

英译东方故事

Aladdin

and Other Stories from
the Arabian Nights

天方夜谭故事

(简写本)



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· 英语童话故事

ALADDIN
AND OTHER STORIES FROM
THE ARABIAN NIGHTS
(Simplified)

天方夜谭故事

(缩写本)

北京外国语学院英语系
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本书简介

《天方夜譚》(我国古代記載称阿拉伯半島为“天方”)又名《一千零一夜》，在世界上流传极广。其中有些故事，如《神灯》，《阿利巴巴和四十大盜》等，尤为著名。

这个东方故事集是这样开始的：从前有一个暴君，每天要他的臣下，送一个美女給他做王后，第二天就把她杀掉，許多女子因此遭到惨死。宰相的女儿希哈拉扎(Sheherazade)自动要求去做一夜的王后。当晚婚礼之后，她就开始讲故事，讲了一夜还没有讲完，天快亮时，她把故事停住，請求处死。由于故事十分动听，国王决定等她第二晚故事讲完后，再行处死。但第二夜，故事又讲到紧张的关键，天就快亮了。这样一夜又一夜，連續讲了一千零一夜。这时，王后生了太子，于是国王立她永远为后。这智慧勇敢的希哈拉扎不但自己倖免于死，而且挽救了全城女子的性命。

原著《天方夜譚》是用阿拉伯文写的，其中多数故事是譯自古代波斯的《故事千篇》(实际上只有二百余篇)，同时又收入一些阿拉伯的民間故事，并逐漸积累而成。故事里面所反映的阿拉伯人民的生活习惯，宗教典礼等，大都是十三到十四世紀时的情况。其中大部分故事可能就是在這時写成文字。集子最后具备比較完整的形式，大約是在1600年左右，曾經何人整理，

已无可考。原著有許多版本，內容互有出入，可見並非出自一人手筆。

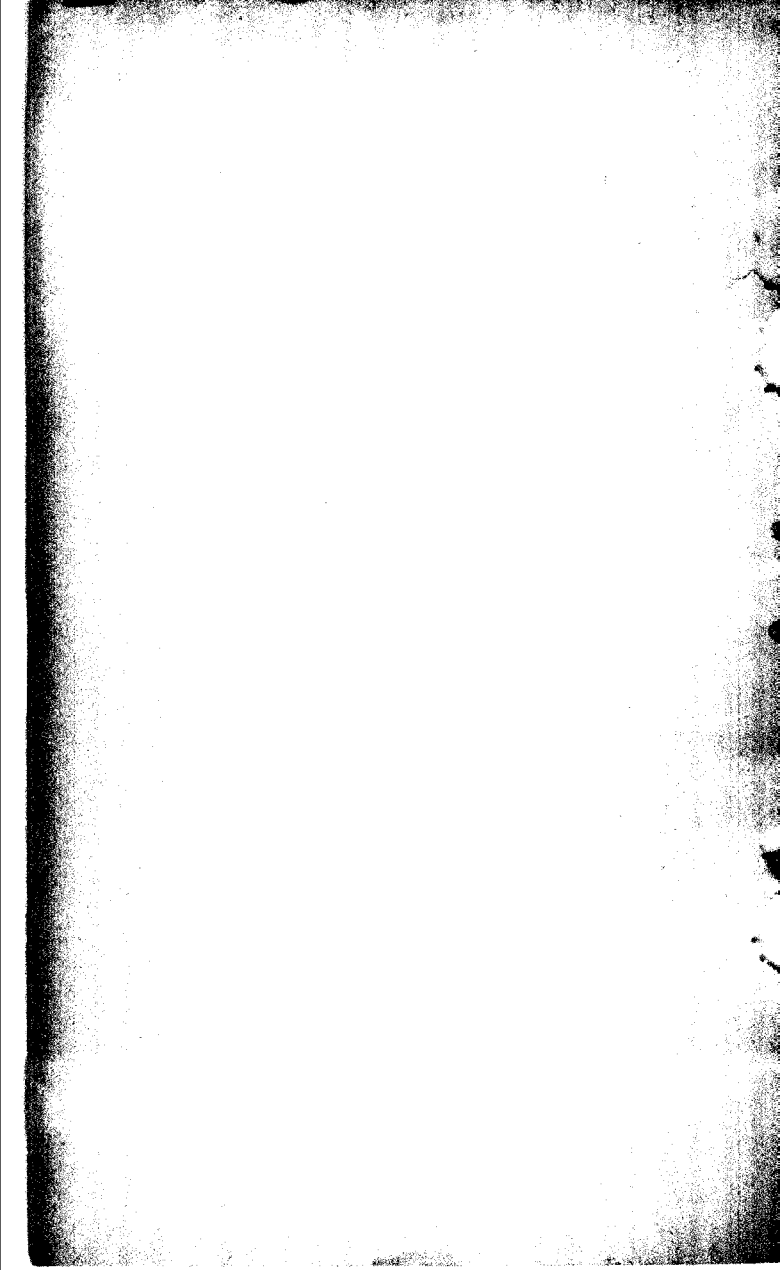
十八世紀初，法國學者喬楞 (Antoine Galland) 首先把《天方夜譚》譯成法文，於是這些故事開始在西歐流傳，很受讀者歡迎。以後陸續有了各種不同語文的譯本。比較有名的英譯本都是在十九世紀中葉以後出現的，如 Edward William Lane, Jane Payne, Richard F. Burton 等人的譯本。

此外，英美和其他各國都有許多根據《天方夜譚》一些故事編寫成的少年和兒童讀物。這些故事情節生動，富有想象力，為兒童和成年人所喜愛。

原著《天方夜譚》大約包括二百六十餘篇故事，長短不一。我們在這裡選收五篇，根據原來主要情節，稍加簡化，以英語常用詞匯和簡單句子結構編成故事，供初學英語者閱讀。書後附有英漢對照詞彙表。

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ALADDIN AND THE WONDERFUL LAMP

Part I

Aladdin¹ was the son of a poor tailor named Mustapha.² When he was ten years old, his father took him into his shop to teach him the trade.³ But Aladdin did not want to become a tailor. All day long he played in the streets with boys of his own age.

After a time⁴ Mustapha died, and his wife supported herself and her child by spinning cotton. They were very poor. Aladdin could not go to school or even learn a trade. He spent all his time away from home, returning only for his meals. In this way he carried on until he was fifteen years of age.

One day he was playing happily in the street as usual. A stranger, who was passing by, stopped and looked at him. This stranger was a foreign magician, who was in need of⁵ a helper. He went up to Aladdin, led him away

-
1. Aladdin [ə'kædɪn] — 人名.
 2. Mustapha ['mɑstəfə] — 人名.
 3. to teach him the trade — 教他(裁縫的)手藝.
 4. after a time — 过了一段时间.
 5. was in need of — 需要.

from the other boys and said, "My child, are you not the son of Mustapha, the tailor?"

"Yes, sir," replied Aladdin, "but my father is dead. He died a long time ago."

"Alas," said the magician, "what sad news! I am your uncle, your father's own brother. I have been away for many years. Now that I have come home, you tell me he is dead!"

Tears ran down the stranger's cheeks. He pulled out a purse¹ and gave Aladdin two pieces of gold. "Take these, my boy," he said, "and give them to your mother. Tell her that I will come to have dinner with you this evening. And now, my boy, show me the way to your house."

"Gladly, sir," replied Aladdin, and when he had pointed out the road to him, he ran home to his mother with the money.

"Mother," he cried, "have I an uncle?"

She told him he had not. Then Aladdin gave her the gold and told her that a man who said he was his father's brother was coming to dine with them that evening. The good woman was much surprised, but still she went to the market and bought all the food she needed. She was preparing the meal when the magician knocked at the door.

He greeted Aladdin's mother kindly and

1. pulled out a purse — 掏出一个钱包来。

begged her to show him where her husband used to sit. When the old woman showed him the place, he fell on his knees¹ and kissed the ground, crying out, "Oh, my poor brother, my poor brother!"

As soon as they sat down to supper, the magician began to tell Aladdin's mother about his travels. He said he had been away for forty years and had travelled to many countries. Then he turned to Aladdin and asked his name.

"I am called Aladdin," the boy replied.

"Well, Aladdin," said the magician, "what trade have you learned? How do you support yourself and your mother?"

Aladdin hung his head,² and his mother replied: "Aladdin knows nothing at all. His father tried to teach him the tailor's trade, but he refused to learn. Now I have to work day and night to keep us from starving.³ Aladdin is an idle fellow. He spends all his time in the streets. I do not think he will ever come to any good."⁴ And the widow burst into tears.⁵

"Are you not ashamed of yourself, Aladdin?" said the magician. "You must try to earn

1. fell on his knees — 跪下来。

2. hung his head — (因为羞愧而)垂头。

3. keep us from starving — 免于饥饿。

4. I do not think he will ever come to any good — 我想他总是没有出息。

5. burst into tears — 突然哭起来。

your living.¹ I will do all I can to help you. If you promise to be a good boy, I will open a shop for you. What do you think of the idea?"

This seemed an easy life, and Aladdin smiled at his uncle. "Well, then," said the magician, "come with me tomorrow. I will buy you some new clothes, and then we will go and look for a shop."

Now Aladdin's mother was convinced that the stranger was really her brother-in-law. She thanked him with all her heart and begged her son to obey his uncle in all things. Soon after supper the magician took his leave,² and that night Aladdin could hardly sleep for joy.

The stranger came again the next day and took Aladdin with him to the market place. After buying him some clothes he showed Aladdin round the city, and gave him a good dinner in the evening. When Aladdin came home that night, his mother was delighted to see how well he was dressed.

It happened that the following day was a holiday. The stranger came again, saying he would take Aladdin for a walk in the country and show him the fine parks and gardens. He promised to open a shop for Aladdin the day after.

1. to earn one's living — 自己养活自己。

2. to take one's leave — 告辞。

Hand in hand¹ they walked along until they reached the fine parks and tall palaces outside the city. Each building seemed to Aladdin more beautiful than the last. When they had gone a long way into the country, they sat down to rest by the side of a lake. The magician gave Aladdin some cakes and fruit to eat. Then they walked on until they came to a high mountain.

"Where are we going, uncle?" asked Aladdin, who had never walked so far in his life. "Let us go back, I am so tired!"

"Be a man,² my boy!" said the magician. "I will show you another garden far more beautiful than any of those you have seen." Aladdin thought he would like to see it; and the magician told him stories as they walked along, to make the way seem shorter and less tiring.

At last they arrived at a lonely spot in the woods. "We will go no further now," said the magician. "I am going to show you some strange things. Go and gather some dry sticks to make a fire³ with."

Aladdin soon came back with a great heap of dry sticks. The magician made a fire and spoke some strange words. At once the sky grew dark, and the ground opened up near the

1. hand in hand — 手挽手.

2. Be a man! — 你應該有些胆量才是.

3. to make a fire — 生火.

spot where they were standing. They saw a dark hole just big enough for a boy to get through.

Aladdin was frightened at all this and wanted to run away. But the magician caught hold of¹ him and gave him a heavy blow on the head. Poor Aladdin trembled and with tears in his eyes, cried, "Dear uncle, what have I done? Why did you give me such a blow?"

"I struck you to make a man of you,² my child," said the magician. "I am your uncle, your father's brother, and you must obey me. Now listen carefully to me. There is a treasure-house underground. Go down into the cave and do as I tell you. We will divide the hidden riches between us."

By this time Aladdin had dried up his tears. The magician went up to him and kissed him. "Nephew," he said, "you are dearer to me than a son. Besides you and your mother I have no other relatives in all the world. My dearest wish is to see you a fine, rich man." And then he gave Aladdin his directions.

"Now be careful, Aladdin," said the magician. "Do exactly as I tell you and omit nothing. Go down into the cave, and at the bottom of³ those steps you will see an open door leading

1. caught hold of... — 抓住...

2. to make a man of you -- 使你懂些事.

3. at the bottom of... — 在...的底下.

into three great halls. In each of these you will see great heaps of gold and silver. As you pass you must take care not to touch them. Be sure not to go near the walls or even to touch them with your clothes. If any part of your dress should touch them, you will at once be changed into a black stone.

“When you reach the end of the third hall you will find another door, which opens on a beautiful garden full of fruit-trees. Go into the garden and walk on until you come to a staircase of about thirty steps, leading up to the top of a wall. There you will find a shelf on which is a lighted lamp. Take down the lamp, blow it out,¹ and put it in your pocket. On your way back you may pause among the trees and pick any fruit and flowers you like.”

When the magician had finished speaking, he took a ring and put it on one of Aladdin's fingers. “This ring,” he said, “will protect you from all evil. Now go, my child, and be brave. In a few moments you shall be the richest man on earth.”

Aladdin jumped down into the cave, found all to be as the magician had said, and carefully obeyed his orders. When he had put the lamp into his pocket, he returned to the garden and stopped for the first time² to look upon the

1. blow it out — 把它(灯)吹熄.

2. for the first time — 首次.

trees and the birds among their branches. He wondered at the beauty of the fruit. There were many different shapes and colours, and he gathered some of every kind.

Aladdin did not know that all these fruits were really priceless jewels. The white were pearls; the sparkling kind were diamonds. The red were rubies, the green were emeralds. Aladdin took them for¹ coloured glass of little value. But he was so delighted with their beautiful colours that he gathered enough to fill all his pockets. Then he hurried through the three halls and climbed the staircase at the mouth of the cave, where the magician was anxiously waiting.

"Give me your hand, uncle," he shouted, "and help me to get out."

"Give me the lamp first," the magician replied.

"I cannot now," said Aladdin. "Just give me your hand, and you shall have the lamp as soon as I am up."

The magician still insisted on having the lamp² before he helped Aladdin out of the cave. But the lamp was covered with the fruit from the trees, and the boy could not easily find it

1. to take (a person or thing) for... — 把他 (它) 当作....

2. insisted on having the lamp — 坚持要灯.

until he got out of the cave. The magician thought that Aladdin wished to keep it for himself, and this made him very angry. He spoke a few magic words, and the earth closed over the cave.

Aladdin was terribly frightened. He shouted to his uncle for help. When there was no answer to his cries, he realized that he had been deceived, and that the stranger was no uncle of his.¹ He went down to the bottom of the steps. He thought he would go into the garden, but the door leading to it was now closed. He felt all around him to the right and the left,² but could not find any opening. Then he returned to the cave's mouth and threw himself on the steps. There he sat for three days in darkness, and finally gave up³ all hope of life. He joined his hands in prayer, and in so doing he rubbed the ring which the magician had given him. At once a genie of enormous size appeared before him.

"What do you wish?" said he to Aladdin. "I am ready to obey your orders. I am the slave of the man who wears the ring on his finger."

1. was no uncle of his — 本来就不是他的什么叔叔。

2. felt all around him to the right and the left — 左右摸索。

3. gave up — 放弃。

Aladdin was terrified to see the genie. But when he remembered the magician's words, his courage came back and he cried, "Slave of the ring, I order you to carry me out of the cave." And immediately he found himself above ground on the very spot where the magician had left him. He stood up trembling and made his way back to the city.¹ When he reached home he almost fainted.

His mother, who was heartbroken because he had not returned, received him joyfully and gave him food and drink. Then he told her all that had happened to him, and showed her the lamp and the coloured fruits and the wonderful ring on his finger. The old woman, however, thought little of the jewels,² for she also took them for³ coloured glass.

When Aladdin woke up the next morning, his first thought was that he was hungry and would like some breakfast.

"My dear boy," said his mother, "I have not a piece of bread to give you. Yesterday you ate all the food I had. But wait a little, I'll go and sell some cotton, and buy you something to eat with the money."

1. made his way back to the city — 回到城里去。

2. thought little of the jewels ['dʒu:ɪlz] — 对这些珠宝不加重视。

3. took them for... — 把它们当作....