

# 英语典故精选

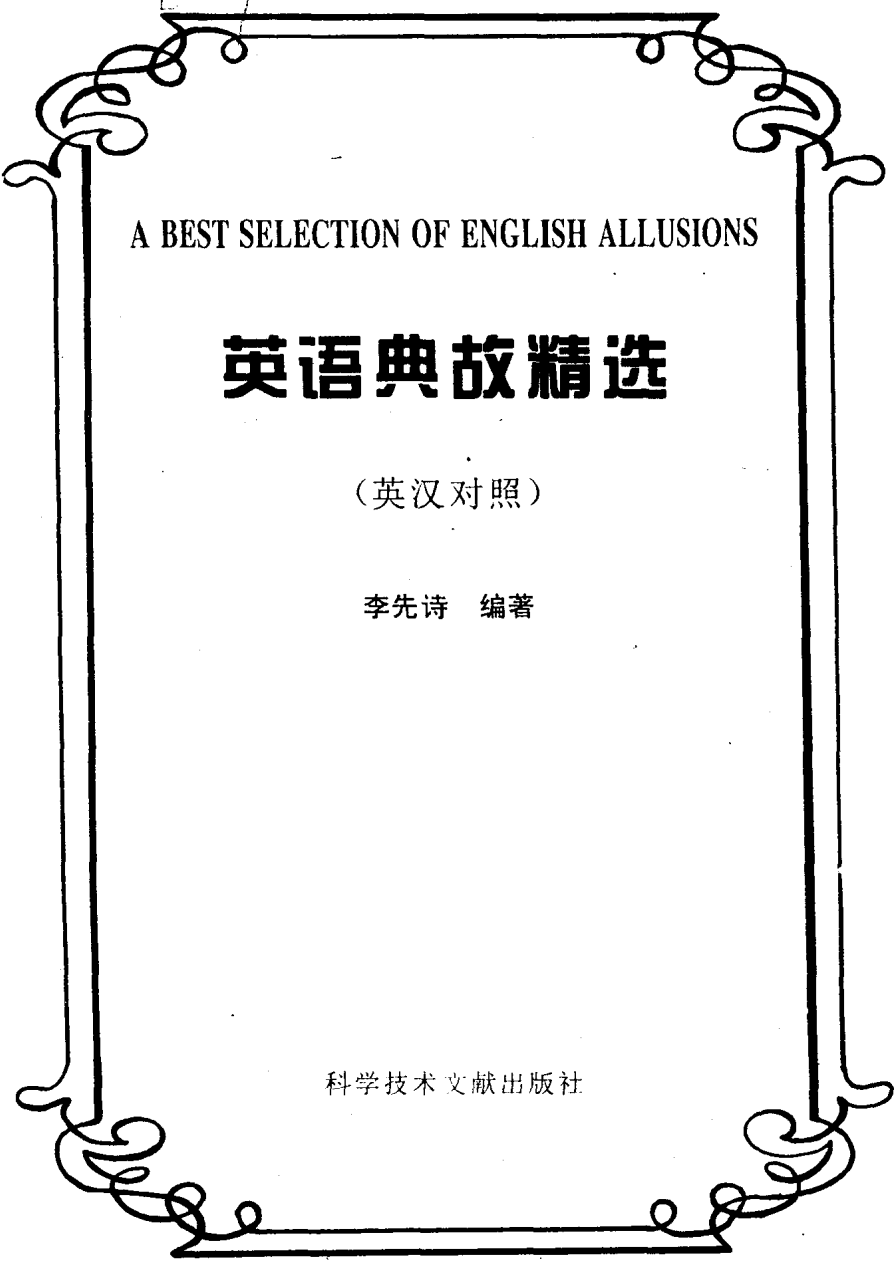
A BEST SELECTION OF ENGLISH ALLUSIONS

(英汉对照)

李先诗 编著



科学技术文献出版社



A BEST SELECTION OF ENGLISH ALLUSIONS

# 英语典故精选

(英汉对照)

李先诗 编著

科学技术文献出版社

(京)新登字 130 字

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语典故精选/李先诗编著. -北京:科学技术文献出版社,1997

ISBN 7-5023-2856-4

I. 英… II. 李… III. 英语-典故-对照读物-英、中  
N. H319.4 : I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (97) 第 20539 号

科学技术文献出版社发行  
(北京复兴路 15 号 邮政编码 100038)

新华书店经销

中国科学技术信息研究所重庆分所印刷厂印刷

1997 年 3 月第 1 版 1997 年 3 月第 1 次印刷

787×1092 毫米 32 开本 16 印张 350 千字

社科新书目: 印数:1—4000 册

定价:20.00 元

## 前 言

成语典故是一部简明的文化百科,既是民族文化的缩影,也是民族智慧的结晶。英语的成语典故不仅记载了英语语言文化的丰富内涵,而且还反映了西方文明的渊源,因为英语就是在西方文明哺育下发展起来的一种民族语言。

英语典故出处甚多,但较为集中的还是奠定西方文明基础的希腊罗马神话、欧洲文明史和广泛而深刻地影响西方文明发展的《圣经》、以及直接影响现代英语发展的莎士比亚作品这四大部份,它们构成了本书内容的基础。

本书的第一部份典故出自希腊罗马神话。希腊罗马神话不只是希腊民族、意大利民族的文化瑰宝,也是整个欧洲和世界文库中的珍贵遗产,它们不仅直接影响着世界文学艺术的创作与发展,还在很大程度上丰富了欧洲语言。本书在选录这一部份典故时,力求按神话传说中故事发生的先后顺序编写,同时也尽量照顾每一事件的完整性。

本书的第二部份典故出自历史事件。因考虑到有些历史事件与神话传说相互联系,不甚一致,所以尽量按历史记载去选材,以保证故事的真实性。这一部份典故在顺序编排上,着重分了几个阶段:古代、中世纪、近代、现代,但也适当将有关国家的历史事件相对集中。

本书的第三部份典故出自《圣经》。尽管《钦定圣经》在1611年才正式发行,但《圣经》本身几乎与盎格鲁·萨克逊人同时到达不列颠。一般学者认为,盎格鲁·萨克逊人是公元449年前后开始定居不列颠。而公元597年,圣·奥古斯廷受罗马教皇的派遣到了英国,并将拉丁文本的《圣经》译成了肯

特方言,以肯特伯雷为中心开始传教。从此,《圣经》作为基督教的经典和一部具有重要地位的世界文学著作就一直在英国人的生活中起着十分重要的作用。因此,《圣经》中的许多典故,英语中早已流传。这一部分典故,基本上按《圣经》本身的先后顺序编排;而对于其中通俗易懂、但没有情节说明的典故未予收录。

本书最后一部份典故出自莎士比亚作品。在任何一种民族语言中,出自文学作品的典故都是相当多的,英语也不例外。但本书选录莎士比亚作品中的典故是基于以下原因:首先,莎士比亚是欧洲文艺复兴运动时期英国的文学巨匠,他的作品无论对当时还是对后世都有重大影响,他的许多名言警句脍炙人口,为英语民族普遍接受;其次,莎士比亚所处时代,正是英语民族摆脱法国影响、重新使英语独立发展的时期,换句话说,也就是早期现代英语的形成时期,由于其作品的广泛影响,为早期现代英语的形成奠定了坚实基础。可以说,詹姆斯王在1611年颁发的《钦定圣经》与莎士比亚作品一起成为了早期现代英语的范本。

本书在典故情节叙述中,为表达其实际寓义的需要,有的典故略过了许多情节而直取故事梗概,以达到释义之目的,只在《出自莎士比亚作品的典故》部份,有的对话直接引用了原文。

编写本书的目的,是希望通过对英语中经典部份典故的介绍,使读者增强对西方文化知识及典故含义的理解,以提高读者英语的表达能力和对英语作品的鉴赏能力。

由于作者所收集的资料有限,不乏有些精彩典故未能收录,疏漏与失误在所难免,恳请读者批评指正。

李先诗

1997年3月27日于重庆

# CONTENTS

## Preface

|                                                          |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Part I Allusions from Greek and Roman Myths</b> ..... | ( 1 ) |
| Cornucopia of Amalthea .....                             | ( 2 ) |
| The Accomplishment of Perseus .....                      | ( 4 ) |
| Ate's Malpractice .....                                  | ( 8 ) |
| As Swift as Hermes                                       |       |
| As Cunning as Hermes .....                               | (10)  |
| Prometheus' Gift .....                                   | (12)  |
| Pandora's Box .....                                      | (18)  |
| Bear a Bellerophontic Letter .....                       | (20)  |
| With the Ambition of Theseus .....                       | (24)  |
| The Bed of Procrustes .....                              | (28)  |
| Ariadne's Thread .....                                   | (30)  |
| Choice of Heracles                                       |       |
| Accomplishments of Heracles                              |       |
| The Pillar of Heracles                                   |       |
| Not Even Heracles Could Contend Against Two ...          | (32)  |
| A Request from Semele                                    |       |
| Far from Jupiter, Far from Danger .....                  | (40)  |
| Winged Speed of Atalanta .....                           | (42)  |
| Freedom of Pan                                           |       |
| As Free as Pan .....                                     | (44)  |
| Ixion's Wheel .....                                      | (46)  |
| The Stone of Sisyphus .....                              | (48)  |
| Ambitious as Phaeton .....                               | (50)  |
| The Cask of Danaides .....                               | (52)  |
| Althaea's Brand .....                                    | (54)  |

## 目 录

## 前 言

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| 第一部分 出自希腊罗马神话的典故 ..... | (1)  |
| 阿玛尔忒亚的羊角 .....         | (3)  |
| 柏尔修斯的业绩 .....          | (5)  |
| 阿忒的恶行 .....            | (9)  |
| 象赫尔墨斯那样迅速              |      |
| 象赫尔墨斯那样狡猾 .....        | (11) |
| 普洛米修斯的礼物 .....         | (13) |
| 潘多拉的盒子 .....           | (19) |
| 带上柏勒洛丰的信 .....         | (21) |
| 忒修斯的抱负 .....           | (25) |
| 普洛克鲁斯的床 .....          | (29) |
| 阿里阿德涅的线团 .....         | (31) |
| 赫拉克勒斯的选择               |      |
| 赫拉克勒斯的业绩               |      |
| 赫拉克勒斯的柱子               |      |
| 赫拉克勒斯敌不过两个人 .....      | (33) |
| 希米丽的请求                 |      |
| 远离朱庇特, 远离危险 .....      | (41) |
| 阿塔兰塔的速度 .....          | (43) |
| 潘神的自由                  |      |
| 象潘神那样逍遥自在 .....        | (45) |
| 伊克西翁的火轮 .....          | (47) |
| 希苏弗斯的石头 .....          | (49) |
| 象法厄顿那样雄心勃勃 .....       | (51) |
| 达那伊得斯的桶 .....          | (53) |
| 阿尔忒亚的木柴 .....          | (55) |

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Change like Proteus .....           | (56)  |
| Between Cup and Lip .....           | (56)  |
| As Cephalus to Procris              |       |
| Suspicion of Procris .....          | (58)  |
| Be a Jason                          |       |
| Medea's Kettle .....                | (62)  |
| The Music of Amphion .....          | (66)  |
| Orpheus and Eurydice .....          | (68)  |
| Sow Dragon's Teeth                  |       |
| The Creation of Cadmus              |       |
| A Cadmean Victory .....             | (72)  |
| Harmonia's Necklace .....           | (74)  |
| Sphinx's Riddle .....               | (76)  |
| The Tragedy of Oedipus              |       |
| Oedipus Complex .....               | (78)  |
| The Seven Against Thebes .....      | (82)  |
| Apple of Discord .....              | (84)  |
| Hector a Person .....               | (88)  |
| Achilles' Heel .....                | (90)  |
| Pylades and Orestes .....           | (92)  |
| Restless as Odysseus/Ulysses .....  | (94)  |
| With a Penelopean Faith             |       |
| A Penelope's Web .....              | (98)  |
| Between Scylla and Charybdis .....  | (102) |
| Be a Diana .....                    | (104) |
| Cupid and Psyche .....              | (106) |
| Applaud/Cheer to the Echo .....     | (110) |
| Cupid Shoots so Trim                |       |
| Love Without Zeal Cannot Grow ..... | (112) |
| As Shy as Daphne                    |       |
| Poet Laureate .....                 | (114) |



|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| 象普洛求斯那样变幻莫测 .....                | (57)  |
| 杯唇之间 .....                       | (57)  |
| 象克法洛斯对普洛克里斯那样<br>普洛克里斯的怀疑 .....  | (59)  |
| 当了伊阿宋<br>美狄亚的锅 .....             | (63)  |
| 安菲翁的音乐 .....                     | (67)  |
| 俄菲尤斯与欧律狄斯 .....                  | (69)  |
| 播种龙牙<br>卡德穆斯的杰作<br>卡德穆斯的胜利 ..... | (73)  |
| 哈尔莫尼亚的项链 .....                   | (75)  |
| 斯芬克斯的谜语 .....                    | (77)  |
| 俄伊底浦斯的悲剧<br>俄伊底浦斯的情结 .....       | (79)  |
| 七雄大战忒拜 .....                     | (83)  |
| 引起纷争的苹果 .....                    | (85)  |
| 男子汉赫克托尔 .....                    | (89)  |
| 阿基利斯的足跟 .....                    | (91)  |
| 普拉得斯与俄热斯特斯 .....                 | (93)  |
| 象俄狄修斯/尤里西斯那样劳顿不休 .....           | (95)  |
| 珀勒洛佩的忠贞<br>珀勒洛佩的织物 .....         | (99)  |
| 在斯库拉和卡鲁狄斯之间 .....                | (103) |
| 当一个狄安娜 .....                     | (105) |
| 丘比特与赛姬 .....                     | (107) |
| 欢声回荡 .....                       | (111) |
| 丘比特的神箭<br>没有热情,爱情长不大 .....       | (113) |
| 达芬妮的羞涩<br>桂冠诗人 .....             | (115) |

|                                                |           |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Cut the Gordian Knot .....                     | (116)     |
| The Golden Touch of Midas .....                | (118)     |
| Ring of Amasis .....                           | (122)     |
| Greek Gift                                     |           |
| Trojan Wooden Horse .....                      | (124)     |
| <br><b>Part I Allusions from History</b> ..... | <br>(127) |
| Cut a Dido .....                               | (128)     |
| Half is More Than the Whole .....              | (130)     |
| Every Block Will Not Make a Mercury .....      | (132)     |
| Rich as Croesus .....                          | (134)     |
| No Day Without Its Line .....                  | (136)     |
| Hippocrates Oath .....                         | (138)     |
| Groves of Academe .....                        | (140)     |
| The Sword of Damocles                          |           |
| To Hang by a Thin Thread                       |           |
| Uneasy Lies the Head That Wears a Crown .....  | (142)     |
| The Walls Have Ears                            |           |
| The Ears Have Walls .....                      | (144)     |
| Damon and Pythias .....                        | (146)     |
| Alexander Cocktail .....                       | (148)     |
| The Spoils of the Conquered Ocean .....        | (150)     |
| Pyrrhic Victory .....                          | (152)     |
| Fabian Tactics .....                           | (154)     |
| Lucullus Will Sup with Lucullus .....          | (156)     |
| Cleopatra's Pearl                              |           |
| Cleopatra's Nose .....                         | (158)     |
| Augustan Age .....                             | (162)     |
| Born to the Purple .....                       | (164)     |

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| 斩断戈尔迪之结·····           | (117) |
| 米达斯的点金术·····           | (119) |
| 阿玛西斯的戒指·····           | (123) |
| 希腊人的礼物                 |       |
| 特洛伊木马·····             | (125) |
| <br>第二部分 出自历史的典故·····  | (127) |
| 狄多剪牛皮的方式·····          | (129) |
| 一半胜过全部·····            | (131) |
| 不是每块木头都可以雕成墨邱利的雕象····· | (133) |
| 象克鲁索那样富有·····          | (135) |
| 没有一天不练习绘画·····         | (137) |
| 希波克拉底誓辞·····           | (139) |
| 阿卡德米的林地·····           | (141) |
| 达摩克利斯的利剑               |       |
| 以发悬剑                   |       |
| 头戴王冠,坐卧不安·····         | (143) |
| 隔墙有耳                   |       |
| 耳有墙壁·····              | (145) |
| 达蒙与普迪亚斯·····           | (147) |
| 亚历山大的鸡尾宴·····          | (149) |
| 海洋战利品·····             | (151) |
| 比鲁斯的胜利·····            | (153) |
| 费边战术·····              | (155) |
| 卢库卢将宴请卢库卢·····         | (157) |
| 克里奥帕特拉的珍珠              |       |
| 克里奥帕特拉的鼻子·····         | (159) |
| 奥古斯托时代·····            | (163) |
| 出身于紫色之家·····           | (165) |

|                                            |       |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| Lazy as Lawrence .....                     | (166) |
| Cross the Rubicon                          |       |
| Burn Your Bridges/Boats Behind You .....   | (168) |
| Homer Sometimes Nods .....                 | (170) |
| Fiddle While Rome Burns .....              | (172) |
| Take with a Grain of Salt .....            | (174) |
| Don't Look a Gift Horse in the Mouth ..... | (176) |
| When in Rome, Do as the Romans Do .....    | (178) |
| Xerxes's Tears .....                       | (180) |
| Roland for an Oliver .....                 | (182) |
| All Roads Lead to Rome .....               | (184) |
| A Glass of Wine with the Borgias           |       |
| Dine with the Borgias .....                | (188) |
| Baker's Dozen .....                        | (190) |
| By Hook or by Crook .....                  | (190) |
| Flog a Dead Horse .....                    | (192) |
| Fight like Kilkenny Cats .....             | (194) |
| Bring Home the Bacon .....                 | (194) |
| Barebone's Parliament .....                | (196) |
| The Brand of Villain                       |       |
| Benefit of Clergy .....                    | (198) |
| According to Cocker .....                  | (200) |
| Take the Bull by the Horns .....           | (202) |
| Fifth Column .....                         | (202) |
| Defenestration of Prague .....             | (204) |
| Damien's Bed of Steel .....                | (206) |
| A King's Ransom .....                      | (210) |
| Worth a Jew's Eye .....                    | (212) |
| Meet One's Waterloo .....                  | (214) |
| Bury the Hatchet .....                     | (216) |

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| 象劳伦斯那样懒·····        | (167) |
| 越过卢比卡河              |       |
| 烧掉身后的桥/船只·····      | (169) |
| 荷马有时也会打盹·····       | (171) |
| 罗马失火,照弹竖琴·····      | (173) |
| 拌一点盐·····           | (175) |
| 别看礼品马的牙口·····       | (177) |
| 在罗马,就要象罗马人那样生活····· | (179) |
| 谢尔克西斯的眼泪·····       | (181) |
| 罗兰德对奥列佛·····        | (183) |
| 条条道路通罗马·····        | (185) |
| 同波基亚家族的人饮酒          |       |
| 同波基亚家族的人进餐·····     | (189) |
| 面包师的一打·····         | (191) |
| 用钩子或用镰刀·····        | (191) |
| 鞭挞死马·····           | (193) |
| 象吉尔肯尼猫那样打架·····     | (195) |
| 把腊肉带回家·····         | (195) |
| 穷骨头议会·····          | (197) |
| 打上坏人的印记             |       |
| 神职人员的特权·····        | (199) |
| 按照柯克标准·····         | (201) |
| 捉住牛的双角·····         | (203) |
| 第五纵队·····           | (203) |
| 扔出布拉格的窗外·····       | (205) |
| 达米安的钢床·····         | (207) |
| 国王的赎金·····          | (211) |
| 值犹太人的一只眼睛·····      | (213) |
| 遇上某人自己的滑铁卢·····     | (215) |
| 埋下战斧·····           | (217) |

|                                                     |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Dig up the Hatchet .....                            | (216)     |
| Don't Change Horses in Midstream .....              | (218)     |
| Not Worth a Continental .....                       | (220)     |
| Eat Crow .....                                      | (222)     |
| Maginot Line .....                                  | (224)     |
| Take the Cake .....                                 | (226)     |
| Tarred and Feathered .....                          | (226)     |
| Philadelphia Lawyer .....                           | (228)     |
| Lead by the Nose .....                              | (230)     |
| A Bull in a China Shop .....                        | (230)     |
| <br><b>Part II Allusions from 《The Bible》 .....</b> | <br>(235) |
| Fig Leaf .....                                      | (236)     |
| Brand of Cain                                       |           |
| Raise Cain .....                                    | (238)     |
| Noah's Ark                                          |           |
| Ark Rested on Mt. Ararat .....                      | (240)     |
| Hold out the Olive Branch .....                     | (242)     |
| Towel of Babel .....                                | (244)     |
| In Abraham's Bosom .....                            | (246)     |
| Curious as Lot's Wife .....                         | (248)     |
| Apple of Sodom .....                                | (252)     |
| Sell One's Birthright .....                         | (254)     |
| Grain in Egypt .....                                | (256)     |
| Benjamin's Portion .....                            | (260)     |
| Egyptian Punishment .....                           | (264)     |
| Pots of Meat in Egypt .....                         | (270)     |
| Golden Calf .....                                   | (272)     |
| See One's Back .....                                | (274)     |

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| 挖出战斧·····           | (217) |
| 不要在中流换马·····        | (219) |
| 连一个美国币都不值·····      | (221) |
| 吃乌鸦·····            | (223) |
| 马奇诺防线·····          | (225) |
| 得到大饼·····           | (227) |
| 涂上松油,沾上鹅毛·····      | (227) |
| 费城的律师·····          | (229) |
| 牵着鼻子走·····          | (231) |
| 瓷器店里的公牛·····        | (231) |
| <br>                |       |
| 第三部分 出自《圣经》的典故····· | (235) |
| 无花果叶·····           | (237) |
| 该隐的印记               |       |
| 惹恼该隐·····           | (239) |
| 诺亚方舟                |       |
| 方舟停靠在亚拉腊山上·····     | (241) |
| 伸出橄榄枝·····          | (243) |
| 巴贝尔塔·····           | (245) |
| 在亚伯拉罕的天国里·····      | (247) |
| 象罗得的妻子那样好奇·····     | (249) |
| 所多玛的苹果·····         | (253) |
| 出卖长子继承权·····        | (255) |
| 埃及的谷物·····          | (257) |
| 便雅悯的份额·····         | (261) |
| 对埃及的惩罚·····         | (265) |
| 埃及的肉锅·····          | (271) |
| 金牛犊·····            | (273) |
| 看到某人的背·····         | (275) |

|                                                  |       |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|
| The Fall of Jericho .....                        | (276) |
| Ruth Gleans the Free Grain .....                 | (278) |
| After One's Own Heart .....                      | (280) |
| Letter of Uriah .....                            | (284) |
| Wise as Solomon .....                            | (286) |
| Scourge with Scorpions .....                     | (290) |
| A Gentle Whisper .....                           | (292) |
| Widow's Cruse .....                              | (296) |
| As Patient as Job                                |       |
| As Poor as Job                                   |       |
| Job's Comforter .....                            | (298) |
| By the Skin of the Teeth .....                   | (302) |
| Handwriting on the Wall .....                    | (302) |
| Brand from the Burning .....                     | (306) |
| Out-Herod Herod .....                            | (308) |
| the salt of the earth                            |       |
| Hide One's Light Under a Bushel .....            | (310) |
| Between the Devil and the Sea .....              | (312) |
| A Worker Is Worth His Keep                       |       |
| As Shrewed as Snakes,as Innocent as Doves .....  | (314) |
| At the Eleventh Hour .....                       | (316) |
| A Prophet Is Not Without Honour Saved in His Own |       |
| House .....                                      | (318) |
| Hide One's Talent in the Ground .....            | (320) |
| The Last Supper/Feast .....                      | (322) |
| Judas Kiss .....                                 | (324) |
| Wash One's Hands .....                           | (324) |
| Potter's Field .....                             | (326) |
| Sabbath Was Made for Man,Not Man for Sabbath     |       |
| .....                                            | (328) |



|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 耶利哥城的陷落·····               | (277) |
| 路得拾麦穗·····                 | (279) |
| 按照某人自己的意愿·····             | (281) |
| 乌利亚带信·····                 | (285) |
| 象所罗门那么聪明·····              | (287) |
| 用蝎尾鞭抽打·····                | (291) |
| 柔和的耳语·····                 | (293) |
| 寡妇的缸子·····                 | (297) |
| 象约伯那样的耐心                   |       |
| 象约伯那样的贫穷                   |       |
| 约伯的安抚者·····                | (299) |
| 从牙齿的皮上逃过·····              | (303) |
| 墙上的手书·····                 | (303) |
| 烈火中取出的木头·····              | (307) |
| 比希律王还要希律王·····             | (309) |
| 社会中坚                       |       |
| 把光亮藏在斗底下·····              | (311) |
| 在魔鬼与大海之间·····              | (313) |
| 劳动者应得报酬                    |       |
| 象蛇一样灵巧,象鸽子一样温顺 ·····       | (315) |
| 在第十一小时·····                | (317) |
| <br>                       |       |
| 先知在自己家里没有地位·····           | (319) |
| 把塔伦埋藏起来·····               | (321) |
| 最后的晚餐·····                 | (323) |
| 犹太的吻·····                  | (325) |
| 洗净某人的手·····                | (325) |
| 窑户的地·····                  | (327) |
| <br>                       |       |
| 安息日是为人而设的,人不是为安息日而活着 ····· | (329) |