

# 西方五十轶事

西方古典文学基础读物丛书

Fifty Famous Stories Retold

学苑出版社



英汉对照

张德懿  
译

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## 译者的话

《西方五十轶事》和《西方三十轶事》是两部经过时间考验的西方传说故事集；半个多世纪以来，两书屡印不衰，受到了各国读者的欢迎。事实上，它们已融进了西方文学和生活，成为学校教育中不可缺少的基础读物。

两书的内容较广，涉及神话、寓言、古代故事、传奇故事等。在《西方五十轶事》一书中，传奇故事较多，且有历史和道德价值。对少年读者来说，阅读这些故事，不仅可以陶冶情操、增加知识、完善自我，还可以提高自己的英语水平。因此，可以说，这是一本良好的课外读物。

译文水平有限，诚恳欢迎读者批评指正。

张德懿

1993.2

# 西方古典文学基础读物丛书

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**FIFTY**  
**Famous Stories Retold**  
BY  
JAMES BALDWIN

西方五十軼事

## 1. KING ALFRED AND THE CAKES

Many years ago there lived in England a wise and good king whose name was Alfred. No other man ever did so much for his country as he; and people now, all over the world, speak of him as Alfred the Great.

In those days a king did not have a very easy life. There was war almost all the time, and no one else could lead his army into battle so well as he. And so, between ruling and fighting, he had a busy time of it indeed.

A fierce, rude people, called the Danes, had come from over the sea, and were fighting the English. There were so many of them, and they were so bold and strong, that for a long time they gained every battle. If they kept on, they would soon be the masters of the whole country.

At last, after a great battle the English army was broken up and scattered. Every man had to save himself in the best way he could. King Alfred fled alone, in great haste, through the woods and swamps.

Late in the day the king came to the hut of a woodcutter. He was very tired and hungry, and he begged the woodcutter's wife to give him something to eat and a place to sleep in her hut.

The woman was baking some cakes upon the hearth, and she looked with pity upon the poor, ragged fellow who seemed so hungry. She had no thought that he was the king.

## 1. 国王阿尔弗雷德和蛋糕

很多年前，英格兰有一位聪明、善良的国王，他的名子叫阿尔弗雷德。从来没有一个人像他那样，为自己的国家做过那么多的贡献。现在世人一谈起他，便把他称为阿尔弗雷德大帝。

在那些年代，国王并没有过安居乐业的生活。那时，战争接连不断，谁也不如他善于率兵打仗。因此，在治国和战争期间，他确实一直很繁忙。

丹麦人凶恶、粗鲁，他们远渡重洋来英国作战。他们人数众多而且胆大妄为，很长一段时间，他们战无不胜。如果照此继续下去，他们很快将成为这个国家的主人。

终于，在一场恶战之后，英国军队被击败而四处溃散。人们必须尽可能地自保性命。阿尔弗雷德国王独自逃奔，急匆匆地穿过树林和沼泽地带。

天色渐晚，国王来到一个樵夫的木舍。又累又饿，乞求樵夫的妻子给他点儿东西吃，并留他在木舍里过夜。

那个女人正在炉上烤蛋糕。她用怜悯的目光审视着这个衣衫褴褛的可怜的家伙，他好像已饿得饥肠辘辘了，她万没想到他就是国王。

"Yes," she said, "I will give you some supper if you will watch these cakes. I want to go out and milk the cow; and you must see that they do not burn while I am gone."

King Alfred was very willing to watch the cakes, but he had far greater things to think about. How was he going to get his army together again? And how was he going to drive the fierce Danes out of the land? He forgot his hunger; he forgot the cakes; he forgot that he was in the woodcutter's hut. His mind was busy making plans for tomorrow.

In a little while the woman came back. The cakes were smoking on the hearth. They were burned to a crisp. Ah, how angry she was!

"You lazy fellow!" she cried. "See what you have done! You want Something to eat, but you do not want to work!"

She even struck the king with a stick; but I can hardly believe that she was so ill-natured.

The king must have laughed to himself at the thought of being scolded in this way; and he was so hungry that he did not mind the woman's angry words half so much as the loss of the cakes.

We do not know whether he had anything to eat that night, or whether he had to go to bed without his supper. But it was not many days until he had gathered his men together again, and had beaten the Danes in a great battle.

“好吧，”她答应道，“如果你照看这些蛋糕，我就给你顿晚饭吃。我要出去挤牛奶，我不在的时候，你一定要留神，别把这些蛋糕烤糊了。”

阿尔弗雷德国王十分愿意照看这些蛋糕。但是他有更重大的事情要考虑。怎样把他的军队再集合起来？如何把凶恶的丹麦人赶出这块国土？他忘记了饥饿，忘记了蛋糕，忘记了他置身于樵夫的木舍里。他心里正忙于运筹明天的计划。

过了一会儿，女主人回来了。蛋糕在炉子上冒烟。它们已烤成了脆饼。唉，她是多么生气呀！

“你这个懒鬼！”她大声喊道。“看看你干的好事！你想吃点儿东西，但是你却不想干活！”

听说，她甚至用棍子打了国王，但是让我几乎无法相信她的脾气是如此暴躁。

国王一想到她用这种方法训斥自己，一定会暗自发笑。他太饿了，以致他对女主人的气话远没有对损失蛋糕那样在意。

我们不知道国王那天晚上是否吃东西了，也不知道他是否没吃晚饭就只好睡了。然而没过几天，他再次把部下又召集在一起，在一次大战中击败了丹麦人。

## 2. KING ALFRED AND THE BEGGAR

At one time the Danes drove King Alfred from his kingdom, and he had to lie hiddeen for a long time on a little island in a river.

One day, all who were on the island, except the king and queen and one servant, went out to fish. It was a very lonely place, and no one could get to it except by a boat. About noon a ragged beggar came to the king's door, and asked for food.

The king called the servant, and asked, "How much food have we in the house?"

"My lord," said the servant, "we have only one loaf and a little wine."

Then the king gave thanks to God, and said, "Give half of the loaf and half of the wine to this poor man."

The servant did as he was bidden. The beggar thanked the king for his kindness, and went on his way.

In the afternoon the men who had gone out to fish came back. They had three boats full of fish, and they said, "We have caught more fish today than in all the other days that we have been on this island."

The king was glad, and he and his people were more hopeful than they had ever been before.

When night came, the king lay awake for a long time and thought about the things that had happened that day. At last he fancied that he saw a great light like the sun; and in the midst of the light there stood

## 2. 国王阿尔弗雷德和乞丐

丹麦人曾一度把阿尔弗雷德国王赶出他自己的王国，他被迫在江中的一个 small 岛上躲藏了很长一段时间。

一天，除了国王、王后和一个仆人外，岛上其它人都出去捕鱼了。这是个非常偏僻的地方，除了坐船谁也到不了那儿。大约中午时分，一个衣衫褴褛的乞丐来到了国王门前讨饭。

国王叫来仆人问道，“家里还有多少吃的？”

“我的主人，”仆人说道，“我们只有一条面包和一点酒了。”

于是国王感谢上帝后说道，“把面包和酒分一半给这个可怜的人吧。”

仆人照他的吩咐做了。乞丐谢了国王的好意之后，继续赶路了。

下午，外出打鱼的人们都回来了。他们的三条船都装满了鱼。他们说，“我们今天打的鱼比我们到这个岛上后的任何一天都多。”

国王很高兴，他和他的臣民比以往任何时候对未来都更充满希望。

夜幕降临，国王躺下久久不能入睡，思索着这一天发生的事。后来，在想象中他看到一个像太阳似的一个



an old man with black hair, holding an open book in his hand.

It may all have been a dream, and yet to the king it seemed very real indeed. He looked and wondered, but was not afraid.

“Who are you ?” he asked of the old man.

“Alfred, my son, be brave,” said the man; “for I am the one to whom you gave this day the half of all the food that you had. Be strong and joyful of heart, and listen to what I say. Rise up early in the morning and blow your horn three times, so loudly that the Danes may hear it. By nine o'clock, five hundred men will be around you ready to be led into battle. Go forth bravely, and within seven days your enemies shall be beaten, and you shall go back to your kingdom to reign in peace.”

Then the light went out, and the man was seen no more.

In the morning the king arose early; and crossed over to the mainland. Then he blew his horn three times very loudly; and when his friends heard it they were glad, but the Danes were filled with fear.

At nine o'clock, five hundred of his bravest soldiers stood around him ready for battle. He spoke, and told them what he had seen and heard in his dream; and when he had finished, they all cheered loudly, and said that they would follow him and fight for him so long as they had strength.

So they went out bravely to battle; and they beat the Danes, and drove them back into their own place. And King Alfred ruled wisely and well over all his people for the rest of his days.