



红茶坊·英汉双语读物

寻谜探秘

30 Mysteries about
Man and Nature

30篇

张艳敏 / 主编



大连理工大学出版社



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前言

学习英语的主要目的或是为了与他人交流,或是为了获取信息。而英语学习与母语习得具有共性,即都经历输入(input)和输出(output)这一过程。当输入达到一定的量就会发生质变——产生输出。

对中国的英语学习者来说,英语的输入主要来自两个方面——听与读,而读占主要地位。

我们精心选择了 30 个自然界中或人类发展过程中所遭遇到的未解之谜,编写成此书,主要目的有二:一是要为英语学习者提供可读性强的英语阅读材料;二是帮助学习者了解这些未解之谜,用作英语聊天时的谈资。

本书采用英汉对照方式编排。在阅读过程中,英语水平偏低的读者可以借助译文更好地理解所读的内容,同时扩大词汇量;英语水平较高的读者可以利用译文,有意识地对英语和汉语在思维方式和表达习惯上的异同,以避免英语表达时的中式英语。

由于水平有限,译文中难免有不当之处,敬请指正。

编者

2008 年 2 月

Contents

1. 法老的诅咒之谜	1
2. 金字塔之谜	8
3. 木乃伊之谜	15
4. 百慕大三角之谜	22
5. 亚特兰提斯水晶之谜	29
6. 复活节岛之谜	35
7. 马耳他岛巨石之谜	41
8. 英国巨石阵之谜	48
9. 恐龙灭绝之谜	56
10. 尼斯湖水怪之谜	64
11. 巴比伦的空中花园之谜	72
12. 亚历山大灯塔之谜	79
13. 罗德港巨人雕像之谜	86
14. 宙斯神像之谜	91
15. 焚人悬棺之谜	98
16. 通古斯大爆炸之谜	106

Contents

17. 三星堆千古之谜	113
18. 古代青铜铸剑术之谜	119
19. 中国野人之谜	125
20. 诺亚方舟之谜	132
21. 雪人之谜	139
22. 伍尔皮特绿色孩子之谜	145
23. 都灵裹尸布之谜	151
24. 圣母玛利亚的“眼泪”之谜	157
25. 人类神秘失踪之谜	161
26. 从天而降的悬而未决之谜	167
27. 玛丽·塞莱斯特号船员失踪之谜	174
28. 玛尔法光之谜	179
29. 人体自燃之谜	184
30. 51号地区之谜	191

1. Pharaoh's Curse

法老诅咒之谜

Background

“谁要是干扰法老的安宁，死亡就会飞到他的头上。”

这是刻在法老图坦卡蒙墓上的一句诅咒。看到这句话后，人们可能首先会想到这样一个问题：法老的诅咒究竟是否存在？如果存在的话，法老的诅咒究竟是否灵验？



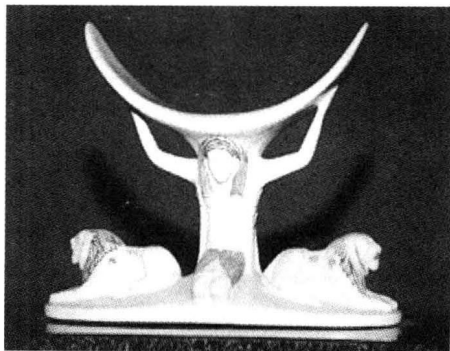
► Pharaoh's Curse (法老的诅咒)

The mist fails to lift on Pharaoh Tutankhamun, the boy king who ruled Egypt for a short nine years from 1336 ~ 1327 BC. Tutankhamun was all of 18 years old when he died mysteriously. No one knows how Pharaoh Tutankhamun died. It has been speculated for long that King Tutankhamun was assassinated and records of his existence wiped out. His early death and absence of records fuelled this school of thought.

One of the most important archeological finds of all time, King Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered in 1923 by Howard Carter, a British Egyptologist, who was convinced that King Tutankhamun's grave lay undiscovered somewhere in the Valley of Kings in Luxor, Egypt. He was financed in his expedition by Lord Carnarvon, himself an ailing gentleman keen on Egyptology.

围绕法老图坦卡蒙的迷雾未能驱散。从公元前 1336 ~ 1327 年,这个年幼的国王对埃及只进行了短暂九年的统治。图坦卡蒙神秘死亡时年仅 18 岁。无人知道法老图坦卡蒙是如何死的。长期以来人们一直推测图坦卡蒙国王是被暗杀的,而有关其在位的记录全部被清除。他的早逝以及缺乏有关记录进一步助长了这种想法。

1923 年,霍华德·卡特发现了国王图坦卡蒙的墓穴,这是有史以来最重要的考古发现之一。霍华德·卡特是英国的埃及古物学家,他深信国王图坦卡蒙的墓穴就在埃及卢克苏尔的国王谷中,尚未被发现。为其探险提供资金的是卡那封勋爵,而勋爵本人是一个热衷于埃及古物学近乎病态的人。



According to legend which has been strongly contested, the tomb raiders broke the long sleep of the Pharaoh, setting a deadly curse in motion. The day he hit upon the tomb, Howard Carter returned home to find that his canary was swallowed by a cobra. His servant wailed at the Pharaoh's Curse, since the canary was supposed to have led the explorer to the tomb, and a cobra and a vulture were supposed to be Tutankhamun's protectors. The cobra was supposed to be the protector of the tomb.

The tomb was intact and contained an amazing collection of treasures including a stone sarcophagus. The sarcophagus contained three gold coffins nested within each other. Inside the final one was the mummy of the boy-king, Pharaoh Tutankhamun.

It was reported that Carter's native diggers saw hieroglyphics inside the tomb, above Tutankhamun's body, which warned of death to the intruders. Apparently, Howard Carter had a tough time keeping the scared grave diggers together. But these reports are believed to have been significantly embellished by the newspapers of the day who cooked up stories to sell the paper.

3

根据一直被质疑的古老传说,盗墓者打破了法老的沉睡,从而启动了致命的诅咒。挖到古墓的这一天,霍华德·卡特回到家里,发现他的金丝雀被一条眼镜蛇吃掉了。他的仆人因法老的诅咒而嚎哭,因为据信是金丝雀引领探险者找到了古墓,而人们认为眼镜蛇和秃鹰是图坦卡蒙的保护神。人们认为眼镜蛇应该是古墓的守护神。

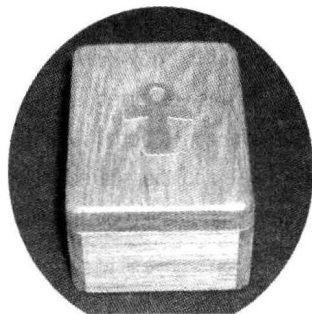
墓穴完好无损,里面收藏着惊人的宝藏,其中包括一副石棺。石棺里面有三个纯金的棺材,一个套着一个。最后的一个金棺中是年幼的国王图坦卡蒙法老的木乃伊。

据报道,卡特雇用的当地的挖掘工人在图坦卡蒙尸身上方的棺椁壁上看到了象形文字,这些文字警告擅入者,他们会不得善终。很显然,霍华德·卡特费了很大力气才聚拢住受到惊吓的掘墓者。但是人们认为这些报道被当时的报纸大肆渲染了,为了销售报纸而编造新闻。



Be that as it may, the fact remains that Lord Carnarvon died soon thereafter. He died of an infected mosquito bite, which later became pneumonia and claimed his life. When he died, the lights went out in Cairo. This is agreed to even by those who contest the Curse of Tutankhamun. At the moment of his death, his pet dog howled pitifully and turned over and died, in faraway London. This is also reported, but there is no actual confirmation or denial of this event.

Death of Carnarvon was only the start. A string of deaths followed. Many of those associated with the grave-digging succumbed to unnatural causes, giving currency to the Curse Theory. The newspapers of the day speculated that such eerie events were caused by the curse, an evil which Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter had unleashed. Two days after Carnarvon's death, the mummy of Pharaoh Tutankhamun was examined and a blemish was found on his left cheek exactly in the position of the mosquito bite on Carnarvon's face.



不论如何,事实却是卡那封勋爵不久就去世了。他死于因蚊子叮咬而引起的感染,而感染后来演变成了肺炎并要了他的命。当他去世时,开罗突然停电了,整个城市一片漆黑。甚至那些质疑图坦卡蒙诅咒的人对此也无异议。在他死去的那一刻,他的宠物犬在遥远的伦敦嚎叫不停,听上去令人可怜,然后,翻个身就死了。此事也见诸报端,但是对此却既无实证也无人否认。

卡那封的死亡仅仅是个开端。随后发生了一连串的死亡事件。许多与挖掘墓穴相关的人都死于非命,这进一步散播了诅咒说。当时的报纸推测这些怪诞的事件都是由那个诅咒而引起的。是卡那封勋爵和霍华德·卡特释放出来的邪恶。在卡那封去世的两天之后,人们对图坦卡蒙法老的木乃伊进行了认真的检查,发现他的左侧面颊上有一块生前长脓胞而留下的疤痕,恰好与卡那封被蚊子叮咬部位处于同一位置。

Soon after, archaeologist Arthur Mace who was part of the expedition, went into a coma and died soon afterwards, baffling everyone. The deaths continued. Carnarvon's friend, George Gould, trekked to Egypt when he learned of Carnarvon's fate. Before leaving, he looked in at the tomb. The next day, he collapsed with a high fever; twelve hours later he was dead. Radiologist Archibald Reid, a man who used X-ray techniques to determine the age and possible cause of death of Tutankhamun, was sent back to England after complaining of exhaustion. He died soon after landing.

Carnarvon's secretary Richard Bethell died of heart failure four months after the tomb was opened. The chain of deaths continued. Joel Wool, a leading British industrialist visited the tomb and was dead a few months later from a fever which doctors could not comprehend.

Lord Carnarvon's half-brother apparently took his own life while temporarily insane, and a further 21 people connected in some way with the dig, were also dead. Of the original tomb raiders, excavation, only Howard Carter lived to a ripe old age, dying in 1939 from natural causes.

之后不久,参与探险的考古学家阿瑟·梅斯陷入昏迷状态,不久就死了,这令大家迷惑不解。死亡仍在继续着。卡那封的朋友乔治·古尔德在得知卡那封的死讯后,长途跋涉来到了埃及。回国前,他去看墓穴。第二天,他因高烧而病倒,12个小时之后死亡。曾用X射线技术确定图坦卡蒙的年龄和死因的放射线学者阿奇博尔德·里德因感觉极度疲劳而被送回英国。飞机降落后不久就去世了。

在墓室被打开的四个月之后,卡那封的秘书里查德·贝塞尔死于心力衰竭。一连串的死亡依然在继续。英国的一位实业精英约尔·伍尔参观了古墓,几个月之后死于发烧,而医生对此无法理解。

卡那封勋爵的同父异母兄弟一时精神错乱而自杀身亡。此外,与古墓挖掘工作或多或少有些关联的其他21人也相继死去。当初参与古墓挖掘的人中,只有霍华德·卡特得以逸享天年,1939年正常死亡。

Rationalists argue that more people from Howard Carter's expedition died of natural causes than any curse. In fact, a vast section of scientists too rule out any possibility of any curse. Gotthard Kramer, in 1999, analysed 44 mummies and asserted that dormant spores and molds lying hidden in the tomb for thousands of years could have suddenly come to life on receiving fresh air and light.

Now, across millennia, Tutankhamun's Curse has come back to haunt. Egyptologist Zahi Hawass, who supervised the first CT scan of the mummy of the boy pharaoh Tutankhamun this week, said the experience suggested it might be unwise to write off the legendary "curse of the pharaohs".

"I cannot dismiss the legend of the curse because today many things happened. We almost had an accident in a car, the wind blew up in the Valley of the Kings and the computer of the CT scan was completely stopped for two hours," Hawass said in videotaped remarks. An Egyptian team carried out the CT scan in the Valley of the Kings near the southern town of Luxor on January 6, 2005 evening.

理性主义者坚称,参与霍华德·卡特探险工作的人为正常死亡,而不是被诅咒而死。事实上,众多的科学家也排除了被诅咒的可能性。1999年,哥萨德·卡米尔对44具木乃伊进行了分析研究,宣称隐埋在墓穴中几千年的孢子和真菌处于休眠状态,而接触到新鲜空气和阳光后会突然复苏。

如今,几千年之后,图坦卡蒙的诅咒再次显灵。负责本周对年幼的图坦卡蒙法老的木乃伊首次进行CT扫描的埃及古物学家扎依·哈马斯说,经验表明,将具有传奇色彩的“法老的诅咒”一笔勾销也许是不明智的。

“我不能排除诅咒的传说是因为今天发生的许多事情。我们几乎遭遇了车祸,国王谷突然刮起了大风,而用于扫描的电脑整整两个小时无法工作。”哈马斯在录象中发表了上述评论。2005年1月6日傍晚,埃及考古队在南部城市卢克苏尔附近的国王谷展开了CT扫描工作。

Hawass, well known around the world for his enthusiastic television appearances in documentaries on ancient Egypt, has previously spoken about spooky experiences he has had while excavating tombs and taking mummies out of sarcophagi. "I think we should still believe in the curse of the Pharaohs," he says.

The ancient tomb opened by Howard Carter in 1923 still remains a mystery. Pharaoh Tutankhamun's CT scan results are expected only in four weeks. Its result may throw light on the boy king's untimely death — and his unknown life. But the bigger secret remains impenetrable: is Tutankhamun's Curse for real? 3,500 years after the young Pharaoh died of mysterious reasons, the mist fails to lift. Tutankhamun lives.

由于在有关古埃及的纪录片中频频亮相且激情四射,哈马斯闻名世界。他以前提及过他在挖掘古墓并把木乃伊从石棺中取出时的闹鬼经历。“我想我们应该依旧相信法老的诅咒,”他说。

霍华德·卡特于 1923 年开启的古墓依旧是一个谜。对图坦卡蒙法老的 CT 扫描预计四周后有结果。其结果会有助于了解年幼国王的早逝以及其鲜为人知的生活。但是,更大的谜团依然无法揭开:图坦卡蒙的诅咒是真的吗? 年轻的法老神秘死亡 3500 年之后,谜团依然无法揭开。图坦卡蒙永垂。

New Words

heretic *n.* 异教徒

archeological *a.* 考古学的

stumble on 无意中发

excavation *n.* 挖掘,发掘,出土文物

contest *v.* 质疑,驳斥

wail *v.* 哀号,嚎啕

sarcophagus *n.* 石棺

hieroglyphics *n.* 象形文字

embellish *v.* 渲染,编造

succumb *v.* 屈服,屈从

blemish *n.* 瑕疵,脓胞

coma *n.* 昏迷

scoff at 嘲笑

dormant *a.* 睡眠状态的,静止的

spore *n.* 孢子

mind-boggling 令人难以置信的

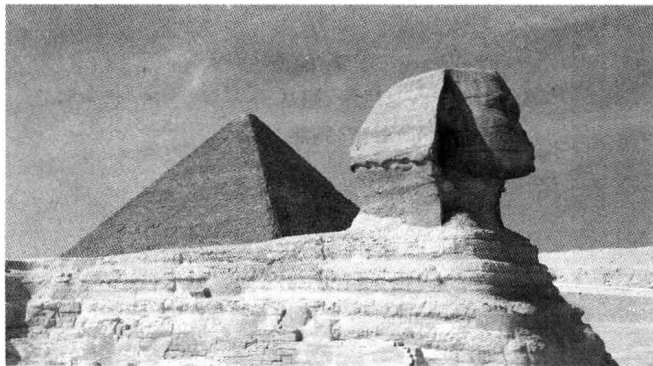
2. The Mystery of Pyramids

金字塔之谜

Background

沉默了几千年的金字塔,人类怎能对它熟视无睹?永远听任它的厚重、恢宏,以不屑一顾的神态挑战人类文明的进程?

胡夫金字塔是埃及金字塔中最大的一座。根据太阳光对金字塔的照射投影,可以知道时令的变化并编制出精确的历法,古埃及人曾经利用过金字塔进行天文观测吗?这是一直困扰现代考古研究的谜团之一。



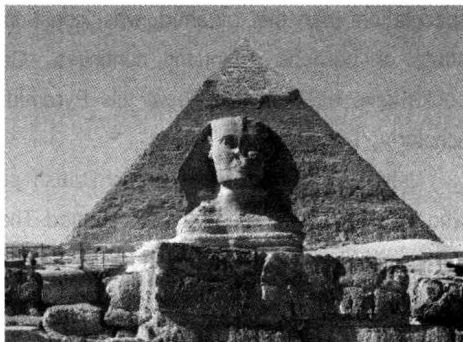
► The Mystery of Pyramids(金字塔之谜)

The Great Pyramid of Khufu, the largest in Egypt, is located on the Giza Plateau just outside Cairo. In fact, even if people have very little knowledge of Egypt, they will frequently not only know of this monument, but will also have any number of opinions about how and when it was built, as well as its function.

Khufu's pyramid was, in a line of astonishing architectural leaps forward, a significant link in Pyramid building's evolution. In terms of its size, the technical accomplishments of its construction, the great concern for cardinality and the organization required for its construction, this pyramid represents a phenomenal effort. Like later pyramids, it encompasses all of the standard elements of the pyramid

胡夫大金字塔是埃及规模最大的金字塔,位于开罗城外的吉萨高原。实际上,即使人们对埃及了解得不多,他们通常不仅仅知道这个建筑物,而且对于这座金字塔是怎样修建的、何时修建的以及它的用途等都有许多看法。

胡夫金字塔是建筑史上一个惊人的飞跃,是金字塔建筑发展中具有重要意义的一环。就其规模、建筑技术成就、对方位对称及修建组织规模所展现出的兴趣,使其成为一个非凡的成就。像后来修建的金字塔,它包含了金字塔群所有的基本要素,虽然大部分都消失了。完工后的金字塔包括了上层建筑和地下室,其



complex, though most have since disappeared. The finished pyramid, which included a superstructure and substructure, was surrounded by an enclosure wall of fine limestone, which enclosed a court paved in limestone. There was a valley temple, a causeway from it leading to a mortuary Temple that was itself situated against the pyramid. There was also a cult pyramid, as well as three pyramids for the burial of queens, a number of boat pit and other structures.

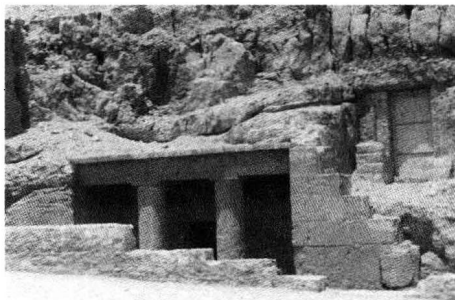
The history of man's thoughts about this structure is by far more complex, and often more interesting than the pyramid itself. Even in recent years, speculation that the pyramid was constructed by aliens or perhaps Atlantians continues. Countless books have been written about this Pyramid, many scholarly, but others not.

John Taylor was an eccentric British publisher who, in 1859, produced a work entitled *The Great Pyramid: Why Was It Built? And Who Built It?* Borrowing from the work of Tompkins, he thought that the Pyramid was actually built by Noah of biblical fame. He thought that the Great Pyramid's dimensions were very purposeful, which they probably were, but he saw in them relationships to many phys-

四周是用细致的石灰石砌成的围墙,墙内是铺有石灰石的庭院。一条堤道从河谷神庙通向位于金字塔对面的停灵神庙。还有一个祭祀金字塔,埋葬胡夫之母和两个王妃的三座金字塔,以及许多船坑和其他建筑。

人类关于金字塔的认知要复杂得多,而且往往比金字塔本身更有趣。甚至在近几年,有人猜测金字塔是由外星人修建的,或者也许是由亚特兰蒂斯人修建的。有关金字塔的书籍浩如烟海,许多是学术著作,其他的是非学术性的。

约翰·泰勒是个古怪的英国出版商,1859年他出版了一本书,名为《大金字塔:为什么修建?谁修建的?》。借鉴汤普金斯的研究成果,他认为金字塔是圣经中提到的诺亚修建的。他认为大金字塔的尺寸非常有意义,也许真的有什么意义。但是他



ical measurements, such as the number of days in the year and the radius of the earth. Part of his calculations involved a unit of measure he called the Pyramid Inch which he believed the Egyptians used in building the pyramid, which only differed from the British inch very slightly. He is essentially credited with being one of the founders of modern Pyramidology.

When one visits the Pyramid of Khufu, one is actually walking in the footsteps of the famous, both of the modern and ancient world. Alexandria the Great stood before it, just as modern visitors, and swore to build for his father, the Macedonian King Philip II, a funerary monument as large as the Great Pyramid. Herodotus, Strabo and Pliny certainly all made visits to the pyramid. Doubtless, every famous traveler in antiquity must have visited Khufu's complex. Many later individuals came to see this wonder of the ancient world, and they continue to come today.

Though most of the early visitors to the Great Pyramid were non-intrusive, by the time of the Arab Invasion of Egypt, the ancient Egyptian religion was gone and so too was apparently the Egyptian's understanding of the monument. Fables arose of fabulous treasures and immense knowledge contained within the structure, long before Taylor and Smyth's work. Finally, Caliph al-Ma'mun (831-832 AD)

在其中发现同许多自然界中的量之间的关系,例如一年之中的天数、地球的半径。他的计算涉及到了他所称之为金字塔英寸的度量单位,他认为埃及人在修建金字塔时用的就是这个度量单位,而金字塔英寸同英国的英寸差别不大。他当之无愧地被称为现代金字塔神秘学的开山鼻祖。

当参观胡夫金字塔时,人们实际上是踩着现代和古代著名人物的脚印。亚历山大大帝如现在的游人一样站在金字塔面前,发誓要为他父亲马其顿国王菲利普二世修建一座像大金字塔一样规模宏大的陵墓。希罗多德、斯特雷波和普林尼当然也都参观过金字塔。毫无疑问,每位寻访古迹的著名旅行家肯定都参观过胡夫金字塔群。许多后来者也来参观这个古代奇迹,而且现在游人如织。

虽然早期参观大金字塔的游客都没有闯入金字塔中,但是到了阿拉伯人入侵埃及时,古埃及的宗教消失了,因此埃及人对金字塔的了解也明显消失了。早在泰勒和史密斯之前,有关金字塔内藏有惊人的宝藏和大量知识的谣言四起。据信,哈里发奥——马穆恩(公元831~832)最后根据这一信息采取了行动。奥马穆恩至少曾找过原入口,但没有找到。之后,他下令让他手下人在金字塔