

*The story of doctor Dolittle*

# 道里特医生的故事

鲁浮丁 (美) 著    兰守亭 席梅红 译

青海人民出版社

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## 内容提要

大约 1840 年的时候,英国某小镇上一位叫道里特的医生,他在鹦鹉的帮助下,不但能听懂动物说的话,而且还能用动物的语言和它们交流。有位老马由于眼睛近视,在地里干活的时候看不清路老是摔跤。可一个兽医却凭空猜测,认为它的脚有问题,一直给它开止疼片,然而它始终不见好。老马找到医生后,把情况给医生一讲,医生很快给它配了一副眼镜,彻底治好了它的病。这样,道里特医生的名声很快在动物界传播开来,成群结队的动物慕名前来看病……

小说内容曲折动人,情节扣人心弦,语言幽默,想象异常丰富。

## 第一章 帕多比

从前，也就是当我们的爷爷还是个小孩子的时候——有一个医生，他的名字叫道里特——约翰·道里特医学博士，医学博士意思就是一个非常合格的医生，他懂的很多。

2 他住在一个小镇里，这个小镇叫帕多比——是在一片沼泽地上。镇上的所有人，不论老的少的，一眼都会认出他。无论他什么时候戴着高帽子沿着街道走，每个人都会说道：“那里走着的医生啊，他是一个非常聪明的人。”孩子们和狗都会跑上去，跟在他后面，甚至住在教堂塔楼上的乌鸦也会叫着，向他点头致意。

他住的房子在小镇的边上，非常小，但他的花园却非常大，并有一个大草坪和几个石凳，里面还有几株垂柳。他的姐姐莎拉·道里特，是他的女管家，但花园是由医生自己照看着。

他非常喜欢动物，并养了许多种宠物。除了花园池塘里的金鱼，他的食品室里还有兔子，钢琴里有小白鼠，麻布做的衣橱里有一只小松鼠，地窖里有一只小刺猬。他还有一头带着小牛犊的母牛，一匹老瘸马——活了25年了。还有几只小鸡，几只鸽子，两只小羊羔，和许多其他的小动物。但他比较喜欢的宠物是鸭子戴布戴布，小狗基普，小猪高伯高伯，鹦鹉波丽尼西娅，猫头鹰秃秃。

他的姐姐经常抱怨这些动物，说他们把房子搞得乱七八糟。一

## Puddleby

ONCE upon a time, many years ago when our grandfathers were little children——there was a doctor; and his name was Dolittle - - John Dolittle, M. D. "M. D." means that he was a proper doctor and knew a whole lot.

He lived in a little town called, Puddleby - on - the - Marsh. All the folks, young and old, knew him well by sight. And whenever he walked down the street in his high hat everyone would say, "There goes the Doctor! ——He's a clever man." And the dogs and the children would all run up and follow behind him; and even the crows that lived in the church - tower would caw and nod their heads.

The house he lived in, on the edge of the town, was quite small; but his garden was very large and had a wide lawn and stone seats and weeping - willows hanging over. His sister, Sarah Dolittle, was housekeeper for him; but the Doctor looked after the garden himself.

He was very fond of animals and kept many kinds of pets. Besides the gold - fish in the pond at the bottom of his garden, he had rabbits in the pantry, white mice in his piano, a squirrel in the linen closet and a hedgehog in the cellar. He had a cow with a calf too, and an old lame horse - twenty - five years of age——and chickens, and pigeons, and two lambs, and many other animals. But his favorite pets were Dab - Dab the duck, Jip the dog, Gub - Gub the baby pig, Polynesia the parrot, and the owl Too - Too.

His sister used to grumble about all these animals and said they made the house untidy. And one day when an old lady with rheumatism came to see the Doctor, she sat on the hedgehog who was sleeping on

天，有位患风湿病的老女人来看病的时候，她坐在了正在沙发上睡觉的刺猬身上，后来这个女人再也不来看病了。从此她每星期六都要到奥森索普，相距十英里的另一个小镇，去找另一位医生看病。

然后，他的姐姐莎拉·道里特来到他身边，对他说道：

“约翰，你把这些动物放在屋里，你怎么让病人来看病呢？医生客厅里到处是刺猬和老鼠，真是太好玩了。那已经是第四个被动物气走的病人了。乡绅金肯斯和教区牧师说他们再也不到你屋里来看病了——不论他们病得多么严重。我们现在越来越穷了，如果你这样继续下去，上流社会的人士再不会找你看病了。”

可“与那些上流社会人士相比，我更喜欢动物啊。”医生说。

“你真是可笑。”他的姐姐说，并从房间里走了出来。

于是，随着时间的流逝，医生养的动物越来越多，来找他看病的人却越来越少，最后除了卖猫食的那位男子，没有一个剩下的。因为卖猫食的不在乎什么动物。但卖猫食的男子不太富裕，他一年只得一次病——而且都是在圣诞节的时候，他通常只花六便士向医生买一瓶药。

4 一年六便士是不够人们生活下去的——即使是在很久以前的那些日子。如果医生的贮钱箱里没有节省下来的钱的话，没人会知道还有什么事会发生。

他养的宠物越来越多。当然他需要花更多的钱来喂养他们。他积攒的钱也变得越来越少了。

最后他卖掉了钢琴，让老鼠住在了写字台的抽屉里。他卖掉钢琴的钱也渐渐花光了。于是他又卖掉了他礼拜天穿的棕色套装，他变得越来越穷了。

现在，当他戴着高帽子走在街上的时候，人们会交头接耳地说：“那里走着的是约翰·道里特医学博士！在西部地区他曾经是一个非常著名的医生——现在看看他——他一点钱都没有了，袜子上到处是窟窿。”



the sofa and never came to see him any more, but drove every Saturday all the way to Oxenthorpe, another town ten miles off, to see a different doctor.

Then his sister, Sarah Dolittle, came to him and said,

“John, how can you expect sick people to come and see you when you keep all these animals in the house? It’s a fine doctor would have his parlor full of hedgehogs and mice! That’s the fourth personage these animals have driven away. Squire Jenkins and the Parson say they wouldn’t come near your house again——no matter how sick they are. We are getting poorer every day. If you go on like this, none of the best people will have you for a doctor.”

“But I like the animals better than the ‘best people’,” said the Doctor.

“You are ridiculous,” said his sister, and walked out of the room.

So, as time went on, the Doctor got more and more animals; and the people who came to see him got less and less. Till at last he had no one left — except the Cat’s — meat — Man, who didn’t mind any kind of animals. But the Cat’s — meat Man wasn’t very rich and he only got sick once a year——at Christmas — time, when he used to give the Doctor sixpence for a bottle of medicine.

Sixpence a year wasn’t enough to live on—— even in those days, long ago; and if the Doctor hadn’t had some money saved up in his money — box, no one knows what would have happened.

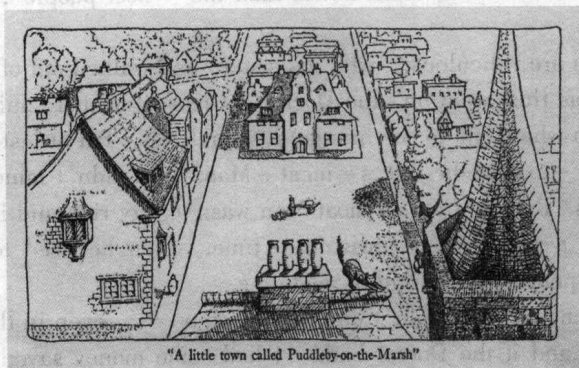
And he kept on getting still more pets; and of course it cost a lot to feed them. And the money he had saved up grew littler and littler.

Then he sold his piano, and let the mice live in a bureau — drawer. But the money he got for that too began to go, so he sold the brown suit he wore on Sundays and went on becoming poorer and poorer.

And now, when he walked down the street in his high hat, people would say to one another, “There goes John Dolittle, M. D. ! There was a time when he was the best known doctor in the West Country——

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但是小猫、小狗和孩子们仍会跑上去跟在他后面跑着，穿过街道——就像他富裕的时候做的那样。



Look at him now——He hasn't any money and his stockings are full of holes!"

But the dogs and the cats and the children still ran up and followed him through the town—the same as they had done when he was rich.

## 第二章 动物语言

一天，医生正在厨房里坐着与卖猫食的男子谈话，卖猫食的是由于胃痛来看病的。

“你为什么不放弃给人行医，改做一个动物医生呢？”卖猫食的男子问道。

鸚鵡波丽尼西娅一边透过窗户向外望着雨，一边给自己唱着水手之歌。她停下歌唱，开始倾听他们的谈话。

8 “你知道，医生，”卖猫食的男子继续说道，“关于动物，你比这里的所有兽医了解得都多得多，你写的那本关于猫的书——哎呀，它是多么了不起！我自己不会读或写——否则，我也要写几本书了。但我老婆，西奥多西娅，她是一个有学问的人——她确实是。她把你的书读给我听。真是，你真是了不起啊——那的确应该称作——了不起。简直好像你自己就是一只猫。你知道它们的各种想法。听我劝：给动物看病你能赚大钱。你听懂我的意思了吗？你知道，我会让所有有病狗和病猫的老太太都来找你看，如果它们得病没这么快的话，我会在卖给她们的猫食里放一些东西在里面，让它们得病，明白吗？”

“哦，不，”医生赶忙说，“你不要那样做，那样做是不对的。”

“哦，我的意思不是真病，”卖猫食的男子回答道，“只是弄点东西让它们无精打采。像我刚才说的那些东西。但是像你说的，也

## Animal Language

IT happened one day that the Doctor was sitting in his kitchen talking with the Cat's - meat - Man who had come to see him with a stomach - ache.

"Why don't you give up being a people's doctor, and be an animal - doctor?" asked the Cat's - meat - Man.

The parrot, Polynesia, was sitting in the window looking out at the rain and singing a sailor - song to herself. She stopped singing and started to listen.

"You see, Doctor," the Cat's - meat - Man went on, "you know all about animals——much more than what these here vets do. That book you wrote——about cats, why, it's wonderful! I can't read or write myself——or maybe I' D write some books. But my wife, Theodosia, she's a scholar, she is. And she read your book to me. Well, it's wonderful——that's all can be said——wonderful. You might have been a cat yourself. You know the way they think. And listen: you can make a lot of money doctoring animals. Do you know that? You see, I'd send all the old women who had sick cats or dogs to you. And if they didn't get sick fast enough, I could put something in the meat I sell 'em to make 'em sick, see?"

"Oh, no," said the Doctor quickly. "You mustn't do that. That wouldn't be right."

"Oh, I didn't mean real sick," answered the Cat's - meat - Man. "Just a little something to make them droopy - like was what I had

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许这样做对动物是不公平的。但是它们无论如何都会得病的,因为老太太们总会给它们太多的东西吃。瞧瞧,这些有瘸马和病羊羔的农民在周围转来转去——他们会来的。当个兽医吧。”

卖猫食的男子走了以后,鹦鹉离开窗户,飞到医生的桌上,说道:

“那个人说的有道理,那是你应该从事的职业。做个兽医吧。如果他们没头脑认为你是世界上最好的医生的话,别管那些蠢货了。给动物看病吧——他们不久就会明白这一点的。做个兽医。”

“哦,已经有许多动物医生了,”约翰·道里特说道,他把花盆放在外面的窗台上,让它淋淋雨。

“是的,已经有许多了”波丽尼西娅说道。“但他们根本都不怎么样,现在听好,医生,我跟你讲一些东西,你知道动物也能说话吗?”

“我知道鹦鹉能说话。”医生说。

10 “是的,鹦鹉能用两种语言说话——人的语言和鸟的语言。”波丽尼西娅自豪地说。“要是我说,‘玛丽想要饼干’,你懂我的意思。但是听这句话:咯-咯,嗽-矣,吠-吠,什么意思?”

“太妙了!”医生叫道,“那是什么意思?”

“他的意思是说,‘粥还热吗?’这是鸟的语言。”

“我的天呢!你没那样说过。”医生说道,“你以前从没用这种方式跟我说过。”

“说了也没什么用处。”波丽尼西娅边说边拍打掉左翅膀上的饼干屑。“要是我说你也不懂。”

“多告诉我一些吧。”医生说,他特别激动。他赶忙跑到装衣服的抽屉旁,取来屠户的账簿和一只铅笔。“现在不要说得太快——我要把它记下来。这是有趣的——非常有趣——有些东西还是相当新鲜。给我讲些鸟语的基本知识吧——要讲得慢一点。”



reference to. But as you say, maybe it ain't quite fair on the animals. But they'll get sick anyway, because the old women always give 'em too much to eat. And look, all the farmers 'round about who had lame horses and weak lambs——they'd come. Be an animal - doctor."

When the Cat's - meat - Man had gone the parrot flew off the window on to the Doctor's table and said,

"That man's got sense. That's what you ought to do. Be an animal - doctor. Give the silly people up——if they haven't brains enough to see you're the best doctor in the world. Take care of animals instead——THEY'll soon find it out. Be an animal - doctor."

"Oh, there are plenty of animal - doctors," said John Dolittle, putting the flower - pots outside on the window - sill to get the rain.

"Yes, there ARE plenty," said Polynesia. "But none of them are any good at all. Now listen, Doctor, and I'll tell you something. Did you know that animals can talk?"

"I knew that parrots can talk," said the Doctor.

"Oh, we parrots can talk in two languages——people's language and bird - language," said Polynesia proudly. "If I say, 'Polly wants a cracker,' you understand me. But hear this: Ka - ka oi - ee, fee - fee?"

"Good Gracious!" cried the Doctor. "What does that mean?"

"That means, 'Is the porridge hot yet?'——in bird - language."

"My! You don't say so!" said the Doctor. "You never talked that way to me before."

"What would have been the good?" said Polynesia, dusting some cracker - crumbs off her left wing. "You wouldn't have understood me if I had."

"Tell me some more," said the Doctor, all excited; and he rushed over to the dresser - drawer and came back with the butcher's book and a pencil. "Now don't go too fast——and I'll write it down. This is interesting——very interesting——something quite new. Give me the Birds' A. B. C. first——slowly now."

So that was the way the Doctor came to know that animals had a

就这样，医生开始知道动物也有自己的语言并能够互相谈话。整个下午，天一直在下雨，波丽尼西娅坐在厨房的桌上，把鸟语的词汇告诉医生，并让他记在本子上。

喝茶的时候，小狗基普进来了，鹦鹉对医生说：“瞧，他正在对你讲话呢。”

“对我来说，他好像正在挠他的耳朵。”医生说。

“但动物并不总是用他们的嘴说话。”鹦鹉抬起她的眉毛，高声说道。“他们有时用他们的耳朵说话，有时用他们的脚说话，有时用他们的尾巴说话——甚至能够用每一样东西。有时他们不想发出任何声音。现在你是不是可以看到基普正在抽搐他鼻子的一边？”

“那是什么意思？”医生问。

“它的意思是说，‘你没看到外面已经停止下雨了吗？’”波丽尼西娅回答，“他现在正问你一个问题，狗几乎都是用他们的鼻子问问题。”

12 在鹦鹉的帮助下，医生不一会儿就学会了动物的语言，因此他自己能很好地同他们谈话，并能理解他们说的每一样事情。然后他完全放弃了给人当医生的这种职业。

卖猫食的男子把约翰·道里特将成为动物医生的消息告诉每一个人之后，老太太们开始把她们宠爱的哈巴狗和狮子狗带给医生，这些动物都因吃了太多的蛋糕而消化不良。农民们走了几英里路，把生了病的母牛和生了病的绵羊带过来找他看病。

一天，一匹拉犁的马被带到他的面前，找到一个人能用马语谈话，这个可怜的家伙特别地高兴。

“你知道，医生，”这匹马说，“山那边的那个兽医什么也不懂，比如这个跗节内肿，到现在他已经给我治疗六周了，实际上我需要的是一副眼镜。我的一只眼正在慢慢变瞎，马为什么不能像人那样戴眼镜，真是没道理。但是山那边的那个蠢货甚至从来没看过我的眼睛。他不断地给我大药丸子吃。我试图告诉他，但他一点也不懂



language of their own and could talk to one another. And all that afternoon, while it was raining, Polynesia sat on the kitchen table giving him bird words to put down in the book.

At tea - time, when the dog, Jip, came in, the parrot said to the Doctor, "See, HE'S talking to you."

"Looks to me as though he were scratching his ear," said the Doctor.

"But animals don't always speak with their mouths," said the parrot in a high voice, raising her eyebrows. "They talk with their ears, with their feet, with their tails——with everything. Sometimes they don't WANT to make a noise. Do you see now the way he's twitching up one side of his nose?"

"What's that mean?" asked the Doctor.

"That means, 'Can't you see that it has stopped raining?'" Polynesia answered. "He is asking you a question. Dogs nearly always use their noses for asking questions."

After a while, with the parrot's help, the Doctor got to learn the language of the animals so well that he could talk to them himself and understand everything they said. Then he gave up being a people's doctor altogether.

As soon as the Cat's - meat - Man had told every one that John Dolittle was going to become an animal - doctor, old ladies began to bring him their pet pugs and poodles who had eaten too much cake; and farmers came many miles to show him sick cows and sheep.

One day a plow - horse was brought to him; and the poor thing was terribly glad to find a man who could talk in horse - language.

"You know, Doctor," said the horse, "that vet over the hill knows nothing at all. He has been treating me six weeks now——for spavins. What I need is SPECTACLES. I am going blind in one eye. There's no reason why horses shouldn't wear glasses, the same as people. But that stupid man over the hill never even looked at my eyes. He kept on giving me big pills. I tried to tell him; but he couldn't understand a word of horse - language. What I need is spectacles."