



# 奇趣园

## 英语读物

Collections of Marvelous Anecdotes  
读奇闻趣事，学地道英语

### 英汉对照

English-Chinese Bilingual

(美) George Y. Tang 编著

本书收集的故事种类繁多，有鲜为人知的经历、闻所未闻的秘密，有触目惊心的阴谋、因劫而生的罪孽，有鼓舞人心的壮举、难能可贵的经验，也有千奇百怪的疾病、令人同情的厄运。读完这本包罗万象的书，您会有博览群书之感。在提高英语水平的同时增加许多人生阅历。

# 鲜为人知的经历

## Rarely-known Experiences



机械工业出版社  
CHINA MACHINE PRESS





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“奇趣园英语读物”系列图书收集的短篇故事以世界各地近年来报导的奇闻趣事为基础,经过筛选、改编、翻译、标注而成,以英汉对照的形式出版。丛书主要特点是“奇、趣”,适合有一定英语水平的读者,包括高等院校各年级学生和研究生、英语教师和从事英语翻译工作的人员阅读。读者在阅读流畅易懂、引人入胜的故事的同时,还可以吸收许多当前英美国最新的英语词汇和表达方式。

《鲜为人知的经历》是“奇趣园英语读物”的第三册。本书收集的故事种类繁多。有鲜为人知的经历、闻所未闻的秘密,有触目惊心的阴谋、因劫而生的罪孽,有鼓舞人心的壮举、难能可贵的经验,也有千奇百怪的疾病、令人同情的厄运。读完这本包罗万象的书,您会有博览群书之感。在提高英语水平的同时增加许多人生阅历。书中内容也可以供科学、技术、医学和军事等方面的研究、管理人员参考。

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# 前言

## Preface

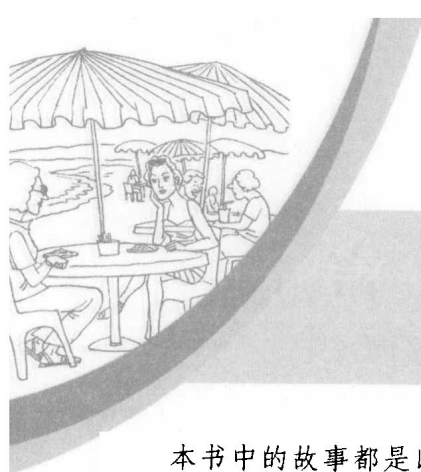


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目前市场上的英语辅助读物偏重名家的经典著作。这些作品至少有一百年历史，许多用词行文的方式和现代英语已相去甚远，因此，在美国的学校中只是用作学习古英语的教材。而本丛书收集的素材全部是近年发表的，目的是让读者学到现代人使用的“活”英语。

天下之大，无奇不有。我们周围每天都会发生许许多多新奇有趣的故事。它们可以大到宇宙的起源、生命的奥秘、身心的健康、事业的兴衰，也可以小到日常生活中一些奇事、怪事、麻烦事。

本书收集的故事种类繁多。有鲜为人知的经历、闻所未闻的秘密，有触目惊心的阴谋、因劫而生的罪孽，有鼓舞人心的壮举、难能可贵的经验，也有千奇百怪的疾病、令人同情的厄运。读完这本包罗万象的书，您会有博览群书之感，在提高英语水平的同时增加许多人生阅历。俗话说：“他山之石，可以攻玉。”今后读者如果在生活、学习和工作中碰到类似情况，就会触类旁通，不无益处。



本书中的故事都是以真实的生活事件为原型的，因此书中内容也可供科学、技术、医学和军事等方面的研究、管理人员参考。

我的女儿 **Nina Tang** 审阅了全书并且提出了许多修改意见，特此致谢。

**George Y. Tang**

2009 年于美国加州 San Jose

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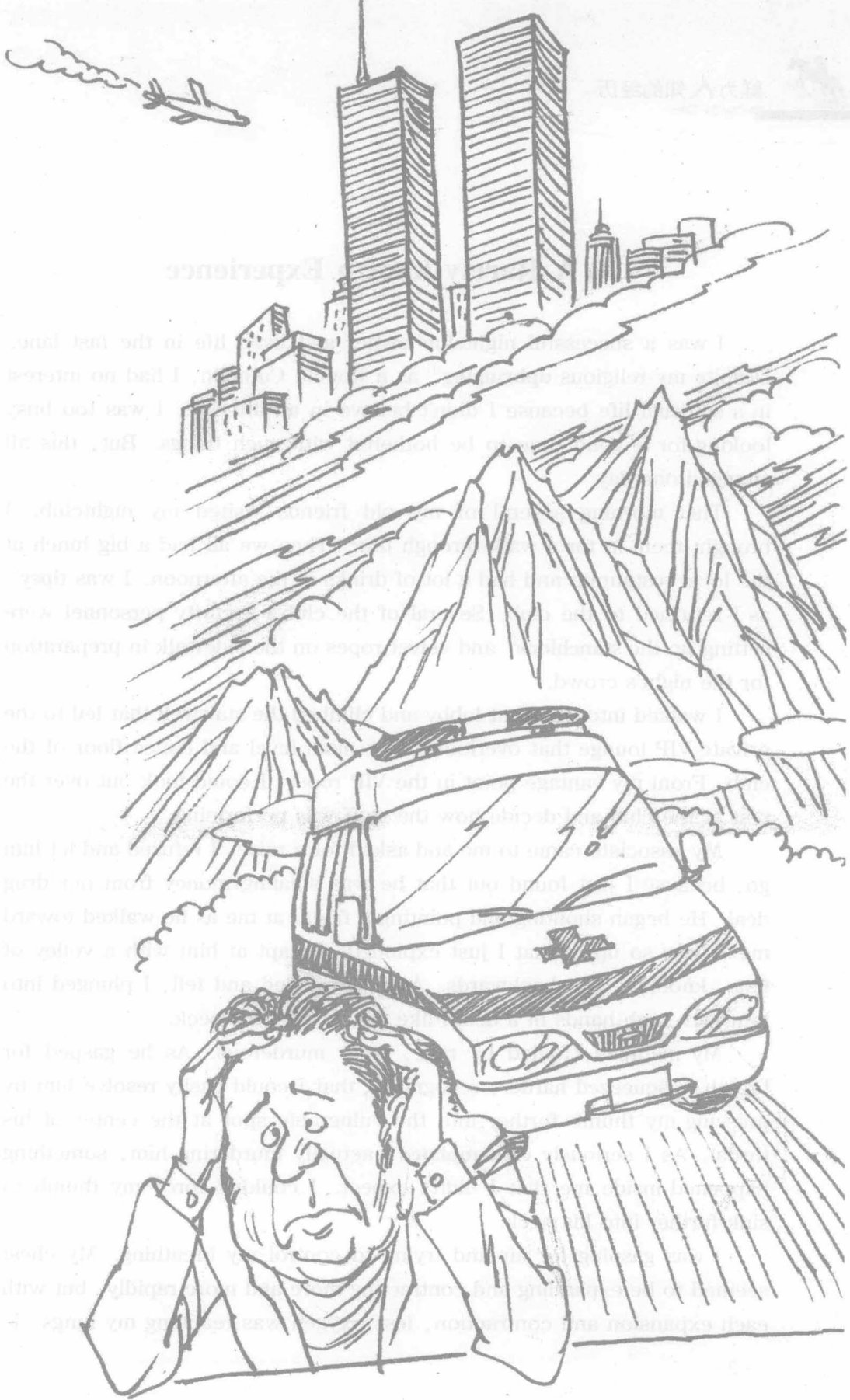


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## 1. A Rarely-known Experience

I was a successful nightclub owner and lived life in the fast lane. Despite my religious **upbringing**<sup>①</sup> as a Roman Catholic, I had no interest in a spiritual life because I didn't believe in an afterlife. I was too busy looking for a good time to be bothered with such things. But, this all changed one day.

That morning several of my old friends visited my nightclub. I brought them in for a walk-through tour. Then we all had a big lunch at the local restaurant and had a lot of drinks in the afternoon. I was **tipsy**<sup>②</sup> as I returned to the club. Several of the club's security personnel were setting up the **stanchions**<sup>③</sup> and velvet ropes on the sidewalk in preparation for the night's crowd.

I walked into the front lobby and climbed the stairwell that led to the private VIP lounge that overlooked the main level and dance floor of the club. From my vantage point in the VIP room, I could look out over the rest of the club and decide how the staff was performing.

My associate came to me and asked for a raise. I refused and let him go, because I just found out that he was stealing money from our drug deal. He began shouting and pointing a finger at me as he walked toward me. I was so upset that I just exploded. I leapt at him with a volley of fists, knocking him backwards. As he stumbled and fell, I plunged into him with both hands in a death-like grip around his neck.

My instincts, fueled by rage, were murderous. As he gasped for breath, I squeezed harder, recognizing that I could easily resolve him by pressing my thumb further into the vulnerable spot at the center of his throat. As I seriously **contemplated**<sup>④</sup> actually murdering him, something happened inside me that I didn't expect. I couldn't force my thumb to sink further into his neck.

I was gasping for air and trying to control my breathing. My chest seemed to be expanding and contracting more and more rapidly, but with each expansion and contraction, less oxygen was reaching my lungs. I



## 1. 鲜为人知的经历

**我**曾经是一个成功的夜总会老板，过着富裕舒适的生活。虽然从小生长在一个罗马天主教家庭里，但是我对宗教习俗却没有任何兴趣，因为我不相信人有来生。我成天忙着寻欢作乐，根本没有时间顾及那样的事情。但是，有一天所有这一切都改变了。

那天上午，我的一些老朋友来我的夜总会玩。我带他们上上下下参观了一圈。然后，我们大家在附近一家餐馆吃了丰盛的午餐，下午又喝了很多酒。我回到夜总会的时候有点醉醺醺了。夜总会的几个保安人员正在人行道上摆设标柱和天鹅绒绳围栏，为迎接晚上的客人作准备。

我走进前厅，沿着楼梯井走上可以俯视夜总会主层和舞蹈平台的私人贵宾休息室。从贵宾室里可以看到夜总会的其他地方，从而可以观察工作人员的工作情况。

我的助理来找我，要求加薪。我拒绝了，并且炒了他的鱿鱼，因为我刚刚查出他在私吞我们毒品交易的钱。他开始大叫大嚷，边用手指头指着我，边向我走过来。我恼羞成怒，猛地跳起来，用拳头对他一顿猛揍，逼得他向后退。见他踉踉跄跄跌倒，我猛扑上去，用双手扣紧他的脖子往死里掐。

处于狂怒之中，我一心想要杀死他。他越是拼命地喘气，我挤压得越用力。我意识到，只要用我的大拇指进一步挤压他咽喉中心的致命点，就能够轻而易举地把他解决掉。当我真的企图要杀他的时候，我身体里面却发生了意想不到的事情。我竟然无法将我的拇指掐进他的脖子里去。

我大口喘着粗气，想要稳住呼吸。我胸部的扩张和收缩好像越来越快，但是随着每次扩张和收缩，达到肺部的氧气却越来越少。我很快知道我的肺部正处于换气过度的

### ① upbringing

/ˈʌpˌbrɪŋɪŋ/ *n.* 抚养，养育；教育，培养

### ② tipsy /ˈtɪpsi/ *a.* 喝

醉了的；微醉的

### ③ stanchion /ˈstɑːntʃən/

*n.* 支柱，柱子；标桩，标柱

### ④ contemplate

/kəntəmpleɪt/ *vt.* 打算考虑；深思，细想



soon realized that my lungs were **hyperventilating**<sup>⑤</sup> out of control. My sense of hearing turned inward, and I could hear my heart pounding heavily in my chest.

I stood up and managed to walk out of the VIP room, trying **desperately**<sup>⑥</sup> to catch my breath. As I was approaching the balcony overlooking the first floor, I suddenly felt a hard push on my back, and I lost my balance. As I began my fall to the dance floor 40 feet below, I could see the carpet on the floor coming up to me fast. Though it was just one or two seconds before impact, so many thoughts raced through my mind, my wife, my daughter, and my family, as if I were in a slow motion. I knew this was the end for me.

Then, I was surrounded by darkness, a complete darkness. How long this darkness lasted I don't know. Then something wonderful happened. I felt myself leaving my body. I was floating a few feet in the air above my body. I saw several people busy working on my body. I was bleeding from my mouth, nose, and ears. I also saw a **trickle**<sup>⑦</sup> of blood underneath my body on the floor. The paramedic in my left side said, "I can't get his blood pressure."

I was aware that the skylight to the left was filled with **vibrant**<sup>⑧</sup>, powerful light. It seemed to be calling me and pulling me toward it like a magnet. I heard the buzzing again, and ... Whoosh! I was zooming through the skylight. I merged with the light. I was the light, and the light was me.

As I looked on my body with mixed feelings, I felt a pulling and began to rise. I was traveling at a high speed upwards through the atmosphere. As I left the atmosphere, I looked back and could see the Earth. Such a beautiful sight! It was so brilliantly lit. As I looked ahead I could see the planets. I thought to myself I was never told anything like this could or would happen when I died.

Faster and faster the speed was increasing. I saw other star systems and galaxies as I raced onward. I entered what seemed to be a hose of some sort. It was long and dark. However around me I saw **streaks**<sup>⑨</sup> of light made up of every color in the spectrum. I saw a faint light growing brighter and brighter in the distance up ahead. As I entered the light I felt



失控状态。我的听觉变成了向内的，我能够听到我的心脏在我的胸中重重地撞击。

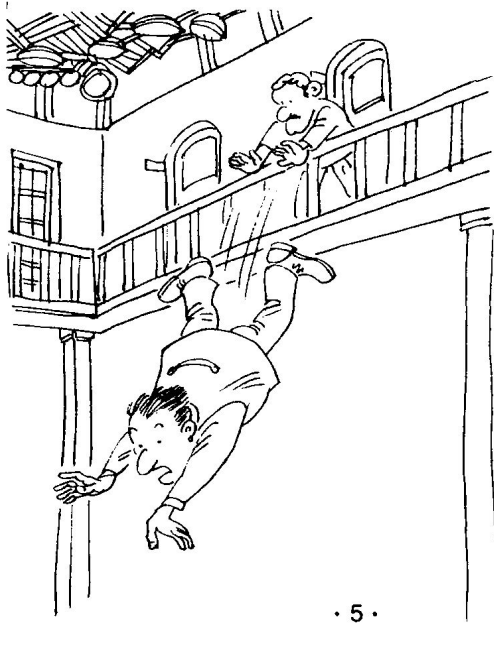
我站起来，奋力走到贵宾室外面，拼命地想要平息我的呼吸。当我走近可以俯视主层的包厢的时候，突然感觉背部被重重地推了一下，我失去了平衡。当我开始向下面十多米的舞蹈平台坠落的时候，我看见地面上的地毯迅速地朝我冲过来。尽管在撞到地面之前只有一两秒的时间，我的头脑里却闪过许多关于我的妻子、我的女儿和我的家人的念头，好像我是在一个慢动作里。我知道我要死了。

接着我就被完全的黑暗笼罩了。我不知道这黑暗持续了多久。然后，一件令人惊奇的事情发生了。我感觉我自己正在离开我的身体。我漂浮在我的身体上面几尺高的空中。我看到有好几个人正围着我的身体忙碌着。血从我的嘴、鼻子和耳朵里流出来。我也看到在我的身体下面有一滩血。我左边的一个急救人员说：“我测不到他的血压。”

我感觉到左边的天窗中充满了生气勃勃、威力强大的光，它好像在召唤我，像磁铁一样吸引着我。我又听到了嗡嗡的蜂音声，……嗖！我穿越了天窗。我和光合为一体。我就是光，光就是我。

当我以百感交集的心情看着我的身体的时候，我感觉到有一股拉力，开始将我向上提升。我以很快的速度穿越大气向上运动。当我离开大气层的时候，我回过头来，看到了地球。那是一幅多么美丽的画面！地球被光照得那么灿烂。我向前看的时候，可以看见许多行星。我对自己说，以前从来没有人告诉过我，在我死的时候可能会发生类似这样的事情。

速度变得越来越快。当我向前飞驰的时候，我看见了其他星球和银河系。我进入了一个像是某种管子的狭长空间里。里面又长又黑，但是我被由各种色彩组成的条纹包围着。我看到前面遥远的地方有



⑤ hyperventilate /ˌhəlpə(:)ventiˈleɪʃən/ vt. 过度换气

⑥ desperately /ˈdespərtli/ ad. 绝望地；拼命地

⑦ trickle /ˈtrɪkləl/ n. 滴，滴下；细流，涓流

⑧ vibrant /ˈvaɪbrənt/ a. 振动的，颤动的

⑨ streak /stri:k/ n. 纹理，条纹



it all through my being. I was not afraid anymore.

Then all of a sudden I was standing before a massive set of steps. They led up to what seemed to be a bridge or walk of some kind. In the distance I saw a sight so magnificent and **astounding**<sup>⑩</sup> — a city made up of what seemed to be glass or crystal. The lights were of many colors that radiated from it. Never have I ever seen such a sight. I began walking toward the city in a daze of unbelief.

I reached the front of the city and saw a double door that looked to be about thirty feet or so in height and width. It shined as if it was polished. As I stood there wondering, the doors began to open. I took a step back and looked inside. I could see what appeared to be people walking about on the inside, much like they do in a **mall**<sup>⑪</sup> here on Earth. These people though were dressed very different. For one thing, they all seemed to be dressed in some sort of **robes**<sup>⑫</sup> with **hoods**<sup>⑬</sup>.

I entered through the doors in amazement at what I was seeing. The inside was massive. It seemed to be square in shape, with a balcony all around that led down to different levels. I walked up and looked downward over the balcony. It seemed to go on forever.

As I looked up I saw many passing by me, yet no one seemed to notice me. Then as one was approaching me he suddenly stopped. He slowly raised his head and I could see his face. He appeared to be human in every respect but one. His eyes had no pupils! Yet they seemed to change colors in colors of blue. His hair was snow white. I wanted to speak but before I could he turned and pointed to a long hallway. Though we never spoke I knew I was to go down this hallway.

Then as if nothing had ever happened, he continued on. I knew I had to as well. Something was **beckoning**<sup>⑭</sup> me forward. I walked a long walk down to the end of this hallway. I did not turn to the right or the left.

Again I saw before me a massive double door. It seemed to be of some type of metal — whether gold or not I could not tell. Suddenly the doors opened. I heard a voice, though not as we speak, but from inside of me it seemed to say, “Enter.” I did as I was told and the doors shut suddenly behind me. I was afraid for the first time. Total darkness. Total silence.



模糊的光，那光变得越来越明亮，当进入到光里的时候，我感觉到它穿透了我的身体，我再也不害怕了。

然后，我突然站在了一个极高的楼梯前面。这个布满台阶的楼梯好像通往一座桥又像是通向一条路。我看见远处有一个非常壮丽和惊人的景物。那是一座好像是由玻璃或者水晶构筑而成的城市，从它发射出来的光线有很多种颜色。我从来没有看见过这样壮观的场景。在茫然不信中我开始走向那座城市。

我来到了城市的前面，看见两扇大门。大门的高度和宽度都是大约 30 英尺左右。大门好像是被擦得亮铮铮地闪闪发光。我站在那里，满是惊奇，门慢慢开启了。我向后退了一步，往里边张望。我能看到人们好像在里面走来走去，很像人们在地球上的购物商场里那样。然而这些人的衣着很不同，他们都穿那种好像带兜帽的长袍。

我从大门进入，为我所看到的東西而惊奇。里面相当大，看上去是正方形，四周都是阳台，向下通往不同的楼层。我向前走，从阳台上向下看，深不见底。

当我抬头向上看的时候，我看到很多人经过我，却好像没有一个人注意到我。然后有一个向我走过来，他突然停了下来，缓慢地抬起头，我能够看到他的脸。他在各方面看起来跟人类一样，但是除了一点，他的眼睛里没有瞳仁！而且眼睛好像还在变换不同的蓝颜色，他的头发像雪一样白。我想讲话，但是我还没说话他就已经转身指向一条长长的走廊。尽管我们谁也没有讲话，我知道我应该沿这条走廊走下去。

然后，好像从来没有发生时什么事，他继续向前走。我知道我也必须向前走。有什么东西在召唤我向前。我走了很长的路，一直走到这条走廊的尽头，既没有向右转，也没有向左转。

我又一次看到两扇巨大的门，像是用某种金属做的，我不知道是不是金子。门突然打开了，我听到了一种声音，但不是别人对我讲，而是从我自己体内传来的：“进来。”我走了进去，大门突然在我后面关闭了。我开始害怕了，里面一片漆黑，沉寂无声。

# ⑩ astounding

/ə'staʊndɪŋ/ a. 可惊的；使人震惊的

⑪ mall /mɔ:l/ n. 购物中心，商场

⑫ robe /rəʊb/ n. 长袍，罩袍

⑬ hood /hʊd/ n. 头巾，兜帽

⑭ beckon /'bekən/ vt. 招呼，召唤



Then after a space of time the length of which I could not determine, a bright light began to glow in the room. Brighter and brighter it became. It was somewhat above me and in front of me. I tried to look but was almost blinded from it. I held my hands up in front of me and could make out the appearance of a figure sitting on some type of seat.

Then without warning it happened.

“What have you done with your life?” The voice **penetrated**<sup>15</sup> my very being. I had no answer. Then to my right I saw what seemed to be like a movie, and I was in it. I saw my mother giving me birth, my childhood and friends. I saw everything I had ever done before my eyes. I even saw the fight with my associate, and he pushed me down the balcony. I looked on until the events came to an end.

I saw all the bad things I had done and all the people I had hurt. I had been selfish and cruel in so many ways. I was also shown how my actions had set in motion the actions of others. I saw the results of all I had done. I was stunned. I had never thought of my life having an effect on the actions that friends, family, and others I had met would take. I felt sorry and guilty deep inside my heart.

I saw a man in his car that had ran out of gas. I stopped and gave him a lift to a local store. I bought him some gas as he had no money and helped him get on his way. It happened about a year ago. I thought to my self, why am I seeing this? The voice was loud and clear.

“You took no thought to help this soul and asked nothing in return. These actions are the essence of good.”

A vision appears. I see our world from the **vantage**<sup>16</sup> point of a star, or another planet. The Earth appears as a sphere cut in half. The surface of the planet is flat and colorless.

On one side of the half sphere, the ground is bare. No living plant grows from the Earth. Tree branches are naked. There are no fruits, no flowers, and no leaves. The **barren**<sup>17</sup> hills are **obscured**<sup>18</sup> behind a gray **veil**<sup>19</sup>. A sun attempts to shine upon the stage, but no one pays attention or makes a sound. Even the birds in the dead trees are silent and motionless.



然后隔了不知多久，房间里开始出现鲜艳夺目的光，并且变得越来越亮。向前，向上望我只能看到那耀眼的光。我想要弄清楚光里有什么，但是几乎被它照得失明。我把手举到前面挡住光，这时我能够分辨出，在前面类似沙发的物体上坐着一个人影。

然后在没有任何警告的情况下，下面的事就发生了。

“你这一辈子都干了些什么？”这声音穿透了我的身体。我没有回答。然后在我的右边，我好像看到了一部电影，而我就在电影里面。我看见母亲生我的场景，我的童年和我的朋友们。就在我的眼前，我看到了我以前所做过的一切。我甚至看到了我跟我的助理打架，他把我推下了包厢。我继续看下去，直到所有的事情结束。

我看到了我做过的所有的坏事和我伤害过的所有人。很多情况下，对人对事我既自私又残酷。我也看到了我的所作所为怎样影响了其他人的行为。我看到了我所做的事情的全部后果，这使我目瞪口呆。我从来也没有想过，我的生活会对我的朋友、家庭和我所遇到的其他人的行为有这么大的影响。内心深处，我对自己的所做所为深感遗憾，并有负罪感。

我看见有一个人坐在他的汽车里，汽油用完了。我停下车，带他到附近一家商店去，还为他买了一些汽油，因为他没有钱，然后我又送他上了路。这是大约一年前发生的事情，我心里想，为什么让我看这个？一个响亮和清晰的声音说：

“你帮助这个灵魂的时候没有什么企图，又没有要求什么东西作为回报，这就是善行，发自内心的善意。”

一个幻像出现了，我站在一颗恒星，或者一颗行星上来观察我们的世界。地球好像作为球体被切成两半，它的表面是平的，没有任何色彩。

一个半球体的一侧是不毛之地。地上不长活的植物，树枝是赤条条的，没有水果，没有花，连叶子都没有；贫瘠的群山被遮盖在一个灰色的面纱后面。太阳想要在上面发光，但是没有任何人注意它，也没有任何声音。甚至在干枯树枝上的鸟都是安静不动的。

⑮ penetrate

/ˈpenɪtreɪt/ *vt.* 穿透，渗透

⑯ vantage /ˈvɑːntɪdʒ/

*n.* 优势；优越的地位

⑰ barren /ˈbærən/ *a.*

不结子的；荒芜的

⑱ obscure /əbˈskjuə/

*vt.* 使暗，遮掩

⑲ veil /veɪl/ *n.* 面

纱，面罩





It is a passionless place where no one rejoices at the sunrise, and no one knows when night comes. Naked **phantom**<sup>②</sup>-like people stand on what seems to be a stage. All the actors are puppets animated by an invisible force. They move in unison and stop all at once.

The other side of the half sphere is in darkness. I watch it as the darkness grows with frightening speed and covers the half sphere in whole. No one pays attention. Now the darkness covers the sunlight, and now it covers all the bright planets in the universe.

“This is the world with the absence of light, love, and free will,” the voice stated. “It is the people’s choices that created the world you have just seen.”

With these words, the **nightmarish**<sup>③</sup> world begins to dissolve and is replaced by the other half of the sphere — a place of vibrant, breathtaking beauty. I perceive how the Earth, the sun, the moon, the planets, the darkness, the light, and all forms of life — plants, rocks, animals, and people — are interconnected. They all come from the same source of light. Everything is united by a transparent net, or web, and each **thread**<sup>④</sup> shines with great radiance. Everything pulses with the same luminosity — a magnificent light of unparalleled brilliance.

“From the light we have come, and to the light we all shall return,” continued the voice.

I realize now I have been standing in the middle of the two worlds. And with this understanding, an image of the path I have been walking appears. It is narrow and rocky; I have the sensation of losing my balance. I grow afraid of falling into the darkened planet. With the remembering of free will, I **gaze**<sup>⑤</sup> at my invisible feet. The narrow path changes into a wide road. The darkness is replaced by light.

Then loud and clear I heard the voice speak again, “You must return.”

I did not want to return though. I was content to stay and longed to stay even after the things I had seen and heard. I have so many questions. So many things I need to know and don’t understand.

“From the light we have come, and to the light we shall all return,” repeated the voice. What a joy to bathe in this incredible all-knowing, all-