something was turning the top to open it.

“Good heavens!” said Ogilvy. “There are men in there. They must be half roasted to death! They are trying to get out! ”

Then he thought of the flashing balls of fire on Mars. He guessed the Thing came from Mars. The cylinder must be a spaceship!



那个东西几乎全埋在了沙土里，只露出顶部。它看起来好像一个巨大的锡罐，直径约九十英尺。

奥吉尔维对它的尺寸和外形颇感惊讶，因为大部分流星都是圆的，但它却是一个圆筒——一个巨大的圆筒——好像是精心设计的。

奥吉尔维想走近它，但由于刚飞过大气层不久，那东西仍然很热，他还不能靠近。

一种奇怪的咝咝声从里面传出来，但让我朋友感到最奇怪的是他接下来看到的一幕：那个“圆筒”的顶端在转动。这不是流星！

奥吉尔维想了几分钟才明白，那里面一定有某种东西！并且这东西正在旋开圆筒。

“天哪！”奥吉尔维叫道，“里面有人，他们铁定快给烤死了，正想逃出来呢！”

此时他想起来自火星的那些巨大火球。他猜想这东西也来自火星。圆筒肯定是一艘宇宙飞船！