

英語簡易讀物

Washington Irving

*The Legend of
Sleepy Hollow*

睡谷的传说

(簡写本)

商 务 印 书 馆

英语简易读物·

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(简写本)

[美] Washington Irving 原著

[苏联] M. Raik 改写
N. Lavrova

陈振时注释

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本书简介

本书原作者华盛顿·欧文 (Washington Irving, 1783—1859) 是一位早期的美国作家。他小时候没有受到系统的教育，但他很好学，特别喜欢阅读关于游历和探险的书籍。1804年，他到西欧各国旅行，并结识了英国作家司各特和狄更斯。从欧洲游历回国后，他便开始从事文学创作。1809年，他发表了第一部作品《纽约外史》。在1819—20年，他出版了《见闻杂记》(*The Sketch Book*) 一书。本书选了《见闻杂记》中的三篇民间传说。

《里普·范·温克尔》描写一个叫做 Rip Van Winkle 的人，有一天他上山打猎，遇见一些古怪的老头儿。他偷喝了他们的酒，喝醉了，一觉醒来，时间已过二十年。他回家后发现他的国家已改朝换代，发生了很大的变化。《鬼新郎》写的是一个已死的新郎出现找他的未婚妻的故事，作者嘲笑了德国封建家族的内闋，中世纪的愚昧无知和迷信，并歌颂了爱情。《睡谷的传说》以美国某小镇流传的民间传说为题材，描绘了一幅美国早期乡间生活风俗的图景。

这三个故事初读起来，使人觉得它们都带有浓郁的神秘色彩，因为故事情节都与妖魔鬼怪有关。但经过一番思索，人们会发现作者很善于运用民间传说的题材来描绘现实生活，对那些初看起来似乎是荒诞不经的事给予现实主义的解释。作品中语言丰富多采，

生动活泼，富于表现力，既有中世纪欧洲文学的风格，也有东方故事的文体。司各特和狄更斯曾对欧文的作品给予很高的评价。

这个简写本原名《三个传说》(*The Three Legends*) 由苏联劳克·(M. Rauk) 和拉弗洛娃 (N. Lavrova) 二人改写，1959年在列宁格勒出版。现在加以汉语注释和英汉对照词汇表重排出版，供已学英语一、二年的读者阅读。

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RIP VAN WINKLE¹

CHAPTER I

Whoever has travelled up the Hudson² must remember the Kaatskill Mountains.³ They lie to the west of the river and rise high over the surrounding country. The colour of these mountains changes with every change in the weather, and all the people, far and near, say that they are perfect barometers.

At the foot of these mountains there is a village which was founded by some Dutch colonists⁴ long, long ago. They built their houses of small yellow bricks which had been brought from Holland. In that same village there lived many years ago, while the country was still a province of Great Britain,⁵ a good-natured man of the name of Rip Van Winkle. He was a good neighbour and always ready to help anyone who was in trouble.

1. Rip Van Winkle ['rip vən 'wiŋkl] — 人名。

2. the Hudson [hʌdsn] — 哈得孙河 (the Hudson River), 位于美国纽约州。

3. the Kaatskill Mountains ['kɑ:tskil] — 卡兹基尔山脉, 是北美洲阿巴拉契亚山脉的一大支脉。

4. Dutch colonists — 荷兰殖民者, 在十七世纪初期荷兰殖民者就移居到北美洲。

5. a province of Great Britain — 大不列颠的一州。美国于 1776 年未宣告独立之前是英国的殖民地。

Among the village children, too, he was a great favourite: he took part in their games, made playthings for them, and told them long stories of ghosts and Indians. So most of the neighbours were sorry for Rip when his wife scolded him. And it must be said,¹ she scolded him very often.

Rip was a good-natured man and had a kind heart, but he had one great weakness — he did not like to work. He tried to avoid useful work whenever and wherever he could. His children were in rags and his house was badly in need of repairs.² He went hunting and fishing instead of working on his farm where everything was out of order.³ His fences fell to pieces, his cow ate up his own cabbages, weeds grew quicker in his field than anywhere else; and just when he got ready to do some out-door work,⁴ it usually began to rain. In a word, his farm was the worst in the neighbourhood.

Rip Van Winkle was one of those happy people who do not take life too seriously⁵ and always look on the bright side of things.⁶ It

1. it must be said — 必須指出。

2. in need of repairs — 需要修理。

✓ 3. out of order — 乱七八糟。

4. out-door work — 戶外工作 (指在室外干的活兒)。

5. do not take life too seriously — 对生活不太認真。

✓ 6. always look on the bright side of things — 始終抱着樂觀的態度。

was all the same to him¹ whether he ate white bread or brown, so long as he could get it without much work or trouble. He would have been at peace with the whole world if only his wife had left him alone. But morning and night she scolded him for everything he said and everything he did, and very few days passed without a family quarrel. Rip was helpless. He had only one answer: he shook his head, looked at the ceiling, but said nothing.

Rip had one faithful friend, however, and that was his old dog, Wolf.² Wolf was the best hunter in the village and helped his master to catch hares and partridges. But in the presence of his mistress, Rip's wife, Wolf lost all his courage and ran out of the house with his tail between his legs.³

As time went on, Rip Van Winkle's life at home became unbearable. His wife's temper did not improve with age:⁴ a sharp tongue is the only edged tool that grows sharper with constant use.⁵ She went on scolding⁶ her lazy

✓1. It was all the same to him ... — 对他來說反正都是一樣。

2. Wolf [wulf] — 狗的名字。

3. with his tail between his legs — 夾起尾巴。

4. His wife's temper did not improve with age.
— 他老婆的脾氣並不因年齡增長而變好。

5. with constant use — 隨着經常使用。

6. She went on scolding ... — 她繼續嘮嘮叨叨地罵...

husband, so that he was obliged to spend most of his time at the village inn. Here some old men always sat, smoking their pipes and discussing politics. But, after a time, he could not be safe even there. The angry woman broke in upon the peaceful meeting and scolded not only her own husband but also his companions.

Poor Rip was in despair. Where could he go now? His only way of escape was to take his gun, and call his dog, and go off to the woods. Here he sometimes sat down at the foot of a tree and shared his lunch with Wolf, saying: "It's a dog's life,¹ my boy; but never mind,² while I live, you shall always have a friend." Hearing these words of sympathy, Wolf always wagged his tail and looked in his master's face as if to say: "I quite believe you."

CHAPTER II

One fine autumn day Rip and his dog went out hunting to one of the highest parts of the Kaatskill Mountains. Again and again Rip's shots echoed and re-echoed in the stillness.³ Finally they came to a place high up

1. It's a dog's life — 这简直是狗一般的生活。

2. never mind — 不要紧; 没有关系。

3. Again and again Rip's shots echoed and re-echoed in the stillness. — Rip 的枪声在寂静中反复地回响着。

in the mountains where Rip had never been before. The day was warm, so Rip lay down under an oak-tree to rest. Through an opening among the trees he could overlook all the lower country for many miles. And there, far below him, was the great Hudson River, silently flowing towards the ocean.

On the other side there was a deep valley, the bottom of which was covered with rocks lighted by the rays of the setting sun.¹ For some time Rip sat there, looking at the trees, and the rocks, and the sky. Soon the mountains began to throw their long shadows over the valleys, he saw that it would be dark long before he could reach the village. He sighed as he thought of his wife and her constant scolding.

Having decided at last that it was time to go home, he got up slowly. But when he was about to start homeward,² he suddenly heard someone calling him: "Rip Van Winkle! Rip Van Winkle!" He looked round, but could see nobody — only a crow was flying over the mountain. He decided that his imagination had deceived him and turned once more to go down the mountain side. But just then he heard the same cry: "Rip Van Winkle! Rip

1. setting sun — 落日。

2. was about to start homeward — 正要动身回家。
was about to, 即将. homeward 是副詞。

Van Winkle!" At the same time Wolf gave a low growl¹ and came closer to his master's side. The dog was looking down into the deep valley. Rip looked in the same direction and saw a strange figure slowly climbing up the rocks. It was a little old man bending under the weight of a barrel. Rip was surprised to see a man in this lonely place; but, thinking that it must be some neighbour who needed his help, he went down.

As Rip approached, he was still more surprised at the appearance of the little man. The stranger was short, with thick bushy hair and a long grey beard. He wore short trousers, which were very wide, in the old Dutch fashion, with rows of buttons down the sides.² He made signs for Rip to approach³ and help him with the load. At first Rip did not know what to do, but then, as he was always ready to help people, he went to the little old man and took the barrel from him. It was very heavy, evidently full of liquor.⁴ The stranger made a sign for Rip to follow him. Carrying the barrel by turns, they went for some time

1. a low growl — 一声低沉的嗥叫。

2. with rows of buttons down the sides — 褲腳管兩側有成排的鈕扣。

3. He made signs for Rip to approach. — 他對Rip 做手勢叫他過去。

4. full of liquor — 裝滿了酒。

along the dry bed of a mountain stream. As they climbed up and up,¹ Rip heard a long rolling sound, and thought to himself that it was thunder. They went on in silence until at last they came to a hollow surrounded by high rocks.

There Rip saw a group of about twenty strange-looking old men. They were playing a game of ninepins,² and the balls, when they were rolled, sounded like thunder. They were all dressed in the old Dutch fashion, like Rip's guide, and had big silver buckles on their shoes and long knives in their belts. Though they were evidently amusing themselves, the expression on their faces was very serious, and not a word was spoken. Rip had never seen such a melancholy group of people in his life.³

As Rip and his guide came nearer, the players suddenly stopped their game and stared at the newcomers. They looked at Rip with such strange, expressionless eyes that his heart missed a beat⁴ and his knees began

1. up and up — 愈爬愈高。

2. They were playing a game of ninepins. — 他們正在玩九柱戏。(九柱戏是一种球戏, 豎立九根木柱, 用球击之, 打倒木柱多者則胜)。

3. Rip had never seen such a melancholy group of people in his life. — Rip 从来没有见过这么一伙表情忧郁的人。

✓ 4. his heart missed a beat — 他的心吓得一时停止跳动。

to shake. Then the little old man who had been Rip's guide poured the liquor from the barrel into several big mugs and made a sign for Rip to pass these round to the players. Though he was trembling with fear, Rip obeyed and handed a mugful of liquor¹ to each one of the old men. They drank in silence and then returned to their game. Nothing interrupted the stillness of the scene except the noise of the rolling balls which sounded like thunder.

Little by little² Rip's fear began to leave him and, when nobody was looking, he took a mug and drank some liquor. It tasted good to Rip,³ who was very thirsty; so he drank a little more. And he went on drinking until he had emptied several mugs. Soon after that he felt that his eyes were growing heavy.⁴ He tried to keep awake, but his head sank lower and lower and he fell into a deep sleep.

CHAPTER III

When he awoke, Rip found himself on the green grass under the oak-tree from where he had first seen the old man. He rubbed his

1. a mugful of liquor — 一杯酒.

2. little by little — 漸漸地.

3. It tasted good to Rip. — Rip 尝起来味道很美.

4. his eyes were growing heavy — 他的眼皮变重了; 他要打起瞌睡来了.

eyes — it was a bright sunny morning. The birds were singing in the trees and bushes, an eagle was circling high in the sky.¹

“Surely,” thought Rip, “I have not slept here all night.” He recalled everything that had happened before he fell asleep — the mysterious old man with the barrel, the hollow in the mountains, the melancholy group of players, the mugs of liquor. “Oh, that mug of liquor!” he thought sorrowfully. “That’s what made me go to sleep.² What will my wife saw when I get home?”

He looked round for his gun, but could not find it. Instead of his clean, well-oiled gun³ he found an old rusty thing on the grass beside him.

“Surely someone has played a trick on me,⁴ he said to himself, suspecting those mysterious old men whom he had seen in the hollow. Then he whistled for his dog and shouted his name, but all in vain;⁵ the echo

1. an eagle was circling high in the sky — 一只老鹰在高空中盘旋着。

2. That’s what made me go to sleep — 就是那个东西(指酒)使我睡着了。

3. well-oiled gun — 擦足了油的枪。

4. Surely someone has played a trick on me. — 一定是有人跟我开玩笑。

5. but all in vain — 但是都没有用。 in vain, 徒然; 无用。

repeated his whistle and shout, but Wolf did not appear.

Rip determined to revisit the hollow where the little old man had led him the night before. He rose to his feet with great difficulty, for his back ached and his feet were stiff.¹

“Sleeping out of doors at this time of the year is not good for my health,” he thought as he began to climb down into the deep valley. He reached the bottom at last and found a mountain stream flowing over the rocks. There had been no stream there the night before: that was strange. He stopped and whistled for the dog once more, but only the echo answered him. Rip was very much frightened by all this. He had lost his dog and his gun, and he was afraid to meet his wife. But he could not remain in the mountains and starve. He shook his head sorrowfully, and, with the rusty old gun on his shoulder, he turned his steps homeward.²

CHAPTER IV

As Rip approached the village, he met some people whom he did not know. “Strange,” he said to himself, “I do not recognize any of those people and I thought I knew everybody

1. He rose to his feet ... were stiff. — 他費了很大的勁才站起來，因為他的背上酸疼，兩腿僵硬。

2. he turned his steps homeward — 他轉身走回家去。