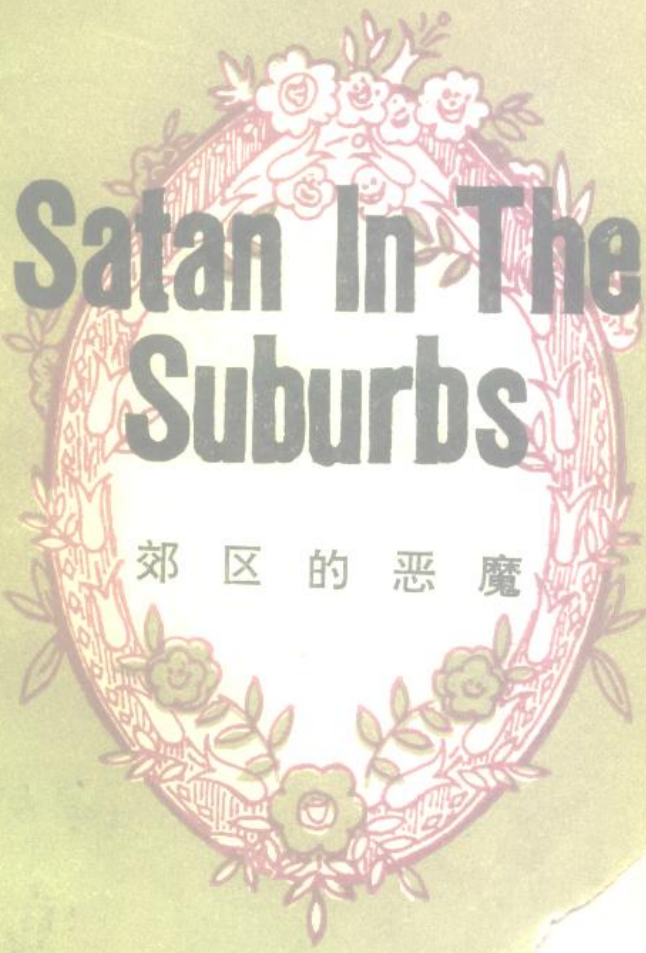


英美现代文学注释丛书



# Satan In The Suburbs

郊区的恶魔

商务印书馆

English and American Modern Literature

Vol. 111

# SATAN IN THE SUBURBS

by

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The Commercial Press

Beijing, 1986

## 内 容 提 要

本书是英国文学家、思想家贝特兰·罗素(Bertrand Russell) (1872—1970)的短篇小说中的代表作,思想性和哲理性较强。它描写一位叫马拉科的大夫在郊区挂牌行医,求医者均系当地有地位、受人尊敬的人士,他们怀着不同的私念去找马拉科大夫。马拉科根据各人不同的情况给予邪恶的诱导,以致在每个人的心灵上种下了罪恶的种子。由于私欲作祟,这些罪恶的种子得以开花,结果,使这些人身败名裂。受害者共三男一女:一人身陷图圈,一人自缢身亡,一人终身受制于人、干着邪恶的勾当,一人被关进精神病院。恶魔马拉科大夫最终也受到应得的惩罚。

本书采取英汉对照并加注释的方式,以便于具有中等英文水平以上的读者阅读。

英美现代文学译丛

JIAOQU DE EMO

郊区的恶魔

贝特兰·罗素 原著

单其昌 译注 崔 学 校订

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商 务 印 书 馆 出 版

(北京王府井大街36号)

新华书店北京发行所发行

河北香河安平印刷厂印刷

统一书号: 9017·1501

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1986年5月第1版

开本 787×940 1/32

1986年5月北京第1次印刷

字数 133 千

印数 13,101 册

印张 4 3/4

定价: 0.65 元

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## CHAPTER I

I live in Mortlake, and take the train daily to my work. On returning one evening I found a new brass plate on the gate of a villa which I pass every day. To my surprise, the brass plate, instead of making  
5 the usual medical announcement, said:

HORRORS MANUFACTURED HERE  
APPLY DR MURDOCH MALLAKO

This announcement intrigued me, and when I got home I wrote a letter asking for further information,  
10 to enable me to decide whether or not to become a client of Dr Mallako. I received the following reply:

Dear Sir,

It is not wholly surprising that you should desire a few words of explanation concerning my  
15 brass plate. You may have observed a recent tendency to deplore the humdrum uniformity of life in the suburbs of our great metropolis. The feeling has been expressed by some, whose opinion should carry weight, that adventure, and even a  
20 spice of danger, would make life more bearable for the victim of uniformity.

It is in the hope of supplying this need that I have embarked upon a wholly novel profession. I believe that I can supply my clients with new  
25 thrills and excitements such as will completely transform their lives.

If you wish for further information it will be given if you make an appointment. My charges are ten guineas an hour.

## 第 一 章

我住在郊区莫特雷克，每天乘火车上班。天天从一座别墅门口路过。一天傍晚，在回家的路上，我发现这座别墅门口挂了一块新铜牌。使我感到惊讶的是，铜牌上写的并不是通常的行医启事，却写着：

此地制造恐怖

请洽默多克·马拉科大夫

这使我感到迷惑不解。到家以后，我就写了一封信，询问详情，以便决定是否就医于马拉科大夫。我接到下面这样一封回信：

亲爱的先生：

尊意要我解释一下我那块铜牌的事，这并未使我感到十分意外。你也许已注意到，近来有一种趋势：人们悲叹我们的大都市郊区那种千篇一律的单调生活。一些颇有影响的人表示，对这种单调生活的受害者来说，用冒险的行为，甚至于带点儿危险的行为，来调剂生活，会使生活比较好挨一些。

正是为了满足这种需要，我才开始从事这种全新的职业。我相信我能为我的顾客们提供种种新的刺激和兴奋，使其生活彻底改变。

若愿知详情，请约定时间，我当奉告。收费每小时十畿尼。

This reply made me suppose that Dr Mallako was a philanthropist of a new species, and I debated with myself whether I should seek further information at the cost of ten guineas, or should keep this sum  
5 to be spent on some other pleasure.

Before I had resolved this question in my own mind, I happened, on passing his gate one Monday evening, to observe my neighbour Mr Abercrombie, emerging from the doctor's front door, pale and dis-  
10 traught, with wandering, unfocused eyes and tottering steps, fumbling at the latch of the gate and emerging on to the street, as though he were lost in some entirely strange locality.

'For God's sake, man,' I exclaimed, 'what has  
15 been happening to you?'

'Oh, nothing particular,' Mr Abercrombie replied, with a pathetic attempt at an appearance of calm, 'we were talking about the weather.'

'Do not attempt to deceive me,' I replied, 'some-  
20 thing even worse than the weather has stamped horror upon your features.'

'Horror? Nonsense!' he replied testily, 'his whisky is very potent.'

Since he evidently wished to be rid of my inqui-  
25 ries, I left him to find his own way home, and for some days I heard no more of him. Next evening I was returning at the same hour when I saw another neighbour, Mr Beauchamp, emerging in the same condition of dazed terror, but when I accosted him,  
30 he waved me off. The next day I witnessed the same spectacle in the person of Mr Cartwright. On the Thursday evening Mrs Ellerker, a married lady of forty, with whom I had been on friendly terms, rushed from his door and fainted on the pavement. I support-  
35 ed her while she revived, but when she recovered she uttered only one word, whispered shudderingly;

看了这封信，我想象马拉科夫可能是一个新型的慈善家，我反复琢磨着，是该花十畿尼去进一步了解情况呢，还是该留着这笔钱用于其它享受。

在我思想里这个问题还没有解决，就发生了另外一件事。一个星期一的黄昏时分，我从这位大夫门前经过，碰巧看见我的邻居艾伯克龙比先生从这位大夫的前门走出来，他面色苍白，步履蹒跚，精神恍惚，目光飘忽，暗淡。他用手在门闩上撑了一会儿，走到大街上，好象一个人走进了一个全然陌生的异乡，而迷失了方向似的。

我大声喊道：“我的天呀，老兄，你这是怎么啦？”

“没有什么。”艾伯克龙比先生回答道，可怜巴巴地极力装出平静的样子。“我们只是说说糟糕的天气而已。”

我说：“你休想骗我！看看你那恐怖的脸色，就知道发生了一些比糟糕的天气还要坏的事。”

“恐怖？胡扯！那是因为他的威士忌酒劲头很大。”他烦躁地说。

显然，他想回避我提出的问题。因此，我没有再追问，就让他一个人摸索着往家走。其后，我有好几天没有再听到他的消息。第二天傍晚，还是那个时候，我回家又路过那个地方。这次我正好看见另一个邻居比彻姆先生也从那个门口出来，他和艾伯克龙比先生一样，迷迷糊糊的，满脸恐怖的表情。可是，我向他打招呼时，他却挥手要我走开。第三天，我又亲眼在卡特赖特先生身上看到了同样的情景。星期四黄昏，埃勒克夫人从这个门口冲了出来，随后就昏倒在人行道上。她是一个已婚妇女，四十岁左右，我平素与她关系很好。我把她扶了起来。她逐渐苏醒过来。然而她苏



the one word was 'never'. Nothing further was to be got from her, although I accompanied her to the door of her house.

On the Friday I saw nothing, and on Saturday 5 and Sunday I did not go to work, and therefore did not pass Dr Mallako's gate. But on Sunday evening my neighbour, Mr Gosling, a substantial City man, dropped in for a chat. After I had supplied him with a drink and settled him in my most comfortable chair, 10 he began, as was his wont, to gossip about our local acquaintance.

'Have you heard,' said he, 'what odd things are happening in our street? Mr Abercrombie, Mr Beauchamp, and Mr Cartwright have all been taken ill and 15 have stayed away from their respective offices, while Mrs Ellerker lies in a dark room, moaning.'

Mr Gosling evidently knew nothing about Dr Mallako and his strange brass plate, so I decided to say nothing to him but to investigate on my own account. I visited in turn Mr Abercrombie, Mr Beau- 20 champ and Mr Cartwright, but all of them refused to utter a single word. Mrs Ellerker remained invisible in her invalid seclusion. It seemed clear that something very strange was happening and that Dr Mallako was 25 at the bottom of it. I decided to call upon him, not as a client, but as an investigator. I rang his bell and was shown by a trim parlourmaid into his well-appointed consulting room.

'And what, Sir, can I do for you?' he asked as 30 he entered, smiling. His manners were suave, but his smile was enigmatic. His glance was penetrating and cold; and when his mouth smiled, his eyes did not. Something about his eyes caused me inexplicably to shudder.

35 'Dr Mallako,' I said, 'accident causes me to pass your gate every evening, except Saturdays and Sundays,

醒之后，只是颤抖地小声说出一个词：“决不”。虽然我一直陪她走到她的家门口，但再也没有从她口里问出什么。

星期五在那个门口没有发生什么事。星期六、星期日我没有上班，所以也没有从马拉科大夫的门口路过。但在星期天黄昏的时候，我的邻居，一个很富裕的实业家戈斯林先生来我家串门聊天。我让他坐在我最舒服的椅子上，给他斟了杯酒，他和往常一样，开始谈起当地的熟人来。

他说：“我们街上发生了咄咄怪事，你听说了吗？艾伯克龙比先生，比彻姆先生，卡特赖特先生，他们都有病啦，都不上班啦，埃勒克夫人也躺在一间黑屋里呻吟呢。”

显然，戈斯林先生并不知道马拉科大夫和他那块奇怪的铜牌，于是，我决定不把这事告诉他，打算独自一人对这事进行调查。我依次访问了艾伯克龙比先生，比彻姆先生和卡特赖特先生，可是，他们都守口如瓶。埃勒克夫人病着不与人来往，我无法见到她。很明显，一定发生了非常奇怪的事情，而马拉科大夫是这一切的根源。我决定登门拜访他——但以调查员的身份而不以患者的身份去访问他。我按了门铃，随即有一个衣着整洁的客厅女仆把我领进一间设备完善的诊室。

“请问先生，有何贵干？”马拉科大夫笑着进来问道。他的举止文雅，但他那微笑却令人难以琢磨。他的目光犀利而冷峻，嘴上泛着微笑，眼睛里却毫无笑意。不知为什么，他的眼光里有种什么东西使我不寒而栗。

“马拉科大夫，”我说，“除了星期六、星期日以外，我凑巧每天傍晚从你门口路过。一连四个傍晚，我亲眼看到了

and on four successive evenings I have witnessed strange phenomena, all of which had a common character which I find not unalarming. I do not know, in view of your somewhat enigmatic letter, what lies behind the announcement of your brass plate, but the little that I have seen has caused me to doubt whether your purpose is as purely philanthropic as you led me to suppose. It may be that I am mistaken in this, and if so, it should be easy for you to set my mind at rest. But I confess that I shall not be satisfied until you have given me some explanation of the strange condition in which Mr Abercrombie, Mr Beauchamp, Mr Cartwright, and Mrs Ellerker emerged from your consulting-room.'

15 As I was speaking, the smile disappeared, and Dr Mallako assumed a severe and reprehending demeanour.

'Sir,' he said, 'you are inviting me to commit an infamy. Do you not know that clients' confidences to  
20 a doctor are as inviolate as the confessional? Are you not aware that if I were to gratify your idle curiosity I should be guilty of a nefarious action? Have you lived so long without learning that a doctor's discretion must be observed? No, Sir, I shall not answer  
25 your impertinent queries, and I must request you to leave my house at once. There's the door.'

When I found myself again in the street, I felt for a moment somewhat abashed. If he were indeed an orthodox medical practitioner, his answer to my  
30 inquiries would have been wholly correct. Could it be that I had been mistaken? Was it possible that he had disclosed to all four of his clients some painful medical misfortune of which until that moment they had been ignorant? It might indeed be so. It seemed im-  
35 probable, but what further could I do?

I watched for another week, during which I again

一些怪现象，我发现这些现象有着使人恐慌的共同特点。由于你给我的回信写得有点高深莫测，所以我不明白在这牌子的字眼背后还有什么内容，不过，仅就我见到的这一点点情况来看，我怀疑你的目的是否象你想要我相信的那样，完全是为了行善。也许我这个想法不对，如果是这样，那么你要使我对此事感到放心，并不难办到。但是，我要直言不讳地说，你需要向我解释一下，为什么会发生艾伯克龙比先生、比彻姆先生、卡特赖特先生以及埃勒克夫人四个人从你诊室出来时那种神态异常的情况，不然我是不会满意的。”

我的话还没有说完，他的笑容就不见了。态度变得严厉起来，显出要斥责人的样子。

他说：“你想叫我做坏事。难道你不知道病人对大夫说的话和忏悔者对神父说的话一样是不能随便告诉别人的吗？你难道不懂假如我真地满足了你那无聊的好奇心，我岂不犯了滔天大罪吗？你这么大岁数了，难道还不懂得大家都应遵从医生的准则吗？不，我不会回答你的无礼问题。我必须要求你立刻离开我家，门外请吧！”

我稀里糊涂地又回到街上，一时不知所措。如果他真是一位正统的开业医生，那么他对我的答复是完全对的。难道是我弄错了？也许是他向这四位患者透露了他们以前还不知道的一些痛苦而不幸的病情？也许真是如此，但好象不大可能，可是，我还能干些什么呢？

我又注意观察了一个星期。每天早晨和傍晚都从他们

- passed his gate every morning and evening, but I saw nothing further. I found, however, that I could not forget the strange doctor. Night after night he would appear before me in nightmares, sometimes with hoo-
- 5 ves and tail and with his brass plate worn as a breastplate, sometimes with eyes glaring out of the darkness, and almost invisible lips forming the words 'YOU WILL COME!' Each day I passed his gate more slowly than on the previous day. Each day I felt a more
- 10 powerful impulse to enter, this time not as an investigator, but as a client. Although I recognised the impulse as an insane obsession, I could not get rid of it. The horrid attraction gradually destroyed my work. At last I visited my chief, and without mentioning
- 15 Dr Mallako, persuaded him that I was suffering from overwork and needed a holiday. My chief, a much older man, for whom I entertained a profound respect, after one glance at my haggard features, granted my request with kindly solicitude.
- 20 I flew to Corfu, hoping that sun and sea would enable me to forget. But alas, no rest came to me there, by day or by night. Each night the eyes, even larger than before, glared at me while I dreamt. Each night I would wake in a cold sweat, hearing the gh-
- 25 stly voice saying 'COME!' At last I decided that if there were a cure for my condition it was not to be found in a holiday, and in despair I returned, hoping that the scientific research upon which I was engaged, and in which I had been passionately interested, would
- 30 restore to me a measure of sanity. I plunged feverishly into a very abstruse scientific investigation, and I found a way to and from the station which did not pass Dr Mallako's gate.

口路过，但未见新的动向。然而，我发现自己无法忘掉这位奇怪的大夫。我一夜又一夜地做着恶梦，在梦中，他那可怕的面貌经常在我面前出现，有时他长着蹄子和尾巴，而那块铜牌变成了他的护心甲；有时他站在黑暗中，瞪着眼睛虎视着我。他那几乎看不见的嘴唇在动着，无声地说出这样几个字：“你一定会来的！”从他门口路过时，我日益放慢了脚步，觉得有一股日趋强大的力量在驱使我走进去，可这次是要我做为病人进去瞧病，而不是做为调查员的身份去做调查。虽然我认识到这种推动力是一种狂人精神错乱的困扰，可是我摆脱不了它；这种可怕的魅力逐渐破坏了我的工作。最后，我去找主任，没有提马拉科大夫的事，只是对他说我因工作过度疲劳，需要休息一段时间。主任比我年纪大得多，我对他十分尊敬。他看了看我那憔悴的面容，便既亲切又关心地答应了我的请求。

我乘飞机到了科孚岛，希望阳光和大海能使我忘记这件事。可是，真糟糕！在那里我也日夜不得安宁，每夜都梦见马拉科大夫的眼睛瞪得比以前还大，目不转睛地凝视着我。我每夜都从梦中惊醒，出一身冷汗，听见他那鬼一般的声音在叫我：“过来！”最后我断定，我的病即使能治，也绝不能靠休假。在绝望中我又返回工作岗位，希望我曾强烈感兴趣的科研工作能使我的神智恢复正常。于是，我狂热地投入到一门深奥的科学研究中去，而且还找到了一条小路，顺着这条小路，我不必经过马拉科大夫的门口就可以到达车站。

## CHAPTER II

I began to think that perhaps the obsession was fading, when one evening Mr Gosling again visited me. He was cheerful, rubicund, and rotund — just the man, I thought, to dispel such morbid fancies as  
5 had robbed me of my peace of mind. But his very first words, after I had supplied him with liquid refreshment, plunged me again into the lowest depths of terror.

‘Have you heard,’ said he, ‘that Mr Abercrombie  
10 has been arrested?’

‘Good God!’ I exclaimed, ‘Mr Abercrombie arrested? What can he have done?’

‘Mr Abercrombie, as you know,’ Mr Gosling replied, ‘has been a respectable and respected manager  
15 of a very important branch of one of our leading banks. His life, both professional and private, has been always blameless, as was his father’s before him. It was confidently expected that in the next Birthday Honours List he would receive a knighthood, and a  
20 movement was on foot to have him chosen as Parliamentary candidate for the Division. But in spite of this long and honourable record, it appears that he has suddenly stolen a large sum of money, and has made a dastardly attempt to place the blame upon a  
25 subordinate.’

Having hitherto regarded Mr Abercrombie as a friend, I was deeply distressed by this news. As yet, he was on remand, and after some difficulty I persuaded the prison authorities to allow me to visit him. I  
30 found him emaciated and haggard, listless and despairing. At first he stared at me as though I were a stranger, and he only gradually became aware that he was seeing a former friend. I could not but connect

郊區

## 第 二 章

正当我开始以为那股邪气在消退时，一天傍晚，戈斯林先生再次来访。他兴致勃勃，脸色红润，胖得圆滚滚的。我想，他正是能驱散这种一直使我心神不安，老缠着我的幻觉的人。我给他弄了点饮料，他就谈起来了。但是，他第一句话就把我又抛进了恐怖的万丈深渊。

他问我：“艾伯克龙比先生被捕了，你听说了吗？”

我惊叹道：“天哪！艾伯克龙比先生被捕了？他能干出什么坏事？”

戈斯林先生答道：“你知道，艾伯克龙比先生一直是一家大银行的一个重要分行的经理，一向人格高尚，受人尊敬。正象以前他父亲的情况一样，无论在业务上还是私人生活上，他都没有任何过失。大家深信，在下一一次纪念女王诞辰那天，他将被授与爵士头衔。前一时期，曾掀起一个运动，要把他选为我们这个选区的议员候选人。看来他虽然有这么长的光荣历史，还是突然偷了一大笔款子，而且还胆怯地企图嫁祸于一个下属。”

我一直把艾伯克龙比先生看作我的朋友，听到此事后深为忧伤。至今，他仍然在押候审。费了一番周折之后，我说服了监狱当局，允许我见他一面。见面之后，我发现他十分憔悴，无精打采，一副绝望的样子。一开头，他瞪着眼看着我，好象我是个陌生入似的，后来才渐渐看出站在他面前



his present disastrous condition with his visit to Dr Mallako, and I felt that perhaps, if I could pierce the mystery, I should find some explanation of his sudden guilt.

- 5 'Mr Abercrombie,' I said, 'you will remember that on a former occasion I tried to discover the cause of your strange behaviour, but you refused to reveal anything. For God's sake, do not again rebuff me. You see what has come of your previous reserve.
- 10 Tell me the truth. I beseech you, for it may be not yet too late.'

- 'Alas!' he replied, 'the time for your well-meant efforts is past. For me there remains only a wearisome waiting for death — for my poor wife and my
- 15 unhappy children, penury and shame. Unhappy moment in which I passed that accursed gate! Unhappy house in which I listened to the devilish insight of that malignant fiend!

- 'I feared as much,' said I, 'but tell me all.'
- 20 'I visited Dr Mallako,' so Mr Abercrombie began his confession, 'in a spirit of carefree curiosity. What sort of horrors, I wondered, did Dr Mallako manufacture? What hope could he entertain of making a living out of persons who enjoyed his romances?
- 25 There could not, I thought, be many like myself, willing to spend money in so idle a fashion. Dr Mallako, however, appeared completely self-assured. He treated me, not as most of the inhabitants of Mortlake, even the most substantial ones, were in the habit
- 30 of treating me, as an important citizen whom it would be wise to conciliate. On the contrary, he treated me from the first with a kind of superiority which had in it a touch of disdain. And from his first sharp scrutiny I felt that he could read even my most secret
- 35 et thoughts.

'At first this seemed to me no more than a foo-