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北京外国语学院英语系编

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(第三册)

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Lesson Thirty - nine

Text

The Gift of Fire

The ancient Greeks told many stories to explain things of nature. They imagined a whole family of gods—creatures who were somewhat like humans but had great powers. These gods were said to live on Mount Olympus. The Greeks made up stories about each of the gods. One story, concerning Prometheus, presents the Greek explanation of how man got fire.

After Zeus became chief of all the gods on Mount Olympus, he sent for Prometheus, a god who had fought on his side and helped him win the war against his enemies. In gratitude for Prometheus's help, Zeus gave him great power. He sent him to earth and told him to make mortal man out of clay. When Prometheus had made his statues of men out of clay, said Zeus, he would come and breathe life into them. There were to be only men—no women or children.

Zeus told Prometheus to teach the mortals anything they needed to know in order to live. He was also to teach them the arts, so that they could build beautiful temples to honor the gods. There was, in fact, only one

thing he could not teach them.

"You may give the mortals any gift except the gift of fire," said Zeus. "Fire belongs to the gods only, and must be kept on Mount Olympus."

Prometheus was happy to be of service to man. He taught people how to make their own tools and how to build homes for themselves. He taught them how to plant and grow their own food, and how to use animals to make their work easier. He even taught them how to make music and how to paint. But without fire, life on earth was very difficult. Food had to be eaten raw; houses could not be kept warm. Tools had to be of stone, because there was no fire for working metal.

Athena, daughter of Zeus, had been watching over Prometheus and had helped him in his work. Now, because Prometheus was kind and wanted man to be comfortable on earth, he called upon Athena to help him get fire from Mount Olympus. She knew that Zeus was away and promised to lead Prometheus to Mount Olympus by a secret path.

Just as Prometheus arrived there, Apollo came back from his day's journey in his chariot of the sun. Prometheus lit a torch from the chariot and put the fire in a hollow stalk that he concealed under his cloak. Then he stole away without being seen by any of the gods and brought his fire to earth.

Prometheus knew that when fire was discovered to

have been stolen from the heavens Zeus would be very angry and would punish him severely. But he also knew that, powerful as Zeus was, once a god had given a gift it could not be taken away. So he quickly taught the mortals to use the gift of fire.

Soon Zeus returned to Mount Olympus. Looking down to earth at night, he saw sparks of light from the earth, and he knew Prometheus had given man fire. Angrier than he had ever been before, he called his son Hephaestus, god of metalworking, and commanded:

"Go down to earth and capture Prometheus. Carry him to the great mountain at the edge of the world. Forge a metal chain that cannot be broken, and with this chain bind Prometheus to a rock and leave him there, with a vulture forever tearing at his vitals. He shall stay there always, for he is an immortal and cannot die. He will freeze in winter and be scorched in summer. He will be an example to any who dare to disobey the god of the heavens."

Sorrowfully, Hephaestus carried out his father's wishes. Because he had helped mankind, Prometheus stayed chained to the rock for many years. Then at last the mighty Hercules came forth and broke the chain forged by Hephaestus — but that is another of the wonderful stories of the Greeks.

New Words and Expressions

gift n.	礼物
fire [faɪə] n.	火
imagine [ɪ'mædʒɪn] v.	想象, 设想
god n.	神
somewhat adv.	稍微, 有点儿
concern [kən'sə:n] v.	与……有关
present [pri'zent] v.	提出
explanation n.	解释
Prometheus [prə'mi:θju:s] n.	普罗米修斯
gratitude ['grætɪtju:d] n.	感谢
mortal ['mɔ:tl] n.	人类, 会死的生物
clay n.	粘土
statue ['stætju:] n.	塑像
breathe [bri:ð] v.	呼吸, 注入
art n.	艺术
hono(u)r ['ɒnə] v.; n.	尊崇, 荣誉
service n.	服务, 帮忙
tool [tu:l] n.	工具
paint [peɪnt] v.	绘画, 油漆
raw [rɔ:] adj.	生的
metal n.	金属
comfortable ['kʌmfətəbl] adj.	舒服的
secret ['si:krit] adj.	秘密的
path [pɑ:θ] n.	小路, 径
chariot ['tʃæriət] n.	战车

torch n.	火把
hollow ['hɒləʊ] adj.	中间空的
stalk [stɔ:k] n.	茎; 梗
conceal [kən'si:l] v.	隐藏
cloak [kləʊk] n.	斗篷
steal stole, stolen v.	偷
angry ['æŋɡri] adj.	发怒的
discover v.	发现
heaven ['hevən] n.	天; 天堂
severely [si'viəli] adv.	严厉地
spark n.	火星
capture ['kæptʃə] v.	捕捉; 捉拿
edge [edʒ] n.	边缘
forge v.	锻铸; 铸造
chain n.; v.	链条; 锁住
bind [baɪnd] bound, bound v.	捆
vulture ['vʌltʃə] n.	兀鹰
vitals ['vaɪtlz] n.	身体的要害处
forever [fə'revə] adv.	永远地
immortal [i'mɔ:tl] n.	不死的人物(神)
freeze froze, frozen v.	结冰; 冻结
scorch ['skɔ:tʃ] v.	烧灼; 烧焦
example [ɪɡ'zɑ:mpl] n.	儆戒; 榜样
dare [deə] v.	胆敢
disobey ['disə'bei] v.	不服从; 违抗
sorrowfully ['sɒrəfʊli] adv.	悲伤地
mankind n. (无复数)	人类

forth [fɔ:θ] adv.

向前, 出外

come forth

出现

wonderful [ˈwʌndəfʊl] adj.

美妙的

Notes to the Text

1. These gods were said to live ... 传说这些神住在...。
“to be said” = “people say (said) that” 意为据说, 有人说, 传说等。如:
A strange new animal is said to have appeared in the Jingpo Lake in the northeast.
It is said that some more students from the French Department will be sent to study abroad before the end of the year.
2. Mount Olympus 奥林匹斯, 希腊最高的山, 高 9794 英尺。相传为古希腊诸神住地, Zeus 住在最高峰上。
3. Zeus [zju:s] 宙斯, 古希腊神话中的主神。他在兄弟姊妹, Hades, Poseidon 等的帮助下, 与凶猛的 Titans 泰坦族打仗多年, 最后得到独眼巨人 Cyclopes 的帮助, 战胜 Titans, 统一宇宙。他派 Hades 管地狱, Poseidon 为海神, 自己主宰宇宙, 权力最大。
4. Prometheus's help 名词构成所有格时, 如单数名词以 s 结尾, 多半加 “'s” 读作 [ɪz]。如复数名词以 s 或 es 结尾则只加 “'”, 读音不变。
如: Charles's [ˈtʃɑ:lɪzɪz] desk; Gauss's [ˈɡo:sɪz] method; the students' club; the workers' life
5. Food had to be eaten raw. 食物只能吃生的。这里的 raw 是形容词, 用作主语 food 的补语。下面一句

Houses could not be kept warm. 也是同样的结构。

6. Athena [əˈθi:nə] 雅典娜, Zeus 的女儿, 是古希腊神话中的智慧女神。传说她给希腊人传授了纺织、造船、冶金、制鞋、雕刻等各种本领。雅典城就是由她而得名。
7. Apollo [əˈpəʊləu] 古希腊神话中的太阳神, 光明之神与文艺的保护神, 是主神 Zeus 的儿子。
8. Hephaestus [hiˈfi:stəs] 赫斐斯塔司, Zeus 和 Hera 之子, 跛足, 为火及冶炼之神。他替 Zeus 制造雷电, 替诸神制造武器。
9. powerful as Zeus was ... 虽然宙斯有这样大的权力 ... 注意句中连接词 as 的这种用法。它用来引导一个表示让步的状语从句, 意思是“虽然”, “尽管”。类似的例子如:

Late as it was, they went on with their work.

Much as I am interested in modern novels, I seldom have time to read them.

10. He shall stay there ... 这里第三人称用 shall, 是表示说话者的意愿或命令等。又如:

He shall go at once. 他必须马上走。

The enemy shall be wiped out completely.

敌人一定会被彻底消灭。

Word Study

live

1. v. — to be alive; to have life

If he goes on driving like a madman he won't live long.

An artist's works live beyond his death.

2. v.— to have one's home; to dwell

My uncle lives next door to us.

This house is not suitable to live in.

3. live on—to have as one's only food or income

Some animals live on meat, but some domestic
animals live on grass.

teach (taught, taught)

- v.— to give knowledge or skill to sb.

My father teaches English at a middle school.

He was never taught painting.

The father said he was going to teach his
naughty son a lesson.

- n.— teaching

We should study the teachings of the great
revolutionary leaders, and not just follow
blindly.

make (made, made)

1. v.— to have the qualities of

He would make a fine artist.

The hall would make a good theatre.

2. make of v.— to form; to change or produce

She made a skirt out of that piece of cloth.

The father wants to make a musician of his son.

What he said made him angry.

3. make up — v. to invent; to prepare

He made up such a story that everyone believed

him at first.

He made up another bottle of medicine.

The tea is made up from a mixture of several types.

promise

1. v. — to make a promise

I promised to return him the bicycle in good condition.

They promised that the work would be done the next week.

2. promising adj. — likely to be successful

He is a promising young man.

3. n.

She said she would keep her promise.

The boy is showing great promise as a baseball player.

carry

1. v. — to take up sth. and move it from one place to another

The woman was carrying a child in her arms.

The mailman carried a huge bag on his back.

2. v. — to do sth. or get it done; to fulfil

He carried out his father's wishes, left home and went to join the Army.

We must carry out the orders immediately.

3. carry on — v. to continue; to keep going

He carried on the task left behind by his

fellow students.

In spite of many difficulties he carried on the work to a victorious end.

Exercises

1. Fill in the blanks with the given verbs in their proper tenses and voice:

1) — How you (like) ancient Greek stories?
..... you (read) many of them?

— Oh, yes. I (be) interested in reading Greek stories since childhood, and now I (read) a story about Prometheus.

2) Wang Ping (speak) French quite well. She (study) French only for two years. She (begin) to read French novels in the original. She now (write) a letter in French to a friend of hers in Paris. She (write) this letter for more than an hour.

3) — How long you (be) in China, Mr. Smith?

— About three weeks. I (visit) several cities in the south and (come) to Beijing only last Thursday. I (give) lectures on population study during the past weeks and (learn) about some of China's population problems. I (be) glad that I

..... (learn) something about the problems in the Chinese population and (make) a number of Chinese friends.

4) Dear Wenying,

We just (move) into our new house. In fact, we (come) only three days ago. I (get) your letter at our old address but I (have) no time to answer it until now.

You ever (move) house? As you can imagine, we (work) hard putting the house in order. It (be) an exciting time for us, for we always (want) to live here on the outskirts of the town, only a stone's throw from open country. We now (finish) painting the rooms. Everything (be) in order by the end of the week. We (hope) you (come) and have dinner with us next Sunday.

We (look) forward to meeting you.

Yours,

Chenfang

2. Rewrite the following sentences, using the present perfect tense and making other necessary changes.

Model: Did you go to Yan'an last year?

Have you been to Yan'an in the past year?

- 1) I got to know him about ten years ago.
- 2) Did you ever go to Shanghai after our last meeting there?
- 3) My sister began to learn music when she was only five years old.
- 4) Both my grandparents died two years ago.
- 5) How many French films did you see after you came to our institute?
- 6) My family came to live in this house in the winter of 1973.
- 7) I saw him twice last week.
- 8) The speaker came here half an hour ago. Did you see him?

3. Turn the following into English:

- 1) 他们住在湖旁。
- 2) 解放后老王一家过上了好日子。
- 3) 在我家乡许多人靠打鱼为生。
- 4) 那些年的斗争使我认识到团结就是力量。
- 5) 他们用庄稼杆儿做肥料。
- 6) 这是什么东西做的?
- 7) 玛丽答应当约翰服役期满后嫁给他。
- 8) 如你一旦允诺下来,你就不应该失言。
- 9) 我们必须把新长征进行到底。
- 10) 当老师走后,小李继续做试验。
- 11) 如果贯彻了新政策,一定会有很大的变化。

4. Answer the following questions on the text:

- 1) Where was Mount Olympus and what do you

know about it?

- 2) Who was Zeus? What did he do to show his gratitude to Prometheus?
 - 3) What did Prometheus do for mankind? Was he allowed to teach men everything that god could do?
 - 4) Why didn't Zeus want men to have fire?
 - 5) Did Prometheus know that it was dangerous to disobey Zeus? Why did he steal fire for mankind then?
 - 6) How did Prometheus succeed in bringing fire to the earth?
 - 7) Did Zeus try to take fire back from the earth? Why didn't he?
 - 8) Did he punish Prometheus for disobeying him? How did Prometheus suffer from the severe punishment?
5. Topics for oral practice:
- 1) What do you think of the two Greek gods—Zeus and Prometheus—after reading this story?
 - 2) Tell briefly one of the ancient Greek or Chinese stories you have read about.

Lesson Forty

Text

Now He Belongs to the Ages

Probably the most tragic day in the history of the United States was Good Friday, April 14, 1865. On the evening of that day, President Abraham Lincoln went to Ford's Theater in Washington D.C., to see a performance of a popular play—and never returned.

The day had started out normally enough for the President, with the usual round of office duties. The city of Washington was still in a happy mood. Flags flew across the streets and from many private and government buildings. The war had ended only a few days before, and the people continued to celebrate.

The President enjoyed going to the theater and went very often. Sometimes he even went to the theater without a guard attending him. He had been criticised for this, because of the possible danger to himself. But the President's answer had been: "I go simply because I must have change. I laugh because I must not weep; that's all."

Yet Lincoln had no wish to attend the theater this evening. He was physically worn out. The problems of