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THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

英美文学精品译注丛书



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THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

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《睡谷传说》

华盛顿·欧文,1783年生于纽约市,名字取自乔治·华盛顿的姓。当时,纽约市人口不足25,000,哈得逊河流域还是一片荒芜。他小时候曾多次游哈得逊河。因为他自己说过,他“总是喜欢观赏新的风景,观察奇异的人物和风俗,设法熟悉那里历史上或寓言中的一切名胜古迹……知道所有发生过谋杀、抢劫或闹过鬼的地方。”他没有多少时间上学,对上学也没有什么兴趣。

他年轻时因身体欠佳被家人送到欧洲疗养,曾在欧洲尤其在意大利、法国和英国漫游。后来,大部分时间都在伦敦经商,还在那里结识了世界著名作家司各特爵士。正是司各特激起了他对美国民间故事的兴趣。在这一兴趣驱使下,他创作了本书收录的故事和同样著名的故事《瑞普·凡·温克尔》。后者描述了瑞普·凡·温克尔在美国革命前睡去,一睡20年,醒来后发现一个崭新的世界。欧文创作了许多作品,包括《哥伦布传》、《乔治·华盛顿传》和著名的《纽约外史》。他是美国第一个获得国际声誉的作家。

欧文1859年逝世,葬在睡谷附近。

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THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

Found Among the Papers of the Late Diedrich Knickerbocker

*A pleasing land of drowsy head it was,
Of dreams that wave before the half-shut eye;
And of gay castles in the clouds that pass,
For ever flushing round a summer sky.*

CASTLE OF INDOLENCE

In the bosom of one of those spacious coves which indent the eastern shore of the Hudson, at that broad expansion of the river denominated by the ancient Dutch navigators the Tappan Zee, and where they always prudently shortened sail, and implored the protection of St. Nicholas when they crossed, there lies a small market town or rural port, which by some is called Greensburgh, but which is more generally and properly known by the name of Tarry Town. This name was given, we are told, in former days, by the good housewives of the adjacent country, from the inveterate propensity of their husbands to linger about the village

THE LEGEND : a fantastic story

SLEEPY : peaceful, calm. **HOLLOW** : valley

Papers : documents. **Late** : who has died recently

pleasing : attractive and good. **drowsy** : sleepy. **it was** : *note poetic word order*. **wave** : move. **half-shut** : half closed; *here*, sleepy. **gay** : happy, joyful. **pass** : go by.

flushing : moving quickly. **round** : around.

INDOLENCE : laziness.

In the bosom : in the middle. **spacious** : large. **coves** : bays.

indent : cut irregularly. **Hudson** : name of river. **broad** : wide.

denominated : named. **Dutch** : people from Holland. **navigators** : sailors. **prudently** : carefully. **shortened** : took in.

sail : cloth used to catch wind on boat. **implored** : begged.

lies : is. **by some called** : *note inversion*.

properly : correctly. **known by the name** : is called.

former days : long ago.

housewives : women who work at home. **adjacent** : neighboring.

inveterate : continuing, fixed. **propensity** : tendency. **to linger** : to not go away.

tavern on market days. Be that as it may, I do not vouch for the fact, but merely advert to it, for the sake of being precise and authentic. Not far from this village, perhaps about two miles, there is a little valley, or rather lap of land, among high hills, which is one of the quietest places in the whole world. A small brook glides through it, with just murmur enough to lull one to repose; and the occasional whistle of a quail or tapping of a woodpecker is almost the only sound that ever breaks in upon the uniform tranquility.

I recollect that, when a stripling, my first exploit in squirrel shooting was in a grove of tall walnut trees that shades one side of the valley. I had wandered into it at noontime, when all nature is peculiarly quiet, and was startled by the roar of my own gun, as it broke the Sabbath stillness around, and was prolonged and reverberated by the angry echoes. If ever I should wish for a retreat, whither I might steal from the world and its distractions and dream quietly away the remnant of troubled life, I know of none more promising than this little valley.

From the listless repose of the place, and the peculiar character of its inhabitants, who are descendants from the original Dutch settlers, this sequestered glen has long been known by the name of SLEEPY HOLLOW, and its rustic lads are called the Sleepy Hollow Boys throughout all the neighboring country. A drowsy, dreamy influence seems to hang over the land, and to pervade the very atmosphere. Some say that the place was bewitched by a high German doctor during the early days of the settlement; others, that an old Indian chief, the prophet or wizard of his tribe, held his powwows there before the country was discovered by Master Hendrick Hudson. Certain it is, the place still continues under the sway of some witching power that holds a spell over the minds of the good people, causing them to walk in a continual reverie. They are given to all kinds of marvelous beliefs, are subject to trances and

tavern : pub. **Be that as it may** : in any case. **vouch for** : guarantee. **merely** : only. **advert** : mention. **for the sake of** : in order to be. **authentic** : truthful.
lap : small area.

brook : stream, small river. **glides** : flows. **murmur** : make soft noise. **to lull** : to relax. **repose** : sleep. **whistle** : sharp sound. **quail** : chicken-like bird. **tapping** : hammering. **woodpecker** : bird that hammers on trees. **uniform** : constant.

recollect : remember. **stripling** : boy. **squirrel** : small animal. **shooting** : hunting. **grove** : group of trees. **shades** : covers. **wandered into** : arrived by chance. **noontime** : midday, noon. **peculiarly** : strangely. **startled** : surprised. **roar** : boom. **Sabbath** : Sunday. **stillness** : quiet, peace.

prolonged : extended. **reverberated** : echoed. **retreat** : a place where one can live in peace. **steal** : go away from. **distractions** : worries.

dream ... life : live for the rest of my life in peace.

I know ... little valley : I do not know of a better place than this little valley. **listless repose** : deep sleep. **peculiar** : strange. **inhabitants** : people who live there. **descendants** : who come from. **settlers** : people who come to a new area. **sequestered** : hidden. **glen** : valley. **rustic** : of the country.

lads : boys. **throughout** : everywhere

neighboring : near by. **drowsy** : sleepy. **dreamy** : like a dream. **to hang over** : to be over, to influence. **pervade** : to be everywhere. **atmosphere** : air. **bewitched** : controlled with magic.

early ... settlement : when people first came to the area.

wizard : a male witch. **tribe** : social group.

powwows : meetings where spirits are called.

Master : *title of respect*. **Certain it is** : *note inversion*.

under the sway : to be dominated by. **witching** : magical.

holds a spell over : to control with magic. **causing** : making.

reverie : dream. **given to** : in the habit of.

marvelous : wonderful, strange. **trances** : a dreamy state.

visions, and frequently see strange sights, and hear music and voices in the air. The whole neighborhood abounds with local tales, haunted spots, and twilight superstitions; stars shoot and meteors glare oftener across the valley than in any other part of the country, and the nightmare, with her whole ninefold, seems to make it the favorite scene of her gambols.

The dominant spirit, however, that haunts this enchanted region and seems to be commander-in-chief of all the powers of the air is the apparition of a figure on horseback without a head. It is said by some to be the ghost of a Hessian trooper, whose head had been carried away by a cannon ball, in some nameless battle during the Revolutionary War, and who is ever and anon seen by the country folk, hurrying along in the gloom of night, as if on the wings of the wind. His haunts are not confined to the valley, but extend at times to the adjacent roads, and especially to the vicinity of a church at no great distance. Indeed, certain of the most authentic historians of those parts, who have been careful in collecting and collating the floating facts concerning this specter, allege that the body of the trooper, having been buried in the churchyard, the ghost rides forth to the scene of battle in nightly quest of his head; and that the rushing speed with which he sometimes passes along the Hollow, like a midnight blast, is owing to his being belated, and in a hurry to get back to the churchyard before daybreak.

Such is the general purport of this legendary superstition, which has furnished materials for many a wild story in that region of shadows; and the specter is known, at all the country firesides, by the name of the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow.

It is remarkable that the visionary propensity I have mentioned is not confined to the native inhabitants of the valley, but is unconsciously imbibed by everyone who

visions : the seeing of something that is not really present.
whole : entire. **neighborhood** : local area. **abounds** : is filled with. **haunted** : visited by ghosts. **twilight** : time just before night.
shoot : fall. **glare** : make a bright light. **oftener** : more often.
nightmare : the goddess of bad dreams.
ninefold : nine parts.
gambols : wanderings, moving about playfully.
spirit : ghost. **haunts** : visits. **enchanted** : charmed.
commander-in-chief : most important leader.
apparition : ghost, spirit. **horseback** : riding a horse.

Hessian trooper : German mercenary soldier.
cannon : big gun.
ever and anon : now and then.
folk : people. **gloom** : darkness.
haunts : the places that he visits. **confined** : restricted.
adjacent : neighboring.
the vicinity : the area near.
Indeed : in fact. **authentic** : truthful, accurate.
collating : putting together.
floating facts : facts that do not seem connected. **specter** : ghost.
allege : claim, say. **trooper** : soldier. **churchyard** : area around the church. **forth** : out. **quest** : search.
rushing speed : great speed.
passes : goes. **blast** : strong wind. **owing to** : because of.
belated : late. **to get back** : return.
daybreak : the beginning of the day, sunrise.
purport : meaning. **legendary superstition** : fantastic belief
furnished : provided. **many a** : many.
region of shadows : area without much light. **specter** : ghost.
firesides : place in front of fire. **Headless** : without a head.
Horseman : man who rides a horse.
remarkable : to be noted. **visionary propensity** : tendency to see strange things. **native inhabitants** : people born there.
unconsciously : without them noticing. **imbibed** : taken in.

resides there for a time. However wide awake they may have been before they entered that sleepy region, they are sure, in a little time, to inhale the witching influence of the air, and begin to grow imaginative—to dream dreams and see apparitions.

I mention this peaceful spot with all possible laud; for it is in such little retired Dutch valleys, found here and there embosomed in the great State of New York, that population, manners, and customs remain fixed; while the great torrent of migration and improvement, which is making such incessant changes in other parts of this restless country, sweeps by them unobserved. They are like those little nooks of still water which border a rapid stream, where we may see the straw and bubble riding quietly at anchor, or slowly revolving in their mimic harbor, undisturbed by the rush of the passing current. Though many years have elapsed since I trod the drowsy shades of Sleepy Hollow, yet I question whether I should not still find the same trees and the same families vegetating in its sheltered bosom.

In this by-place of nature there abode, in a remote period of American history, that is to say, some thirty years since, a worthy wight of the name of Ichabod Crane, who sojourned, or, as he expressed it, "tarried," in Sleepy Hollow, for the purpose of instructing the children of the vicinity. He was a native of Connecticut, a State which supplies the Union with pioneers for the mind as well as for the forest, and sends forth yearly its legions of frontier woodsmen and country schoolmasters. The cognomen of Crane was not inapplicable to his person. He was tall, but exceedingly lank, with narrow shoulders, long arms and legs, hands that dangled a mile out of his sleeves, feet that might have served for shovels, and his whole frame most loosely hung together. His head was small, and flat at top, with huge ears, large green glassy eyes, and a long snipe nose, so that it looked like a weathercock, perched upon his spindle neck,

resides : lives. **However wide ... before they entered** : it does not matter how completely awake they were before they came.
sure : certain. **inhale** : breath in. **witching** : magical.
to grow : to become. **to dream dreams** : *note construction*.
apparitions : ghosts. spirits, phantoms, specters.
spot : place. **laud** : praise, admiration. **for** : because.
such : this kind. **retired** : hidden.
embosomed : enclosed, within the boundaries.
manner : way of acting, doing things. **torrent** : flood, river.
migration : movement from one place to another.
incessant : that never stops. **restless** : that always moves.
sweeps by : goes by quickly
nooks : corners. **still** : not moving. **border** : are on the edge.
straw : dried grass. **bubble** : empty ball of water filled with air. **at anchor** : fixed. **revolving** : turning. **mimic** : false.
rush : fast flow. **current** : stream.
elapsed : gone. **trod** : walked. **shades** : area protected from the sun. **yet ... still find** : but I think I would probably still find.
vegetating : living well. **sheltered bosom** : protected place.
by-place : isolated place. **abode** : lived. **remote** : a long time ago. **some** : about. **since** : ago.
worthy : good. **wight** : person. **sojourned** : lived
expressed : said. **tarried** : did not leave.
instructing : teaching. **vicinity** : neighborhood.
a native of : born in.
pioneers : people who explore and go to unknown places.
forth : out. **legions** : big groups. **frontier** : limits of a country.
schoolmaster : teacher. **cognomen** : last name. **Crane** : his name. but also a tall, thin bird. **not inapplicable** : applied here; appropriate. **his person** : his physical appearance. **lank** : thin.
dangled : hung loosely. **sleeves** : cloth covering arms. **might have served for** : could have been used for. **shovels** : instrument used for digging. **frame** : body. **most** : very. **huge** : big.
glassy : like glass. **snipe** : bird with a very long beak.
weathercock : instrument that indicates the direction of the wind.
spindle : very thin.

to tell which way the wind blew. To see him striding along the profile of a hill on a windy day, with his clothes bagging and fluttering about him, one might have mistaken him for the genius of famine descending upon the earth, or some scarecrow eloped from cornfield.

His schoolhouse was a low building of one large room, rudely constructed of logs, the windows partly glazed, and partly patched with leaves of old copy-books. It was most ingeniously secured at vacant hours by a withe twisted in the handle of the door and stakes set against the window shutters, so that, though a thief might get in with perfect ease, he would find some embarrassment in getting out; an idea most probably borrowed by the architect, Yost Van Houten, from the mystery of an eel pot. The schoolhouse stood in a rather lonely but pleasant situation, just at the foot of a woody hill, with a brook running close by, and a formidable birch tree growing at one end of it. From hence the low murmur of his pupils' voices, conning over their lessons, might be heard in a drowsy summer's day, like the hum of a beehive, interrupted now and then by the authoritative voice of the master, in the tone of menace or command, or, peradventure, by the appalling sound of the birch, as he urged some tardy loiterer along the flowery path of knowledge. Truth to say, he was a conscientious man, and ever bore in mind the golden maxim, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." Ichabod Crane's scholars certainly were not spoiled.

I would not have it imagined, however, that he was one of those cruel potentates of the school who joy in the smart of their subjects; on the contrary, he administered justice with discrimination rather than severity, taking the burthen off the backs of the weak, and laying it on those of the strong. Your mere puny stripling that winced at the least flourish of the rod was passed by with indulgence; but the claims of justice were satisfied by inflicting a double portion on