

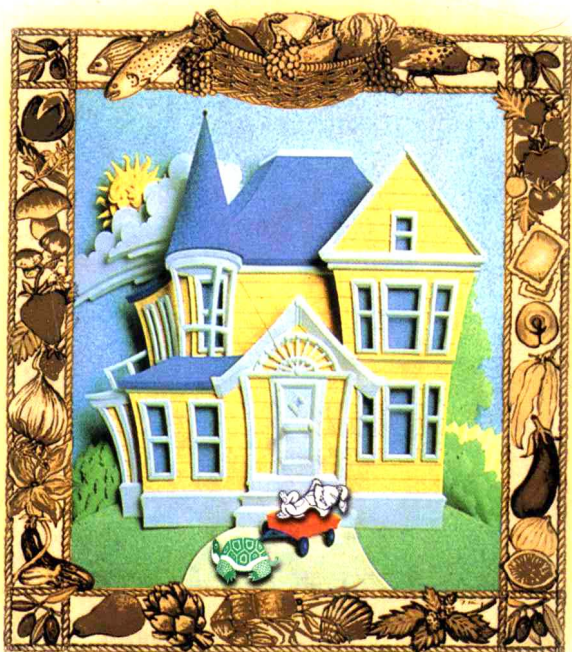
星火

5元

丛书

伊索寓言选粹

Aesop's Fables



张帆 编注

中国对外经济贸易出版社

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丛书主编 张晓博 马德高

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丛书致读者

那天陪朋友逛“科技市场”，感觉到从未有过的累。

得跟您说明一下。这个科技市场是山东济南靠近山大南院的一个计算机商场。一座三层楼里面，汇集三百多家计算机商，经销整机，硬软件，耗材，配套设施，当然还有节目光盘。

说到那些节目光盘，我困惑得头大。都是些什么呀。我奶奶——愿她在地下安息——如果还活着，逢此盛世，肯定乐得再活几十年。七仙女，白娘子，老包，目连，说书的瞎子，算命的先生，都在。麻将和桥牌可能让她皱眉，三国游戏可能玩不来了；可是，金庸和琼瑶，韦小宝和小燕子，她一定喜闻乐见。

朋友曾怜悯我至今还用着十几年前的 286 和 WPS：“呵，很多享受你错过了。”But dear Grandmother，要是“享受”指的是这些，俺宁可回俺村去看俺的蚂蚁上树。

临出门，上高中的儿子对我说：“要是多媒体上能看欧几里德和牛顿讲数学，那咱就买一台。”

我问了。没那节目。有些商家连这些名字都没听说过。“有孩子看的科技节目吗？”“有。”拿过一张盘，套封上列着“地球奥秘”，“人体奥秘”，什么什么，不用看就知道，小学三年级以下的孩子可能感兴趣。

那天是个“秋老虎”，预报说 33 度。可是，包围在那些媒体里面，我觉得怎么也有 34 度。除了一身一身的汗，没感到别的享受，也没看到什么科技。

所以，让我选择，还是看书，白纸黑字的书。最好是五块钱一本的，可看可不看的闲书（注意，这是广告）。花明柳媚时，梧桐秋雨时，长夏无聊时，没有功课也没有约会；当此时也，手执一卷，卧榻上，树荫里，安安静静，读上一叶两叶，三叶五叶，是一种心境，是一种活法儿——一种在闹市尘嚣电化声光威凌之下离我们越来越远的活法儿。

绍明

前 言

“龟兔赛跑”、“聪明的乌鸦”、“农夫与蛇”、“狐狸的酸葡萄”，这些脍炙人口的故事，在东方的中国也几乎为每一个儿童所熟悉。而《伊索寓言》中的典故，更常常被引用作为讽刺与抨击的工具出现在各种作品中。

在古代希腊和罗马，《伊索寓言》更是产生了深远的影响。当时人们甚至将没有钻研过伊索寓言的人与无知愚昧联系起来。

在《伊索寓言》中，读者会看到通过各种小故事所反映出来的朴实的真理，以及所展现出的古希腊社会生活的某些方面。它们大都情节简单，语言精炼，浅显易懂，而其中折射的道理却发人深思。

《伊索寓言》是古希腊人为人类文化史所奉献的一份宝贵的遗产，让我们一同去领略古希腊人的智慧吧！

编注者

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1 The Ants and the Grasshopper

On a cold, frosty day the ants began dragging out some of the grain they had stored during the summer and began drying it. A grasshopper¹, half-dead with hunger, came by and asked the ants for a morsel² to save his life.

“What did you do this past summer?” responded the ants.

“Oh,” said the grasshopper, “I kept myself busy by singing all day long and all night, too.”

“Well then,” remarked the ants, as they laughed and shut their storehouse, “since you kept yourself busy by singing all summer, you can do the same by dancing all winter.”

Idleness³ brings want. 这故事说,如果事先不为将来打算,事到临头,便会难以应付。

★ Notes

1. grasshopper *n.* 蚱蜢
2. morsel *n.* (食物)一口, 少量
3. idleness *n.* 闲散, 懒散, 懒惰

2 The Flies and the Honey Jar

After a jar of honey was knocked over in a kitchen, the flies were attracted by its sweet smell and began eating the honey. Indeed, they swarmed¹ all over it and did not budge² from the spot until they had devoured every drop. However, their feet had become so clogged³ that they could not fly away, no matter how much they tried. Stymied⁴ by their own voracious⁵ appetites⁶, they cried out, “What foolish creatures

we are! We've thrown away our lives just for the sake of a little pleasure."

★ Notes

1. swarm *v.* 涌往, 挤满, 密集, 成群浮游, 云集
2. budge *v.* 稍微移动
3. clog *v.* 粘住(以至难以行动)
4. stymie *v.* 从中作梗, 完全妨碍
5. voracious *a.* 狼吞虎咽的, 贪婪的
6. appetite *n.* 食欲, 胃口, 欲望

3 The Eagle and the Fox

An eagle and¹ a fox had lived together for a long time as good neighbors. The eagle's nest was on top of a high tree; the fox's lair¹, at the foot of it. One day, however, while the fox was away, the eagle could not find any food for her young ones. So she swooped² down and carried off one of the fox's cubs³ to her nest, thinking that her lofty⁴ dwelling would protect her from the fox's revenge⁵. She was about to divide the cub among her brood⁶, when the fox returned home and pleaded fervently⁷ for the return of her young cub. Since her entreaties⁸ were in vain, she ran to an altar⁹ in a neighboring field and snatched a torch from the fire that had been lit to sacrifice a goat. Then she returned to the tree and set it on fire. The flames¹⁰ and smoke soon caused the eagle to worry about her young ones and her own life as well, and she returned the cub safe and sound to his mother.

The tyrant is never safe from those whom he oppresses. 有被压迫者存在, 统治者不要妄想会得到安宁。

★ Notes

1. lair *n.* 巢穴
2. swoop *v.* 猛扑, 攫取
3. cub *n.* (食肉动物的) 幼兽
4. lofty *a.* 高高的
5. revenge *n.* 报复, 报仇
6. brood *n.* (动物中鸟或家禽的) 一窝
7. fervently *ad.* 热切地, 热诚地
8. entreaty *n.* 恳求, 乞求
9. altar *n.* 祭坛
10. flame *n.* 火焰

[4] The Creaking Wheels

As some oxen¹ were pulling a wagon along a bumpy¹ road, the wheels began to creak² and make a tremendous noise, whereupon the driver cried to the wagon³, "Brute⁴! Why do you groan⁵ when those creatures who are doing all the work are silent?"

Those who cry the loudest are not always the ones who are hurt the most. 这是说, 大声抱怨的人往往不是受累最多的。

★ Notes

1. bumpy *a.* (道路等) 颠簸的, 崎岖不平的
2. creak *v.* 吱吱嘎嘎作响
3. wagon *n.* 四轮牛车
4. brute *n.* 畜生
5. groan *vi.* 呻吟

[5] The Cock and the Jewel

A cock was scratching¹ the ground in a farmyard² in search of food

for himself and his hens, when he happened to turn up a jewel. Feeling quite sure that it was something precious, but not knowing exactly what to do with it, he remarked, "You're undoubtedly a very fine thing for those who appreciate your worth. But I'd rather have one grain of delicious barley than all the jewels in the world."

*The value of an object is in the eyes of the beholder*³. 这是说,在不同的人的眼里,同一物品的价值是不一样的。

★ Notes

1. scratch *v.* 抓, 挠, 搔, 划
2. farmyard *n.* 农家场院
3. beholder *n.* 目睹者, 旁观者

6 The Moon and Her Mother

The moon once asked her mother to make her a little cloak¹ that would fit her well. "How can I make a cloak to fit you?" her mother asked. "Right now you're a new moon, but soon you'll turn into a full moon, and later you'll become neither one nor the other."

★ Notes

1. cloak *n.* 斗篷, 大氅

7 The Tortoise and the Eagles

A tortoise was dissatisfied with his lowly¹ life and with crawling² about on the ground at a snail's pace. He envied the bird, who could soar high into the clouds whenever they desired. He thought that, if he could but once get up into the air, he would be able to fly with the best of them. So, one day he offered an eagle all the treasures in the ocean