

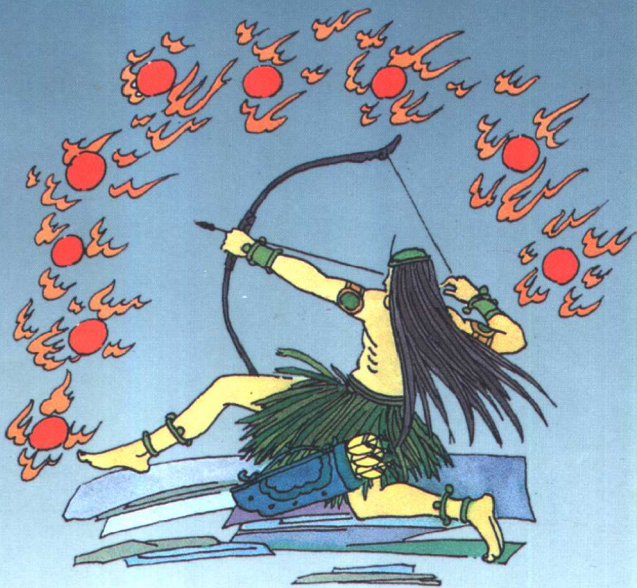
• 英汉对照 • 英汉对照 •

王建红 编译
金 辉

东方出版中心

ENGLISH—CHINESE
A CHOICE SELECTION
OF ENGLISH MYTHS

英语神话精选



英语神话——英语神话

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前 言

本书选收神话故事 40 篇,其中包括神话王国中的奇葩希腊—罗马神话,以及北欧、凯尔特、中美洲、澳洲、埃及、巴比伦和亚述、印度、日本等国家和地区的神话故事。这些神话故事虽根植于不同的文化背景之中,但描述的对象却往往惊人的相似,多是那些令昔日的人们心存畏惧而又无比崇敬的自然神力,它们化身为创造和主宰着世界万物的各种各样的神灵,以及代表着邪恶力量的魔鬼;征服艰险、创造奇迹的人间英雄,也是这些神话故事所描绘的一个重要内容;另外,还有一些与人类关系密切的各种动物的来源的传说,也在神话故事之列。这些神话故事内容丰富,风格各异,表现出人类丰富的想象力,反映了世界各民族的人们在人类社会进程中对自身和世界万物的探索,对自然灾害的畏惧,以及对幸福生活的渴望。它们呈现出多姿多彩的风土人情画面,诸多神灵、英雄和动物的形象栩栩如生,呼之欲出。

本书将不同地区、不同民族的神话收集在一起,目的是让读者对世界神话故事有一个比较全面的了解。采用英汉对照的形式编排,则是期于对读者提高英汉翻译水平有所裨益。由于我们学力不足,水平有限,错误失当之处在所难免,尚请专家学者和广大读者不吝指教。

在本书编译过程中,我们得到了朱伯良教授不遗余力的修改和帮助、唐振邦教授的大力支持。谨在此表示最衷心的感谢。

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1997年12月

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The Creation of Man

Greece and Rome

The Greeks have several stories about how man came to be. One declares that he was created in the age of Kronos, or Saturn, who ruled before Zeus. At that time, the legend says, there was no sorrow, toil, sickness, or age. Men lived their lives in plenty and died as though they went to sleep. They tilled no ground, built no cities, killed no living thing, and among them war was unknown. The earth brought forth strawberries, cherries, and ears of wheat for them. Even on the bramble bushes grew berries good to eat. Milk and sweet nectar flowed in rivers for men to drink, and honey dripped from hollow trees. Men lived in caves and thickets, needing little shelter, for the season was always spring.

Another legend declares that Zeus conceived of animals first and he entrusted their creation to Prometheus and Epimetheus, his brother. First, Epimetheus undertook to order all things, but he was a heedless person and soon got into trouble. Finally he was forced to appeal to Prometheus.

“What have you done?” asked Prometheus.

“Down on the earth,” answered his brother, “there is a green, grassy clearing, ringed by tall oak trees and shaded by steep slopes from all but the mid-day sun. There I sat and the animals came to me, while I gave to each the gifts which should be his from this time forward. Air I gave to the birds, seas to the fishes, land to four-footed creatures and the creeping insects, and to some, like the moles, I gave burrows beneath the earth.”

“That was well done,” answered Prometheus. “What else did you do?”

“Strength,” said Epimetheus, “I gave to lions and tigers, and the fierce animals of the woods. Size I gave to others like the great whales of the sea. The deer I made swift and timid, and the insects I made tiny that they might escape from sight. I gave warm fur to the great bears and the little squirrels, keen eyes and sharp talons to the birds of prey, tusks to the elephant, hide to the wild boar, sweet songs and bright feathers to the birds. To each I gave some special excellence, that whether large or small, kind or terrible, each might live in his own place, find food, escape enemies, and enjoy the wide world which is his to inhabit.”

“All this is very good,” said his brother, Prometheus. “You have done well. Wherein lies your trouble?”

"Because I did not think it out beforehand," said the heedless brother sadly, "I did not count how many animals there were to be before I started giving. Now when I have given all, there comes one last animal for whom I have neither skill nor shape, nor any place to dwell in. Everything has been given already."

"What is this animal," said Prometheus, "who has been forgotten?"

"His name," said Epimetheus, "is Man."

Thus it was that the future of man was left to Prometheus, who was forced to make man different from all other creatures. Therefore he gave him the shape of the gods themselves and the privilege of walking upright as they do. He gave him no special home, but made him ruler over the whole earth, and over the sea and air. Finally, he gave him no special strength or swiftness, but stole a spark from heaven and lighted a heavenly fire within his mind which should teach him to understand, to count, to speak, to remember. Man learned from it how to build cities, tame animals, raise crops, build boats, and do all the things that animals cannot. Prometheus also kindled fire on earth that man might smelt metals and make tools. In fact, from this heavenly fire of Prometheus all man's greatness comes.

Before this time fire was a divine thing and

belonged only to the gods. It was one of their greatest treasures, and Zeus would never have given Prometheus permission to use it in the creation of man. Therefore when Prometheus stole it, Zeus was furious indeed. He chained Prometheus to a great, lofty rock, where the sun scorched him by day and the cruel frost tortured him by night. Not content with that, he sent an eagle to tear him, so that, though he could not die, he lived in agony. For many centuries Prometheus hung in torment, but he was wiser than Zeus, and by reason of a secret he had, he forced Zeus in later ages to set him free. By then, also, Zeus had learned that there is more in ruling than power and cruelty. Thus, the two at last were friends.

人类的起源

希腊和罗马

关于人类的起源，希腊人有很多传说故事。一种传说是，人是在宙斯统治之前的克罗诺斯——亦称萨杜恩——时代创造出来的。传说那时人既没有痛苦、辛劳、疾病，也不会变老。人们过着丰衣足食的生活，死去就像睡着了一样。他们不耕地，不筑城，不杀生，也不知道什么是战争。大地给他们培育了草莓、樱桃和麦穗。甚至连有刺灌木也结着可口的浆果。河里流着供人饮用的牛奶和甜酒，空心树滴着蜂蜜。人们居住在洞穴和灌木丛中，因为那时四季如春，不需要什么遮蔽之所。

另一种传说是，宙斯首先设计出动物，他委托普罗米修斯和他的弟弟厄庇米修斯制造动物。起先，由厄庇米修斯负责安排一切。但他是个做事欠考虑的人，所以很快便遇到了麻烦。最后他只得求助于普罗米修斯。

“你都干了些什么？”普罗米修斯问道。

“地球上，”他的弟弟回答道，“有一块草儿青青的空地，四周长满了高大的橡树，在陡坡的遮挡下，只有正午的阳光才能照射到。我坐在那儿，动物都走到我的面前。我把礼物分给它们。谁得到的礼物就永远属于谁。我把天空给了鸟，把大海给了鱼，把

大地给了四脚动物和爬行昆虫。我把地洞给了鼯鼠等。”

“做得很好。”普罗米修斯回答道。“你还做了些什么呢？”

厄庇米修斯回答说：“我把力量给了狮子、老虎和森林里的其他猛兽，把巨大的身躯给了大海里的大鲸鱼等。我使鹿胆小而敏捷，使昆虫长得十分微小，不易被发现。我把温暖的皮毛给了大狗熊和小松鼠，把敏锐的眼睛和尖利的爪子给了食肉猛兽，把长牙给了大象，把厚皮给了野猪，把甜美的歌声和艳丽的羽毛给了鸟儿。我让他们各有所长，不论大小，也不论善恶，都要生活在各自的领地上。在那里，它们可以寻找食物，逃避敌人，在它们所栖息的广阔天地中尽情享受。”

“这都很好，”哥哥普罗米修斯说。“你做得很好。你有什么麻烦呢？”

“由于我事先没有考虑周到，”粗心的弟弟沮丧地说，“在分礼物之前没有计算一下到底有多少动物，礼物分完之后还留下一只动物，我既无法给它技能、形状，也无法给它居住的地方了。什么都给分掉了。”

“那是什么动物？”普罗米修斯说，“你忘记谁了？”

厄庇米修斯回答说：“它的名字叫人。”

于是人的命运就落在普罗米修斯的手里了。他得使人不同于所有的其他动物。因此他把神自身的模样赋予人，还把神才有的直立行走的特权也赋予

人。他没有给予人特定的居所，却使他们成了整个大地、海洋和天空的主宰者。他没有给予人特殊的力量或敏捷的身手，却从天上偷了一朵火花，在人的头脑中点燃了一把圣火，使人懂得如何理解、计算、说话和记忆。圣火使人懂得了怎样筑城、驯养动物、种庄稼、造船舶以及做动物不会做的任何事情。普罗米修斯还在地球上点起了火，以便让人能够熔化金属、制造工具。事实上，人之所以伟大，完全是由于有了普罗米修斯那把圣火的缘故。

以前，火是神圣的，它只属于神，是神最宝贵的东西之一，宙斯是决不允许普罗米修斯用火创造人的。所以普罗米修斯偷了火之后，宙斯大发雷霆。他把普罗米修斯用链条锁在一块巨岩上，让他日晒夜露，备受煎熬。宙斯仍不能平息怒火，又派了一只鹰去啄他，让他活受罪。普罗米修斯一直被吊着受了许多世纪的折磨，可他到底比宙斯聪明，利用了掌握的一个秘密迫使宙斯后来释放了他。那时，宙斯也明白了统治不能只靠权势和残酷的道理。宙斯和普罗米修斯后来成了好朋友。