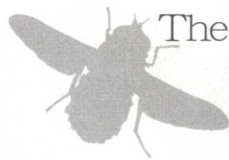


always that of a caresso, Padre, I must find it; I am sure you put it here. You will never make it the same by rewriting. Montanelli: ragola! Fragola! On the Healing of the Leper?; here it is. Arthur came across the room with the velvet tread that always graced his thirties. From the long eyebrows and sensitive mouth to the small hands and feet, everything about him was too much like a tame panther without the claws that really it? What should I do without you, Arthur? I should always be losing my things. I went out into the still, shadowy cloister garden. The seminary occupied the buildings of an old Dominican monastery, and two huge oaks. Now the white-robed monks who had tended them were laid away and forgotten; but the scented herbs flowered still in the flagged footways, and the well in the middle of the courtyard was given up to ferns and matted stone-crops. The roses had run wild on the old vine, untrained and barren of fruit, swayed from the branches of the neglected medlar-tree, shall I say? The bench had been placed against the trunk; and on this Montanelli sat. Arthur was studying philosophy, but he had never been a pupil of the seminary. Had better not go now? he said. The passage had been cleared up through the dusky branches at the first faint stars glimmering in a sunset sky. The dreamy, mystic atmosphere? he said. Can help it. There was a weary sound in Arthur's voice, and the Padre noticed it at once. One shot of light? Oh, Padre, what the use of that? I couldn't stop in this miserable house after mother died. Julia would have said it would have been the worst possible thing for you. But I wish you could have accepted the invitation of your father to understand; and then they are sorry for me, can see in all their faces and they would try to console me, and I pulled off some blossoms from a drooping foxglove and I pressed them nervously in his hand. Can bear it? too ill. Wherever I go it is the same thing; every market-girl comes up to me with bunches of flowers if I wear a hat. I know deep that he looked up, wondering why the Padre did not speak. It was growing dark under the branches of the oaks. I clung tightly clenched upon the edge of the bench. Arthur looked away with a sense of awe-struck wonder. It was a long time before he raised his head and looked round. I won't press you to go back there at all events, just now, he said in his low voice. I can have you breaking down in health. Here shall you go where the seminary is, Padre shall have to take the pupils into the garden for a little change. Will you come with me? I could go on the long mountain rambles, and you would like to study the country. I would give anything on earth to go away with you. Only am not sure. He stopped. You don't think Mr. Burton would allow it? He was always unkind to mother. But if he seriously objects, I think you had better not do his wishes; you may find your father can James seriously object to my going away with you. I am a Protestant, remember. However, you may as well go. The rebuke was so gently given that Arthur hardly coloured under it. Yes, I know, he answered, sighing; but it is so difficult for you to meet him. He had promised one of the students to go to a meeting at his lodgings, and they would have been expecting him. And he made a speech to us—a sort of lecture. What did he lecture about? Arthur hesitated. You won't ask me his name, Padre, will you? I came by this time. Padre, of course I can. He spoke of the people and their own selves; and about that we must have you been thinking about this? in the winter. Before your mother's death? And did she know of it? no. I didn't care about it. I was preparing for the entrance examination last autumn, I got to know a good many of the students; you remember? Well, some of them were among them all in that dungeon of a house; and Julia was so ill. Then, in the winter, when she got so ill, I found out my head. Then I found out that she was going to die. I was almost constantly with her towards the end; often I would wonder if the students had said and wondering whether they were right and that Mr. Long would have said about it all. Did you ask him? Montanelli said you never said a word to me. Arthur, I hoped you could have trusted me. Padre, you know I trust you! But there are some things I can't say and all my soul. Montanelli turned away and stood under the magnolia branches. The twilight was so dim.

by Ethel Lilian Voynich



The Gadfly

李平注

埃塞尔·丽莲·伏尼契

牛虻

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It is a story of faith, disillusionment, revolution, romance, and heroism.



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The Gadfly

牛虻

"What have we to do with Thee, Thou Jesus of Nazareth?"¹

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

My most cordial thanks are due to the many persons who helped me to collect, in Italy, the materials for this story. I am especially indebted² to the officials of the Marucelliana Library³ of Florence⁴, and of the State Archives and Civic Museum of Bologna⁵, for their courtesy and kindness.

1 "What have we to do with Thee, Thou Jesus of Nazareth?" "拿撒勒人耶稣，我们与你有什么相干?" 出自《圣经·马可福音》第1章第24节。

2 be indebted to (sb.): 感激，蒙恩。

3 the Marucelliana Library: 意大利著名图书馆。贵族 Francesco Marucelli 于 1702 年建立，1751 年对外

开放。

4 Florence: 佛罗伦萨，意大利中部城市，位于比萨城东的阿尔诺河畔。

5 Bologna: 博洛尼亚，意大利中北部城市，在亚平宁山麓，位于佛罗伦萨东北偏北。

主要人物表

The Gadfly——牛虻。少年时代的名字叫亚瑟 (Arthur Burton)。在二、三卷中, 化名范里斯·列瓦雷士 (Felice Rivarez), The Gadfly 是他的绰号。

Gemma——琼玛 (Warren Gemma), Dr. Warren 的女儿, 亚瑟少年时代的朋友, 昵称 Jim。后来与乔万尼·波拉 (Giovanni Bolla) 结婚, 因此在二、三卷中, 人们称其为波拉夫人 (Signora Bolla)。

Lorenzo Montanelli——蒙泰尼里, 天主教传教士, 后升为红衣主教。曾与亚瑟的母亲私通生下亚瑟。

Gladys——格拉迪斯, 亚瑟的母亲, 老伯顿的后妻, 蒙泰尼里的情人, 天主教徒。

James——詹姆斯 (James Burton), 亚瑟名义上的异母长兄, 伯顿父子轮船公司 (Burton & Sons, ship-owners, of London and Leghorn) 的主人, 新教徒。

Julia——朱丽亚, James Burton 的妻子。

Thomas Burton——托马斯·伯顿, 亚瑟名义上的异母次兄。

Bolla——波拉 (Giovanni Bolla), 青年意大利党党员, 后来与琼玛结婚。

Gibbons——吉姆斯, 伯顿家的管家。

Gian Battista——吉安·巴蒂斯塔, 伯顿家的马车夫。

Enrico——恩里科, 莱亨监狱看守长。

Katie——凯蒂, 琼玛的女仆。

Bianca——比安卡, 牛虻在佛罗伦萨的女仆。

Zita Reni——绮达·莱尼, 吉卜赛女郎, 牛虻的情人。

Carlo Bini——卡洛·毕尼, 青年意大利党里窝那支部的组织者。

Martini——马尔蒂尼, 青年意大利党佛罗伦萨支部的党员, 波拉和琼玛的朋友, 文学委员会成员。

Fabrizi——法布里奇, 大学教授, 文学委员会成员。

Grassini——格拉西尼, 富裕的大律师, 文学委员会成员。

Lega——莱加, 文学委员会成员。

Galli——加利, 青年意大利党佛罗伦萨支部党员, 文学委员会成员。

Riccardo——里卡尔多, 医生, 青年意大利党佛罗伦萨支部的党员, 文学委员会成员。

Sacconi——萨科尼, 文学委员会成员。

Michele——米歇尔, 红带会会员, 亚平宁山区的私贩子。

Domenichino——多米尼季诺, 红带会负责人之一, 亚平宁山区的私贩子。

Marcone——马尔科尼, 红带会会员, 亚平宁山区的私贩子。

The Cricket——蟋蟀, 布列西盖拉城堡中的卫兵。

Cardi——卡尔迪, 比萨神学院新院长, 密探。

Ferrari——费拉里, 布列西盖拉的统领, 上校。

PART I

Arthur sat in the library of the theological seminary at Pisa, looking through a pile of manuscript sermons. It was a hot evening in June, and the windows stood wide open, with the shutters half closed for coolness. The father Director, Canon Montanelli, paused a moment in his writing to glance lovingly at the black head of the young man.

"Can't you find it, canon? Never mind, I must rewrite the passage. Possibly it has got torn up, and I have kept you all this time for nothing."

Montanelli's voice was rather low, but full and resonant, with a silvery purity of tone that gave to his speech a peculiar charm. It was the voice of a born orator, rich in possible modulations. When he spoke to Arthur, his note was always that of a caress.

"No, Padre, I must find it. I am sure you put it here. You will never make it the same by rewriting."

Montanelli went on with his work. A sleepy cockchafer hummed drowsily outside the window, and the long, melancholy call of a huissier echoed down the street: "Fragola! Fragola!"

"On the Healing of the Leper," here it is. Arthur came across the room with the velvet tread that always exasperated the good folk at home. He was a slender little creature, more like an Italian in a sixteenth-century portrait than a middle-class English lad of the thirties.

1. the theological seminary 神学院
2. Pisa 比萨, 意大利南部城市, 建于公元前180年。
3. the father Director 教区神父, 天主教神父。
4. The father Director 教区神父, 天主教神父。
5. the black head 黑头, 指年轻人的黑头发。
6. the cockchafer 甲虫, 一种甲虫。
7. the huissier 门房, 一种职业。
8. the velvet tread 天鹅绒的步履, 指年轻人的步履。
9. the middle-class English lad 中产阶级英国少年。
10. the sixteenth-century portrait 十六世纪肖像。
11. the middle-class English lad 中产阶级英国少年。
12. the middle-class English lad 中产阶级英国少年。

13. On the Healing of the Leper, here it is. Arthur came across the room with the velvet tread that always exasperated the good folk at home. He was a slender little creature, more like an Italian in a sixteenth-century portrait than a middle-class English lad of the thirties.

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CHAPTER I

Arthur sat in the library of the theological seminary¹ at Pisa², looking through a pile of manuscript sermons³. It was a hot evening in June, and the windows stood wide open, with the shutters half closed for coolness. The Father Director⁴, Canon Montanelli, paused a moment in his writing to glance lovingly at the black head bent over the papers.

‘Can’t you find it, carino⁵? Never mind; I must rewrite the passage. Possibly it has got torn up, and I have kept you all this time for nothing⁶.’

Montanelli’s voice was rather low, but full and resonant⁷, with a silvery purity of tone that gave to his speech a peculiar charm. It was the voice of a born orator, rich in possible modulations. When he spoke to Arthur its note was always that of a caress.

‘No, Padre⁸, I must find it; I am sure you put it here. You will never make it the same by rewriting.’

Montanelli went on with his work. A sleepy cockchafer⁹ hummed drowsily outside the window, and the long, melancholy call of a fruitseller echoed down the street: ‘Fragola! Fragola¹⁰!’

“‘On the Healing of the Leper’¹¹; here it is.’ Arthur came across the room with the velvet tread that always exasperated the good folk at home. He was a slender little creature, more like an Italian in a sixteenth-century portrait than a middle-class English lad of the thirties¹².

1 the theological seminary: 神学院。

2 Pisa: 比萨, 意大利西部城市, 其建于1173年至1350年的大教堂钟楼是著名的比萨斜塔。

3 manuscript sermons: 布道用的手稿。

4 The Father Director: 神学院院长。Father 是对天主教传教士的称呼。逗号后面的Canon Montanelli是主语同位语。Canon: 神父, 天主教修道院中的传教士。

5 carino: 亲爱的(意大利语)。本故事发生在意大利境内, 因此文中多次出现意大利语。

6 for nothing: 徒劳, 一无所获。

7 full and resonant: (声音) 圆润而又洪亮。

8 Padre: 神父, 在意大利、西班牙、葡萄牙以及拉丁美洲对教士的一种称谓形式。

9 cockchafer: 金龟子, 一种产于欧洲的金龟科大甲虫。

10 Fragola: (意大利语) 草莓。

11 ‘On the Healing of the Leper’: “论麻风病人的医治”。据《圣经·路加福音》(Luke 17: 11—19) 记载, 耶稣治好了一个麻风病人的病。耶稣在加利利曾医好许多麻风病人(参见马太福音8: 2—4, 马可福音1: 40—45, 路加福音5: 12—16, 马太福音11: 2—5)。

12 He was a slender little creature, more like an Italian in a sixteenth-century portrait than a middle-class English lad of the thirties: 他生得瘦小, 不大像十九世纪三十年代英国中产阶级的小伙子, 更像十六世纪人物画里的意大利少年。

From the long eyebrows and sensitive mouth to the small hands and feet, everything about him was too much chiselled, overdelicate. Sitting still, he might have been taken for a very pretty girl masquerading in male attire¹; but when he moved, his lithe agility suggested a tame panther without the claws.

'Is that really it? What should I do without you, Arthur? I should always be losing my things. No, I am not going to write any more now. Come out into the garden, and I will help you with your work. What is the bit you couldn't understand?'

They went out into the still, shadowy cloister garden. The seminary occupied the buildings of an old Dominican monastery², and two hundred years ago the square courtyard had been stiff and trim, and the rosemary and lavender had grown in close-cut bushes between the straight box edgings. Now the white-robed monks who had tended them were laid away and forgotten; but the scented herbs flowered still in the gracious midsummer evening, though no man gathered their blossoms for simples any more. Tufts of wild parsley and columbine filled the cracks between the flagged footways, and the well in the middle of the courtyard was given up to ferns and matted stone-crop³. The roses had run wild, and their straggling suckers trailed across the paths; in the box borders flared great red poppies; tall foxgloves drooped above the tangled grasses; and the old vine, untrained and barren of fruit, swayed from the branches of the neglected medlar-tree, shaking a leafy head with slow and sad persistence⁴.

In one corner stood a huge summer-flowering magnolia, a tower of dark foliage, splashed here and there with milk-white blossoms. A rough wooden bench had been placed against the trunk; and on this Montanelli sat down. Arthur was studying philosophy at the university;

1 Sitting still, he might have been taken for a very pretty girl masquerading in male attire: 他若是要是安静地坐在那里, 很可能会被误以为是一个身着男装的漂亮女孩。be taken for: 被误认为是, 被当作是……

2 Dominican monastery: 多明哥我派的修道院。多明哥我派 (Dominicans) 又称“布道兄弟会”, 是天主教的一个主要派别。1215年西班牙人多明哥我 (Domingo de Guzman) 创立。

3 the well in the middle of the courtyard was given up to

ferns and matted stone-crop: 院子中间的那口井也被羊齿叶和纵横交错的景天草所淹没。give up to: 让位于, 让给。

4 the old vine ... and sad persistence: 那根未曾修剪过也未曾结果过的老葡萄藤, 从那棵已被人们遗忘的枸杞树枝上垂挂下来, 缓慢而又坚持不懈地忧郁地摇晃着叶茂的枝头。

and, coming to a difficulty with a book, had applied¹ to “the Padre” for an explanation of the point. Montanelli was a universal encyclopaedia² to him, though he had never been a pupil of the seminary.

“I had better go now,” he said when the passage had been cleared up³; “unless you want me for anything.”

“I don’t want to work any more, but I should like you to stay a bit if you have time.”

“Oh, yes!” He leaned back against the tree-trunk and looked up through the dusky branches at the first faint stars glimmering in a quiet sky⁴. The dreamy, mystical eyes, deep blue under black lashes, were an inheritance from his Cornish⁵ mother, and Montanelli turned his head away, that he might not see them.

“You are looking tired, carino,” he said.

“I can’t help it⁶.” There was a weary sound in Arthur’s voice, and the Padre noticed it at once.

“You should not have gone up to college so soon; you were tired out with sick-nursing⁷ and being up at night. I ought to have insisted on your taking a thorough rest before you left Leghorn⁸.”

“Oh, Padre, what’s the use of that? I couldn’t stop in that miserable house after mother died. Julia would have driven me mad!”

Julia was his eldest step-brother’s wife, and a thorn in his side⁹.

“I should not have wished you to stay with your relatives,” Montanelli answered gently. “I am sure it would have been the worst possible thing for you. But I wish you could have accepted the invitation of your English doctor friend; if you had spent a month in his house you

1 apply to sb. for sth.: 请求, 申请, 向……询问。

2 encyclopaedia: 百科全书。在美国英语中又拼写为 encyclopedia。

3 clear sth. up: 解释; 使明了。

4 He leaned back against the tree-trunk and looked up through the dusky branches at the first faint stars glimmering in a quiet sky: 亚瑟背靠着大树, 透过阴暗的树枝仰望那在宁静天空中微微闪烁的初露的星星。

5 Cornish: (英国) 康沃尔郡的。亚瑟的母亲来自于

英格兰的康沃尔郡, 那里的居民大多是黑头发蓝眼睛。

6 cannot help (doing) sth.: 不得不, 没有办法。

7 sick-nursing: 看护病人。这里指亚瑟在母亲去世前照顾她。

8 Leghorn: 里窝那, 意大利西北部一城市。

9 a thorn in sb’s side / flesh: [喻] 不断使某人伤脑筋的事情; 某人的眼中钉、肉中刺; 经常烦恼的原因。

would have been more fit to study.”

“No, Padre, I shouldn’t indeed! The Warrens¹ are very good and kind, but they don’t understand; and then they are sorry for me—I can see it in all their faces—and they would try to console me, and talk about mother. Gemma² wouldn’t, of course; she always knew what not to say, even when we were babies; but the others would. And it isn’t only that——”

“What is it then, my son³?”

Arthur pulled off some blossoms from a drooping foxglove stem and crushed them nervously in his hand.

“I can’t bear the town,” he began after a moment’s pause. “There are the shops where she used to buy me toys when I was a little thing, and the walk along the shore where I used to take her until she got too ill. Wherever I go it’s the same thing; every market-girl comes up to me with bunches of flowers—as if I wanted them now! And there’s the churchyard—I had to get away; it made me sick to see the place⁴——”

He broke off⁵ and sat tearing the foxglove bells to pieces. The silence was so long and deep that he looked up, wondering why the Padre did not speak. It was growing dark under the branches of the magnolia, and everything seemed dim and indistinct; but there was light enough to show the ghastly paleness of Montanelli’s face. He was bending his head down, his right hand tightly clenched upon the edge of the bench. Arthur looked away with a sense of awe-struck wonder. It was as though he had stepped unwittingly on to holy ground⁶.

“My God!” he thought; “how small and selfish I am beside him! If my trouble were his own he couldn’t feel it more.”⁷

Presently⁸ Montanelli raised his head and looked round. “I won’t press

1 The Warrens: 华伦一家。亚瑟的朋友。

2 Gemma: 琼玛, Dr. Warren 的女儿, Arthur 少年时代的 friend。

3 my son: 天主教教士对男教徒的称呼。对女教徒称 my daughter。所有教徒都是上帝的孩子。

4 And there’s the churchyard—I had to get away; it made me sick to see the place: 还有教堂的墓地那儿——我只好避开, 因为一看到那地方我心里就难过。

5 break off: 中断, 突然停止。

6 Arthur looked away with a sense of awe-struck wonder.

It was as though he had stepped unwittingly on to holy ground: 亚瑟既敬畏又困惑不解, 赶紧把头调过一边。他仿佛是无意间闯进了圣地。unwittingly: 不知情地, 无意地。

7 If my trouble were his own he couldn’t feel it more. 即使我的不幸发生在他身上, 他也不可能更伤心了吧。注意本句的虚拟语气。

8 presently: 不久, 一会儿。

you to go back there; at all events¹, just now," he said in his most caressing tone; "but you must promise me to take a thorough rest when your vacation begins this summer. I think you had better get a holiday right away from the neighborhood of Leghorn.² I can't have you breaking down³ in health."

"Where shall you go when the seminary closes, Padre?"

"I shall have to take the pupils into the hills, as usual⁴, and see them settled there. But by the middle of August the subdirector⁵ will be back from his holiday. I shall try to get up into the Alps⁶ for a little change. Will you come with me? I could take you for some long mountain rambles, and you would like to study the Alpine mosses and lichens⁷. But perhaps it would be rather dull for you alone with me?"

"Padre!" Arthur clasped his hands in what Julia called his "demonstrative foreign way." "I would give anything on earth to go away with you. Only—I am not sure——" He stopped.

"You don't think Mr. Burton would allow it?"

"He wouldn't like it, of course, but he could hardly interfere. I am eighteen now and can do what I choose. After all, he's only my step-brother; I don't see that I owe him obedience⁸. He was always unkind to mother."

"But if he seriously objects, I think you had better not defy his wishes; you may find your position at home made much harder if——"

"Not a bit harder!" Arthur broke in⁹ passionately. "They always did hate me and always will—it doesn't matter what I do. Besides, how can James seriously object to my going away with you—with my father confessor¹⁰?"

1 at all events: 无论如何。

2 I think you had better get a holiday right away from the neighborhood of Leghorn: 我想你最好远离里窝那地区, 到别处度假。

3 break down: 毁掉, 垮掉。

4 as usual: 照常, 跟往常一样。

5 subdirector: (神学院的) 副院长。sub-是英语前缀, 表示“下, 在下; 低于, 次于, 副; 亚, 次”之义。

6 the Alps: 阿尔卑斯山脉。

7 the Alpine mosses and lichens: 阿尔卑斯山的苔藓和地衣。

8 I don't see that I owe him obedience: 我干吗非得事事听他的! obedience: 服众, 顺从。

9 break in: 打断别人的话; 插嘴。

10 father confessor: 忏悔神父; 聆听教徒忏悔并给予解脱的神父。教徒向上帝或神父忏悔(自己的罪行)以求得到宽恕。

"He is a Protestant¹, remember. However, you had better write to him, and we will wait to hear what he thinks. But you must not be impatient, my son; it matters just as much what you do, whether people hate you or love you²."

The rebuke was so gently given that Arthur hardly coloured under it³. "Yes, I know," he answered, sighing; "but it is so difficult——"

"I was sorry you could not come to me on Tuesday evening," Montanelli said, abruptly introducing a new subject. "The Bishop of Arezzo was here, and I should have liked you to meet him."

"I had promised one of the students to go to a meeting at his lodgings⁴, and they would have been expecting me."

"What sort of meeting?"

Arthur seemed embarrassed by the question. "It—it was n-not a r-regular meeting," he said with a nervous little stammer⁵. "A student had come from Genoa⁶, and he made a speech to us—a-a sort of—lecture."

"What did he lecture about?"

Arthur hesitated. "You won't ask me his name, Padre, will you? Because I promised——"

"I will ask you no questions at all, and if you have promised secrecy⁷ of course you must not tell me; but I think you can almost trust me by this time."

"Padre, of course I can. He spoke about—us and our duty to the people—and to—our own selves; and about—what we might do to help——"

"To help whom?"

1 Protestant: 新教徒。这儿的词义是双关的，既表示从天主教分裂出来的新教（西方基督教之一），又暗指亚瑟和詹姆斯（James）在宗教和情感上的裂痕。

2 it matters just as much what you do, whether people hate you or love you: 别人恨你或爱你都不要紧，重要的是你自己的所作所为。这句话与上文亚瑟讲的 it doesn't matter what I do 相呼应。

3 The rebuke was so gently given that Arthur hardly coloured under it: 这些责备的话说得很温和，亚瑟

听了没有一点不自在的感觉。colour: vi. 脸红（美国英语: color）。

4 lodging: [通常用复数] 租住的一间[几间]房间（区别于旅馆的房间）。

5 with a nervous little stammer: 由于紧张而有点结巴。

6 Genoa: 热那亚，意大利西北部的一座港口城市。

7 if you have promised secrecy= if you have promised to keep secret.

"The contadini¹—and—"

"And?"

"Italy."

There was a long silence.

"Tell me, Arthur," said Montanelli, turning to him and speaking very gravely, "how long have you been thinking about this?"

"Since—last winter."

"Before your mother's death? And did she know of it?"

"N-no. I—I didn't care about² it then."

"And now you—care about it?"

Arthur pulled another handful of bells off the foxglove.

"It was this way, Padre," he began, with his eyes on the ground. "When I was preparing for the entrance examination last autumn, I got to know a good many of the students; you remember? Well, some of them began to talk to me about—all these things, and lent me books. But I didn't care much about it; I always wanted to get home quick to mother. You see, she was quite alone among them all in that dungeon of a house³; and Julia's tongue was enough to kill her. Then, in the winter, when she got so ill, I forgot all about the students and their books; and then, you know, I left off coming to Pisa altogether⁴. I should have talked to mother if I had thought of it; but it went right out of my head⁵. Then I found out that she was going to die—You know, I was almost constantly with her towards the end; often I would sit up the night, and Gemma Warren would come in the day to let me get to sleep. Well, it was in those long nights; I got thinking about the books and about what the students had said—and wondering—whether they were right and—what—Our Lord would have said about it all."

1 contadini: [意大利语] 农民。

dungeon: 地牢。

2 care about: 关心。常用于否定句。care nothing about: 对……漠不关心, 对……毫不介意。

4 I left off coming to Pisa altogether: 我根本就不到比萨来了。leave off: 停止。

3 in that dungeon of a house: 在那地牢一般的屋子里。

5 be/go out of one's mind/head: 忘记。

“Did you ask Him¹?” Montanelli’s voice was not quite steady.

“Often, Padre. Sometimes I have prayed to Him to tell me what I must do, or to let me die with mother. But I couldn’t find any answer.”

“And you never said a word to me. Arthur, I hoped you could have trusted me.”

“Padre, you know I trust you! But there are some things you can’t talk about to anyone. I—it seemed to me that no one could help me—not even you or mother; I must have my own answer straight from God. You see, it is for all my life and all my soul.”

Montanelli turned away and stared into the dusky gloom of the magnolia branches. The twilight was so dim that his figure had a shadowy look, like a dark ghost among the darker boughs.²

“And then?” he asked slowly.

“And then—she died. You know, I had been up the last three nights with her——”

He broke off and paused a moment, but Montanelli did not move.

“All those two days before they buried her,” Arthur went on in a lower voice, “I couldn’t think about anything. Then, after the funeral, I was ill; you remember, I couldn’t come to confession³.”

“Yes; I remember.”

“Well, in the night I got up and went into mother’s room. It was all empty; there was only the great crucifix in the alcove⁴. And I thought perhaps God would help me. I knelt down and waited—all night. And in the morning when I came to my senses—Padre, it isn’t any use; I can’t explain. I can’t tell you what I saw—I hardly know myself. But I know that God has answered me, and that I dare not disobey Him.”

1 Him: 指上文的 our Lord (主)。英语中间接提到上帝 God 和耶稣基督 Jesus Christ 都要用首字母大写的 He、Him、His。

2 The twilight was so dim that his figure had a shadowy look, like a dark ghost among the darker boughs. 在暮色苍茫中, 他的身形变得模糊起来, 就像是一个浅

黑色的幽灵潜伏在深黑色的树枝之间。

3 confession: 忏悔, 尤指向神父忏悔自己的罪行以求解脱。

4 crucifix: 苦像 (耶稣被钉在十字架上的像), 十字架 (基督教把它作为信仰的标记)。alcove: 壁龛; 凹室。

For a moment they sat quite silent in the darkness. Then Montanelli turned and laid his hand on Arthur's shoulder.

"My son," he said, "God forbid that I should say He has not spoken to your soul¹. But remember your condition when this thing happened, and do not take the fancies of grief or illness for His solemn call². And if, indeed, it has been His will to answer you out of the shadow of death, be sure that you put no false construction on His word³. What is this thing you have it in your heart to do?"

Arthur stood up and answered slowly, as though repeating a catechism⁴:

"To give up my life to Italy, to help in freeing her from all this slavery and wretchedness⁵, and in driving out the Austrians⁶, that she may be a free republic, with no king but Christ."

"Arthur, think a moment what you are saying! You are not even an Italian."

"That makes no difference⁷; I am myself. I have seen this thing, and I belong to it."

There was silence again.

"You spoke just now of what Christ would have said—" Montanelli began slowly; but Arthur interrupted him:

"Christ said: 'He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.'"⁸

Montanelli leaned his arm against a branch, and shaded his eyes with one hand.

"Sit down a moment, my son," he said at last.

Arthur sat down, and the Padre took both his hands in a strong and

1 God forbid that I should say He has not spoken to your soul: 如果我说上帝没有对你的灵魂吩咐过什么,上帝是不允许我这么说的。

2 do not take the fancies of grief or illness for His solemn call: 不要把你在悲痛和疾病中产生的幻觉当成上帝的庄严感召。注意 take ... for ... 的用法。

3 if, indeed ... on His word: 如果上帝真的有意要通过死亡的阴影来回答你的问题,那你也千万不要曲解上帝的话。

4 catechism: 宗教教义。

5 to help in freeing her from all this slavery and wretchedness:

帮助她摆脱奴役和贫困。free sb. from ... 把某人从……解放出来,使某人摆脱……

6 in driving out the Austrians: 把奥地利人驱逐出境。19世纪上半期,意大利处于奥地利帝国的奴役和统治之下。

7 make no difference: 没有影响;都一样。

8 Christ said: 'He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.' 耶稣基督说:“为我献身的人将会得到再生。”出自《圣经·新约全书·马太福音》第10章(Matthew 10: 39)。loseth (古英语)= loses。

steady clasp.

"I cannot argue with you tonight," he said; "this has come upon me so suddenly—I had not thought—I must have time to think it over. Later on¹ we will talk more definitely. But, for just now, I want you to remember one thing. If you get into trouble over this, if you—die, you will break my heart."

"Padre——"

"No; let me finish what I have to say. I told you once that I have no one in the world but you. I think you do not fully understand what that means. It is difficult when one is so young; at your age I should not have understood. Arthur, you are as my—as my—own son to me. Do you see? You are the light of my eyes and the desire of my heart. I would die to keep you from making a false step and ruining your life. But there is nothing I can do. I don't ask you to make any promises to me; I only ask you to remember this, and to be careful. Think well before you take an irrevocable² step, for my sake³, if not for the sake of your mother in heaven."

"I will think—and—Padre, pray for me, and for Italy."

He knelt down in silence, and in silence Montanelli laid his hand on the bent head. A moment later Arthur rose, kissed the hand, and went softly away across the dewy grass. Montanelli sat alone under the magnolia tree, looking straight before him into the blackness.

"It is the vengeance of God that has fallen upon me," he thought, "as it fell upon David⁴. I, that have defiled His sanctuary, and taken the Body of the Lord into polluted hands—He has been very patient with me, and now it is come⁵. 'For thou didst it secretly, but I will do this thing before

1 later on: 晚些时候, 稍后, 以后。

2 irrevocable: 不能取消的, 不能撤回的, 不能改变的, 不能挽回的。ir- 是形容词否定前缀, 常用在以 r 开头的形容词前, 如 irregular。

3 for one's sake, for the sake of: 为了……

4 上帝的惩罚已经降临到我身上, 如同降临到大卫的身上一样。据《圣经·旧约全书·撒母耳记(下)》(2 Samuel 11:1—12:25) 记载, 以色列王大卫曾害

死自己的部下乌利亚, 然后霸占其妻, 生一子。耶稣对大卫的行为不满, 对其惩罚, 使其子在重病七日后死去。Montanelli 与 Arthur 的母亲私通而生下 Arthur。因此这里他把自己比作大卫。

5 我的双手玷污了上帝的圣殿, 玷污了圣体——上帝对我一直很有耐心, 现在终于要惩罚我了。be patient with sb.: 对……有耐心。它指上文的 the vengeance of God。

all Israel, and before the sun; *the child that is born unto thee shall surely die.*"¹

"I cannot argue with you tonight," he said; "this has come upon me suddenly—I had not thought—I must have time to think it over. Later on we will talk more definitely. But for just now, I want you to remember one thing: if you get into trouble over this, if you—die, you will break my heart."

"Father—"

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1 “你在暗中进行这事，我却要在所有以色列人面前、在光天化日之下惩罚你。你所得的孩子必定要死。”引自《圣经·旧约全书·撒母耳记（下）》第12章第384页。thou didst it secretly (古英语) = you did it secretly, thou = you (主格), thee = you (宾格)。