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522.84

中国对外翻译出版公司

108

M3194252284

·英汉对照读物·

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A0935777

中国对外翻译出版公司

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

小海蒂:英汉对照/(瑞士)斯皮里(Spyri, J.)著;冯立增,
李风华译. —北京:中国对外翻译出版公司,1999.2

ISBN 7—5001—0579—7

I. 小… II. ①斯… ②冯… ③李… III. 小说-瑞士-英语
-对照读物-英、汉 IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(1999)第 04430 号

出版发行/中国对外翻译出版公司

地 址/北京市西城区太平桥大街4号

电 话/66168195 66168639

邮 编/100810

责任编辑/马新林

排 版/中外名人信息公司

印 刷/北京富生印刷厂印刷

经 销/新华书店北京发行所

规 格/787×1092毫米 1/32

印 张/16

版 次/1999年9月第一版

印 次/1999年9月第一次

ISBN 7—5001—0579—7/H·203 定价:20元



I. *Up the Mountain to Alm-Uncle*

From the old and pleasantly situated village of Mayenfeld, a footpath winds through green and shady meadows to the foot of the mountains, which on this side look down from their stern and lofty heights upon the valley below. The land grows gradually wilder as the path ascends, and the climber has not gone far before he begins to inhale the fragrance of the short grass and sturdy mountain-plants, for the way is steep and leads directly up to the summits above.

On a clear sunny morning in June two figures might be seen climbing the narrow mountain path; one a tall strong-looking girl, the other a child whom she was leading by the hand, and whose little cheeks were so aglow with heat that the crimson colour could be seen even through the dark, sunburnt skin. And this was hardly to be wondered at, for in spite of the hot June sun the child was clothed as if to keep off the bitterest frost. She did not look more than five years old, if as much, but what her natural figure was like, it would have been hard to say, for she had on apparently two, if not three dresses, one above the other, and over these a thick red woollen shawl wound round about her, so that the little body presented a shapeless appearance, as, with its small feet shod in thick, nailed mountain-shoes, it slowly and laboriously plodded its way up in the heat. The two must have left the valley a good hour's walk behind them, when they came to the hamlet known as Dörfli, which is situated half way up the mountain. Here the wayfarers met with greetings from all sides, some calling to them from windows, some from open doors, others from outside, for the elder girl was now in her old home. She did not, however, pause in her walk to respond to her friends' welcoming cries and questions, but passed on without stopping for a moment until she reached the last of the scattered

1. 上山找阿尔姆大叔

梅恩菲尔德村庄，古老而优雅，一条羊肠小道蜿蜒穿过葱绿的草地，通向群山脚下。在山的这一侧望去，陡峭高耸的悬崖下是幽深的山谷。小路在山脚下陡然攀升，直达山巅，路旁随着小路的延伸越来越荒凉，山草的芳香沁人心脾。

六月里一个阳光明媚的早晨，两个人沿着这条狭窄的山间小道向上爬着。一人是身高体健的姑娘，另一人是个孩子，她拉着姑娘的手，尽管皮肤被太阳晒得黝黑，却依然能看出小脸蛋已热得通红。这一点儿都不奇怪，因为尽管六月骄阳如火，孩子的穿戴却像是要抵御严寒，她看上去至多五岁，或许还没那么大。从她的身材去判断实在太难了，因为她穿着两层（如果不是三层的话）衣服，一件套一件，外面又用一条厚厚的红羊毛披肩围了个严实，根本看不清轮廓，一双小脚穿着厚重的登山鞋，吃力地往上爬着。她们肯定是走了一个多小时之后，才来到坐落在半山腰的小山村德夫里。人们从四面八方，从窗户、敞开的大门或街面上向两位过客打着招呼，因为，年长的姑娘这会儿已到了自己的老家。然而她没有停下脚步理睬朋友们的欢叫和提问，只是一直不停地走下去，来到村子最后一幢稀稀落落的房子前。这时就听有人从

houses of the hamlet. Here a voice called to her from the door: "Wait a moment, Dete; if you are going up higher, I will come with you."

The girl thus addressed stood still, and the child immediately let go her hand and seated herself on the ground.

"Are you tired, Heidi?" asked her companion.

"No, I am hot," answered the child.

"We shall soon get to the top now. You must walk bravely on a little longer, and take good long steps, and in another hour we shall be there," said Dete in an encouraging voice.

They were now joined by a stout, good-natured-looking woman, who walked on ahead with her old acquaintance, the two breaking forth at once into lively conversation about everybody and everything in Dörfli and its surroundings, while the child wandered on behind them.

"And where are you off to with the child?" asked the one who had just joined the party. "I suppose it is the child your sister left?"

"Yes," answered Dete. "I am taking her up to Uncle, where she must stay."

"The child stay up there with Alm-Uncle! You must be out of your senses, Dete! How can you think of such a thing! The old man, however, will soon send you and your proposal packing off home again!"

"He cannot very well do that, seeing that he is her grandfather. He must do something for her. I have had the charge of the child till now, and I can tell you, Barbel, I am not going to give up the chance which has just fallen to me of getting a good place, for her sake. It is for the grandfather now to do his duty by her."

"That would be all very well if he were like other people," asseverated stout Barbel warmly, "but you know what he is. And what can he do with a child, especially with one so young! The child cannot possibly live with him. But where are you thinking of going yourself?"

"To Frankfurt, where an extra good place awaits me,"

门里喊道：“等等，笛蒂，你要是还往上走，我陪你去吧。”

姑娘停住了脚步，孩子马上放开她的手，一屁股坐到地上。

“海蒂，你累不累？”姑娘问。

“不累，”孩子回答说。

“我们马上就要到山顶了。勇敢些，再走一段，步伐大些，再有一个小时，我们就到了。”笛蒂鼓动她。

一个丰满而性情开朗的女人加入了她们的行列。她和老朋友笛蒂走在前面，兴奋地谈论起德夫里及其周围的人和事，孩子随后紧跟。

“你要把这孩子带到哪儿去？”女人问：“她是你姐姐留下的孩子吧。”

“嗯，”笛蒂说，“带到阿尔姆大叔那儿，她得和他呆在一起。”

“让她和阿尔姆大叔在一起！你疯了吗，笛蒂？怎么会想出这么个主意！我看那老头儿很快就会把你和你的建议一块儿打发回来的。”

“他可不敢，因为这孩子是他孙女，他得做点什么。迄今为止，我一直在照管孩子。跟你说，巴贝尔，这次我不会因为这孩子放过找到好工作的机会。现在该轮到爷爷为孙女尽些义务了。”

“他要跟平常人一样，那敢情好了，”胖乎乎的巴贝尔温和而肯定地说，“他什么样，你是清楚的。这么小的一个孩子能跟他生活在一起吗？天知道他会为她做些什么！你自己又打算去哪儿呢？”

“法兰克福，一个绝好的地方在等着我，”笛蒂说，“那

answered Dete. "The people I am going to were down at the Baths last summer, and it was part of my duty to attend upon their rooms. They would have liked then to take me away with them, but I could not leave. Now they are there again and have repeated their offer, and I intend to go with them, you may make up your mind to that!"

"I am glad I am not the child!" exclaimed Barbel, with a gesture of horrified pity. "Not a creature knows anything about the old man up there! He will have nothing to do with anybody, and never sets his foot inside a church from one year's end to another. When he does come down once in a while, everybody clears out of the way of him and his big stick. The mere sight of him, with his bushy grey eyebrows and his immense beard, is alarming enough. He looks like any old heathen or Indian, and few would care to meet him alone."

"Well, and what of that?" said Dete, in a defiant voice, "he is the grandfather all the same, and must look after the child. He is not likely to do her any harm, and if he does, he will be answerable for it, not I."

"I should very much like to know," continued Barbel, in an inquiring tone of voice, "what the old man has on his conscience that he looks as he does, and lives up there on the mountain like a hermit, hardly ever allowing himself to be seen. All kinds of things are said about him. You, Dete, however, must certainly have learnt a good deal concerning him from your sister—am I not right?"

"You are right, I did, but I am not going to repeat what I heard; if it should come to his ears I should get into trouble about it."

Now Barbel had for long past been most anxious to ascertain particulars about Alm-Uncle, as she could not understand why he seemed to feel such hatred towards his fellow-creatures, and insisted on living all alone, or why people spoke about him half in whispers, as if afraid to say anything against him, and yet unwilling to take his part. Moreover, Barbel was in ignorance as to why all the people

儿的一些人去年夏天在巴斯游玩，当时我兼带照管他们的房间。去年他们就想带我一起走，可是我走不开。今年他们又来了，再次提出了邀请，这次我想跟他们去，总该拿定主意了。”

“真庆幸我不是这个孩子！”巴贝尔叫道，显得既恐惧又同情，“没有人了解那个老头儿，他不会跟任何人打交道，从来就没进过教堂。当他偶然下山的时候，大家都躲着他和他的大棒子。单是看看他那浓密的花白眉毛和大胡子，就够吓人的了。他和野蛮的异教徒或印第安人没什么两样，谁都不敢和他单独在一起。”

“那又怎么样？”笛蒂很不服气，“他终究是孩子的爷爷，有责任照顾她，他不大可能伤害孩子，即使伤害了，也应由他来负责，而不是我。”

“我很想知道，”巴贝尔以询问的语气接着说，“那老头儿心里到底怎么想的？他知道自己那个样子，像个隐士似的住在山上，几乎不与人来往。人们对他有各种各样的传说。笛蒂，你肯定从你姐姐那儿听到不少关于他的事吧？”

“对，我是听到不少，但我不想重复听到的东西，万一传到那老头儿的耳朵里，我就会有麻烦了。”

巴贝尔好长时间来一直想证实有关阿尔姆大叔的奇怪之处，她不明白这老头儿为什么对自己的同乡如此仇视，宁肯独来独往；她还弄不懂人们每次谈起老头儿为什么总是窃窃私语，像是怕得罪他，但又没有人愿意与他为伍。除此之外，她还想不通为什么德夫里整个村子的人

in Dörfli called him Alm-Uncle, for he could not possibly be uncle to everybody living there. As, however, it was the custom, she did like the rest and called the old man Uncle. Barbel had only lived in Dörfli since her marriage, which had taken place not long before. Previous to that her home had been below in Prättigau, so that she was not well acquainted with all the events that had ever taken place, and with all the people who had ever lived in Dörfli and its neighbourhood. Dete, on the contrary, had been born in Dörfli, and had lived there with her mother until the death of the latter the year before, and had then gone over to the Baths at Ragatz and taken service in the large hotel there as chambermaid. On the morning of this day she had come all the way from Ragatz with the child, a friend having given them a lift in a hay-cart as far as Mayenfeld. Barbel was therefore determined not to lose this good opportunity of satisfying her curiosity. She put her arm through Dete's in a confidential sort of way, and said: "I know I can find out the real truth from you, and the meaning of all these tales that are afloat about him. I believe you know the whole story. Now do just tell me what is wrong with the old man, and if he was always shunned as he is now, and was always such a misanthrope."

"How can I possibly tell you whether he was always the same, seeing I am only six-and-twenty and he at least seventy years of age; so you can hardly expect me to know much about his youth. If I was sure, however, that what I tell you would not go the whole round of Prättigau, I could relate all kinds of things about him; my mother came from Domleschg, and so did he."

"Nonsense, Dete, what do you mean?" replied Barbel, somewhat offended, "gossip has not reached such a dreadful pitch in Prättigau as all that, and I am also quite capable of holding my tongue when it is necessary."

"Very well then, I will tell you—but just wait a moment," said Dete in a warning voice, and she looked back to make sure that the child was not near enough to hear all she was

都称老头儿为“阿尔姆大叔”，很显然，他不可能是每个人的叔叔，巴贝尔只管像别人一样，习惯地称他为“大叔”。巴贝尔不久以前才结婚，在结婚前她是不住在德夫里的，而是住在山下的普拉蒂格，因此她不知道这个村子曾发生过的事情，对那儿的村民也不熟悉。与此相反，笛蒂生长在德夫里，直到前年母亲去世，她才离开村子，去雷格兹的巴斯当了旅馆服务员。今天早晨，她带着孩子从雷格兹远道而来，一位朋友让她们搭了一辆拉干草的车，把她们送到了梅恩菲尔德村庄。巴贝尔的好奇心一直得不到满足，这次她可不想错过机会，于是就亲密地挽着笛蒂的胳膊说：“我知道可以从你这儿打听到真相，弄清流传着的所有那些有关他的故事是怎么回事。你一定很清楚，告诉我吧，老头儿怎么回事？他以前也像现在这样躲着人，一直是个厌世者吗？”

“看你说的，我怎么可能知道他是否一直这样呢。今年我才二十六岁，他至少七十岁了，别指望我对他年轻时候的事都了如指掌。不过，如果你能保证我跟你说的话不会传遍普拉蒂格，我就把关于他的各种事都说说。他跟我妈妈一样，都是多姆莱斯人。”

“废话，笛蒂，你是什么意思啊？”巴贝尔有些不高兴了，“长舌妇在普拉蒂格还没有那么大能耐，况且我在必要的时候还是能管住自己舌头的。”

“那好，我就说给你听，但得等一下。”笛蒂语气严肃地说。她回头看了看，孩子不能跟得太近，那样会听到她

going to relate; but the child was nowhere to be seen, and must have turned aside from following her companions some time before, while these were too eagerly occupied with their conversation to notice it. Dete stood still and looked around her in all directions. The footpath wound a little here and there, but could nevertheless be seen along its whole length nearly to Dörfli; no one, however, was visible upon it at this moment.

"I see where she is," exclaimed Barbel, "look over there!" and she pointed to a spot far away from the footpath. "She is climbing up the slope yonder with the goatherd and his goats. I wonder why he is so late today bringing them up. It happens well, however, for us, for he can now see after the child, and you can the better tell me your tale."

"Oh, as to the looking after," remarked Dete, "the boy need not put himself out about that; she is not by any means stupid for her five years, and knows how to use her eyes. She notices all that is going on, as I have often had occasion to remark, and this will stand her in good stead some-day, for the old man has nothing beyond his two goats and his hut."

"Did he ever have more?" asked Barbel.

"He? I should think so indeed," replied Dete with animation; "he was owner once of one of the largest farms in Domleschg. He was the elder of two brothers; the younger was a quiet, orderly man, but nothing would please the other but to play the grand gentleman and go driving about the country and mixing with bad company, strangers that nobody knew. He drank and gambled away the whole of his property, and when this became known to his mother and father they died, one shortly after the other, of sorrow. The younger brother, who was also reduced to beggary, went off in his anger, no one knew whither, while Uncle himself, having nothing now left to him but his bad name, also disappeared. For some time his whereabouts were unknown, *then some one found out that he had gone to Naples as a soldier*; after that nothing more was heard of him for twelve or fifteen years. At the end of that time he reappeared in

的话。可是后面却不见了孩子，她肯定早就自己走到别处去了，前面的两位只顾聊天，根本没察觉。笛蒂站在那儿向四周望去，小路虽说蜿蜒曲折，但靠近德夫里的一段还是能看全的，此时路上连个人影都不见。

“我知道她在哪儿，”巴贝尔叫道，“看那儿！”她指着远离小路的一个地方。“她跟羊倌和山羊一起往坡上爬呢。奇怪，羊倌今天怎么这么晚才赶羊呢？不过对我们来说正合适，他可以帮忙照看孩子，你正好给我讲讲。”

“说起照看来，”笛蒂评论起来，“羊倌没必要忙于照看她。这孩子已经五岁了，她可一点儿不笨，很有眼力见儿，我经常有机会看到，这对她有好处，因为老头儿除了两只山羊和一间草屋外，就一无所有了。”

“他以前还有什么吗？”巴贝尔问。

“他？我想肯定有的，”笛蒂眉飞色舞地说，“他曾是多姆莱斯最大的庄园主。他们兄弟两人，他是老大。弟弟性情恬静，彬彬有礼，哥哥却放荡不羁，花天酒地，常和一些不知哪儿来的狐朋狗友骑马四处闲逛，乐此不疲。他酗酒、赌博，很快将家产挥霍一空，父母知道后，相继悲伤地离开人世。被迫沦为乞丐的弟弟，一气之下，离家出走，杳无音信，而两手空空、只余恶名的阿尔姆大叔也失踪了。有一段时间，人们不知道他的去向，后来有人发现他去那不勒斯当了兵；随后就再也没有他的消息了。这样过了十二年或十五年，他突然出现在多姆莱斯，还带着

Domleschg, bringing with him a young child, whom he tried to place with some of his kinspeople. Every door, however, was shut in his face, for no one wished to have any more to do with him. Embittered by this treatment, he vowed never to set foot in Domleschg again, and he then came to Dörfli, where he continued to live with his little boy. His wife was probably a native of the Grisons, whom he had met down there, and who died soon after their marriage. He could not have been entirely without money, for he apprenticed his son, Tobias, to a carpenter. He was a steady lad, and kindly received by every one in Dörfli. The old man was, however, still looked upon with suspicion, and it was even rumoured that he had been forced to make his escape from Naples, or it might have gone badly with him, for that he had killed a man, not in fair fight, you understand, but in some brawl. We, however, did not refuse to acknowledge our relationship with him, my great-grandmother on my mother's side having been sister to his grandmother. So we called him Uncle, and as through my father we are also related to nearly every family in Dörfli, he became known all over the place as Uncle, and since he went to live on the mountain side he has gone everywhere by the name of Alm-Uncle."

"And what happened to Tobias?" asked Barbel, who was listening with deep interest.

"Wait a moment, I am coming to that, but I cannot tell you everything at once," replied Dete. "Tobias was taught his trade in Mels, and when he had served his apprenticeship he came back to Dörfli and married my sister Adelaide. They had always been fond of one another, and they got on very well together after they were married. But their happiness did not last long. Her husband met with his death only two years after their marriage, a beam falling upon him as he was working, and killing him on the spot. They carried him home, and when Adelaide saw the poor disfigured body of her husband she was so overcome with horror and grief that she fell into a fever from which she never recovered. She had always been rather delicate and subject to curious

个年幼的孩子。他想把孩子寄养在乡亲家里，可是大家的门都关得紧紧的，没人愿意和他打交道。他痛苦极了，发誓再不踏进多姆莱斯半步，领着孩子去德夫里住了下来。他妻子大概是格里森当地人，他们在那儿相遇并结了婚，婚后不久妻子就去世了。他当时不大可能穷得叮咛响，因为他能把儿子托比亚斯送到木匠那儿学徒。小伙子性情稳重，很得村里人喜爱。可人们对老头儿还是心存疑虑，甚至谣传他是被迫逃离那不勒斯的，否则后果不堪设想。就为这事，他还杀过一个人，当然不是因正义的战争，而是斗殴。我们并不否认与他的亲属关系；我的太姥是他奶奶的妹妹，所以我们称他大叔，我父亲这边与德夫里的每个家庭几乎都是亲戚，他这个大叔也就叫响了，由于他住在山上，人们就称他为阿尔姆大叔”。

“那托比亚斯呢？”巴贝尔听得入了迷，禁不住问道。

“别急，我就要讲到他了，吃饭还得一口一口地来呢，”笛蒂说，“托比亚斯在梅尔兹学了手艺，学徒期满，他回到德夫里，娶了我姐姐阿得蕾德。他们俩人一直互相倾慕，婚后更是恩爱甜蜜，相敬如宾。只可惜好景不长，结婚才两年，丈夫就死了。在他干活儿时，一根木槌子砸了下来，当场要了他的命。人们把他抬回家，阿得蕾德看到丈夫那已血肉模糊的尸体，惊恐万分，痛不欲生，她发起了高烧，再也没有恢复过来。她一向体弱，容易得怪

attacks, during which no one knew whether she was awake or sleeping. And so two months after Tobias had been carried to the grave, his wife followed him. Their sad fate was the talk of everybody far and near, and both in private and public the general opinion was expressed that it was a punishment which Uncle had deserved for the godless life he had led. Some went so far even as to tell him so to his face. Our minister endeavoured to awaken his conscience and exhorted him to repentance, but the old man grew only more wrathful and obdurate and would not speak to a soul, and every one did their best to keep out of his way. All at once we heard that he had gone to live up the Alm and did not intend ever to come down again, and since then he has led his solitary life on the mountain side at enmity with God and man. Mother and I took Adelaide's little one, then only a year old, into our care. When mother died last year, and I went down to the Baths to earn some money, I paid old Ursula, who lives in the village just above, to keep and look after the child. I stayed on at the Baths through the winter, for as I could sew and knit I had no difficulty in finding plenty of work, and early in the spring the same family I had waited on before returned from Frankfurt, and again asked me to go back with them. And so we leave the day after to-morrow, and I can assure you, it is an excellent place for me."

"And you are going to give the child over to the old man up there? It surprises me beyond words that you can think of doing such a thing, Dete," said Barbel, in a voice full of reproach.

"What do you mean?" retorted Dete. "I have done my duty by the child, and what would you have me do with it now? I cannot certainly take a child of five years old with me to Frankfurt. But where are you going to yourself, Barbel; we are now half way up the Alm?"

"We have just reached the place I wanted," answered Barbel. "I had something to say to the goatherd's wife, who