

英语经典名篇阅读

The Arabian Nights'
Entertainments

天方夜谭

A.L. 莱恩 著 程鹿峰 译



天津大学出版社

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前 言

“二百多年前，一直与君士坦丁堡的法国大使馆保持着联系的法国人安托万·加朗首次将他旅居东方时所搜集到的阿拉伯系列故事译成法语。起初，这些故事被认为只适合于孩子们阅读，可是不久，各个年龄段的读者都企盼能有第二集故事问世，许多年轻人夜晚经常聚集在加朗家的窗下说：‘您给我们讲了那么神奇的故事，再给我们讲一个吧！’”

从本书原序中的这一段话，作者生动而又具体地介绍了《天方夜谭》这本书的缘起以及受欢迎的程度。这些故事后来又从法语译成了英语，加朗先生在他严谨的节写本中又加进了一些取材于其他类似题材的故事，从而丰富了他的文集，对此评论家们都持赞同的态度。他们赞赏它的内容更适合广大读者，时间也证明了加朗添加那些篇章如《赞王子》、《阿拉丁》、《阿里·巴巴》、《说话鸟》、《阿里·柯吉亚》、《艾赫迈德王子》，都很受读者的欢迎。事实上，我们当中很多人如果要你说出故事中最著名的篇章，你首先提到的一定是那些后来添加进去的故事。

没有人知道《天方夜谭》出于何人之手，最早在什么时候被人搜集起来，很可能有很多作者，也可能在这些故事以书面形式出现以前，就已在贝都因人的营火旁被反复传述着，或者由职业说书人在宫廷中反复讲述了很多年代。一些故事中经常提到哈龙·奥拉希德·哈里发、他的妻子佐贝德、宰相贾法尔和刽子手梅斯洛尔，由于哈龙影射的是当时的查理曼大帝（742—814年），所以这些故事产生的时间应该在公元9世纪以后。公元9世纪以前，西方世界大多数国家尚处于黑暗、野蛮、愚昧的状态，许多欧洲的帝王甚至还不会读书写字，而这时的阿拉伯人则已拥有知识和文明，很有可能这些故事中的大多数写于9世纪之后，14世纪之前。

在东方，文集以《一千零一夜》名闻遐迩。当人们对古版本的研究日益深入时，他们发现了多种不同的版本，其中有些是节略本，而且很少雷同；还有一种明显的情况是，各个地区都添加了那个特定地区最流行的故事，这在很大程度上是英语版本中随意改动的结果。本书根据马莎·A. L. 莱恩的英译本译出，作者的目的是编写一本适合于中级英语水平读者阅读的节译本，选译一些最著名、最有代表性的故事，同时保留一定的原汁原味，并易于口述。对那些著名的篇章，如《阿拉丁的神灯》、《阿里·巴巴》等，还作了比较现代的表述。

《天方夜谭》已经流传几个世纪,我国也有好几种版本出版。本书是一个非常理想的供初、中级英语水平读者阅读的版本。由于是英、汉对照的双语读物,所以读者除了享受由一个个精彩的故事带来的乐趣外,学习英语的读者还可以学习世界名篇的英语原文,提高英语阅读能力,这比仅仅阅读一些讲解翻译理论的书籍,可能更有助益。

陆家齐
2007年8月



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THE ARABIAN NIGHTS' ENTERTAINMENTS

INTRODUCTION

T HERE lived in the old days a king who reigned over India and China, and who was lord of armies and guards and servants of all kinds. He had two sons, the elder of whom was called Shahriyar and the younger Shahzeman. On the death of the king, Shahriyar succeeded to his throne, while the younger brother ruled over Samarkand of Tartary^①.

After many years had gone by the elder king longed to^② see his brother and directed his vizier to fetch Shahzeman to him for a friendly visit. Orders were given for expensive stuffs and for horses adorned with gold and jewels, which were to be presented to the king of Samarkand. Shahriyar then wrote a letter to his brother, and having given it to the vizier, he commanded that officer to tuck up his skirts^③ and strain every nerve^④ to make a swift journey. The vizier answered,

①鞑靼的撒马尔罕：中亚的一个城邦，曾以商业和文化闻名于世。——原注 ②long v. 渴望、极想(念)。非常想去做某事时用 long to, 如 long to see a friend; 非常想某人、某事、某物时用 long for, 如 long for a drink。 ③东方人有急事赶路时，一般都要提起长袍的下摆塞入腰带，以免妨碍前进的步伐。——原注 ④strain v. 拉紧, strain every nerve 原意为“绷紧每根神经”，转义为“尽力”，“全力以赴”。

天方夜谭

引 子

从前有一个国王统治着印度和中国，他有一支强大的军队和卫队，拥有众多的朝臣和仆从。他有两个儿子，大儿子名叫夏里亚尔，小儿子叫夏宰曼。国王去世后，夏里亚尔继承了王位，弟弟则统治着鞑靼的撒马尔罕。

多年过后，身为国君的兄长很想念自己远方的弟弟，于是就派出首相去请夏宰曼来团聚，同时下令购置珍贵物品和饰以黄金珠宝的马匹作为赠给撒马尔罕国王的礼物。夏里亚尔还给弟弟写了一封信交给首相，命令他提起长袍的下摆竭尽全力赶往撒马尔罕。首相回答“遵命”后立即启程了。

"I hear and I obey," and set out^① at once.

When the caravan arrived at the city of Samarkand the vizier was courteously welcomed and entertained with all the ceremony befitting his high rank. In three days preparations were made for the return journey, and Shahzeman with an ample escort and costly presents set forth^② for his brother's court, where he was received with much rejoicing.

Now it happened that both King Shahzeman and King Shahriyar had been sadly deceived by the women they had married, and no sooner^③ did they talk together in confidence^④ than each discovered the other's sorrow. They became convinced that all women were untrustworthy, and soon after^⑤ his brother's visit was ended, King Shahriyar devised a plan by which to rid^⑥ the world of their treachery.

Every day he chose a daughter of one of his nobles to be his bride, and on the following morning gave her over to^⑦ his vizier to be beheaded. This he continued to do until the people raised an outcry against his cruelty and fled with their daughters from the city. One morning, to his dismay, the vizier could find no maiden who was ready to become the royal bride.

The vizier himself had two charming daughters, the elder of whom was called

当首相的人马到达撒马尔罕城时,首相受到隆重的欢迎和与他显赫身份相应的礼遇。经过三天回国的准备,夏辛曼率领大队随从,携带贵重礼品启程前往兄长的王宫,到达王宫时也受到热情的接待。

当时,夏辛曼和夏里亚尔两位国王都为被他们的后妃欺骗而苦恼。当他俩在一起促膝谈心时,发觉彼此都有各自的烦恼,认为所有的女人都是不可靠的。不久,弟弟结束了访问回去后,夏里亚尔国王心生一计,决心清除世间对他们的背叛。

从此,他每天挑选贵族中的一个女儿做他的新娘,第二天一早就交给宰相将其处死。国王每天处死一个新娘,日复一日直到人们起来反抗他的残暴,带着他们的女儿逃离这个城市。终于有一天早晨,国王万分沮丧,因为宰相再也找不到供他做新娘的少女。

宰相本人有两个如花似玉的女儿,大女儿叫舍哈拉扎德,小的

①set out 出发,启程,动手 ②set forth 启程,动身 ③no sooner than 一……就,刚……就 ④confidence 信任;知心话 talk together in confidence 促膝谈心 ⑤soon after 刚过 ⑥rid of 使摆脱,免除 ⑦give over to 交,托

引子

Scheherazade and the younger Dinarzade. The former had read many books of history and stories of past times, and when she saw her father sad and downcast she said to him: "Why do I see thee^① so changed and oppressed with grief? One of our poets has said,

Tell him who is anxious that this will not last;
As happiness passes, so passes anxiety."

Then the vizier told her all that had happened, and she said to him: "O my father, give me in marriage to the king! If I die, I shall at least save one other woman, and if I live, I shall be the deliverer of all the rest."

In vain did the unhappy vizier protest against his daughter's plan. Finding all his arguments of no avail, he finally betook himself to^② the king. Meanwhile Scheherazade unfolded her plan to her sister and obtained the promise of her assistance.

When evening came and the king lifted the veil from his wife's face^③ he was rejoiced to find her so beautiful. "But why dost thou weep?" he asked.

She answered: "O king, I have a young sister whom I love and who loves me very dearly. I know that to-morrow I shall be sent

叫狄纳尔扎德。姐姐熟读各种史书典籍和故事传说。当她发现父亲神情沮丧就问他：“我发现你脸色这么难看，什么事让你如此烦恼？有一位诗人说过：

告诉他，那个忧伤的人，忧伤不会持久，
如同欢乐必将消失，忧伤也会过去。”

宰相把发生的事情告诉了女儿，她对他说：“父亲啊，就把我嫁给国王吧！如果我死了，至少可以救活另一个女人，如果我能活着，我就是所有其他女人的救命恩人。”

不幸的宰相坚决反对女儿的主意，但毫无效果，他感到再坚持已见已无济于事，于是去觐见国王。此时，舍哈拉扎德向妹妹解释了自己的想法，后者答应帮助她。

夜幕降临，国王掀起新娘的面罩，高兴地发现新娘美艳动人。“你为什么哭呢？”他问道。

新娘回答：“王上，我有一个小妹，我非常爱她，她也非常爱我。我知道明天我就要被处死，

①thee 古英语 you 的宾格。 ②betake oneself to 使用；前往者 ③在东方上流社会中妇女与任何非亲属男子见面乃非同一般之事，男子在婚礼结束之前不能见到自己新娘的面容。——原注

forth to die, and before that time comes I long to take leave of^① her.”

“It is well,” said the king. “Thy^② desire shall be granted. Let a messenger be sent to thy sister without delay.”

When Dinarzade was admitted to the royal apartments she embraced the lovely bride, and having waited for a proper opportunity said to her, “O my sister, in the little time that remains to us before we are parted forever, tell us, I pray thee, one of thy entertaining stories. Alas! this will be the last night that I shall enjoy such a pleasure.”

“Gladly will I do so, my sister,” answered Scheherazade, “if the king is kind enough to permit me.”

“Tell on,” quoth^③ the king, who chanced to^④ be restless, and who was pleased with the prospect^⑤ of hearing the tale. Accordingly Scheherazade began:

我很想在死前向她告别。”

“好啊，”国王说道，“你的要求批准了。我马上派一名传令官去把你妹妹叫来。”

狄纳尔扎德来到王宫，拥抱着美丽的新娘时，趁机对她说：“我的好姐姐，在我们永别之前，剩下的时间不多了。我请求你把你的那些有趣的故事讲一个给我们听听。唉！这种享受只有这最后的一个夜晚了。”

“如果国王能恩准，”舍哈拉扎德答道，“我的小妹，我是非常乐意的。”

“讲吧，”国王说道。碰巧此时国王很烦闷，很乐意听故事解闷。于是舍哈拉扎德开始讲了起来：

①take leave of 向……告别 ②thy 你的(古英语 you 的所有格) ③quoth 古英语 say 的过去式 = said, 用于第一人称和第三人称。 ④chance to 碰巧, 偶然发生 ⑤prospect 指望, 希望



THE MERCHANT AND THE GENIE

商人和妖怪

5

IT IS related, O king, that there was a merchant who had great riches. On a certain day he mounted his horse and journeyed to a neighboring country to collect what was due him. The heat was oppressive, and having stopped to rest himself under a tree, he ate a morsel of bread and a date which were among his provisions. When he had eaten the date he threw away the stone. Immediately an enormous genie^① appeared before him with a sword in his hand, and cried, “Rise, that I may kill thee, as thou^② hast^③ killed my son!”

“How have I killed thy son?” asked the merchant.

The genie answered, “The stone from the date that thou hast eaten was flung aside by thy careless hand and struck my son so

敬爱的王上,据说从前有一个非常富有的商人。有一天他骑马来到邻国收取他的债款。当时天气炎热,他停下来在一棵树下休息,吃着他口粮中的一块面包和一颗椰枣。当他吃完椰枣,随手把枣核扔掉,这时突然一个硕大的妖怪出现在面前,手握大刀喊道:“你杀了我的儿子!起来,我要像你杀死我的儿子那样杀死你!”

“我怎么会杀了你的儿子?”商人答道。

妖怪回答:“你把吃剩的那个椰枣核随手一扔,击中了我的儿子,他被你打死了。”

①伊斯兰教传说中的妖怪是一种超自然的生命体,经常以男女巨人或野兽的形状出现,其中有些是邪恶的,有些却具有仁义善良的品性。——原注 ②thou 古英语的 you。

③hast 古英语 have 的第二人称单数现在式。

that he died.”

The merchant, on hearing these words, exclaimed: “Verily I meant no harm^①. If I killed him, I did it without knowing it. I trust then that thou wilt^② pardon me.”

“Thou must die,” returned the genie, and raised his sword to smite him, but the unhappy merchant cried out, begging for mercy.

“Spare thy words,” said the genie, “for thy time is come^③.”

Then said the merchant: “Know, O genie, that I have much property, and children, and a wife, and I have also debts to pay. Let me, therefore, go back to my house and give to every man his due, and then I will return to thee, and thou shalt^④ do as thou wilt. I bind^⑤ myself by a vow that I will surely return.”

Upon this the genie accepted his promise and set him free until the end of the year. The merchant, therefore, returned to his house and put his affairs in order^⑥. He paid every one what he owed him and remained with his family until the time came for him to seek the genie. Then, bidding his weeping wife farewell^⑦, he set forth to fulfill his promise.

商人听后惊叫道:“我确实不是故意的,要说是我杀了他,那也是误杀。我相信你会宽恕我的。”

“你死定了,”妖怪答道,随即举刀要砍他,不幸的商人吓得大声求饶。

“少说废话,”妖怪大声说,“你死到临头了。”

商人说:“哦,妖怪大王,你知道,我有很多钱财,有孩子,还有一个妻子,有许多债该偿还。行个好,放我回家还清所有的债,我就回到这里听候发落。我向你起誓,我一定回来。”

妖怪听了商人的这番话,接受了他的请求放他回家,限期到年底一定回来。商人回到家中处理好一切事务,还清了该还的债,与家人一起生活了一段时间直到该回去向妖怪报到的日子。他向悲伤的妻子告别后,离家去履行自己的诺言。

①mean no harm 并无恶意 ②wilt 古英语的 will,只用于 thou wilt = you will。

③time is come 死期到了 ④shalt: shall 的古体, thou shalt = you shall。 ⑤bind 约束, 捆绑 bind oneself 保证(做),起誓(做) ⑥put sth. in order 把……整理好,把……处理好
⑦bid farewell 告别



As he sat under the tree waiting for the appearance of the genie, an aged sheik approached, leading a gazelle. The sheik saluted the merchant and said to him: "What is the reason that thou sittest^① alone in this place? Dost thou not know that it is a resort^② of the jinn?"

当他坐在树下等候妖怪出现时,一位年长的酋长牵着一头小羚羊走来。酋长向商人问好后说道:“你为什么一个人坐在这里?你不知道这里是妖怪经常出没之地?”

①sittest 古英语中-est 接在动词后构成陈述语气第二人称单数。
胜地

②resort 常去之地,

Then the merchant informed him of all that had happened and of the cause of his being there, at which the sheik was astonished beyond measure^① and said to him: "O my brother, thy story is wonderful. Verily I will not quit this place before I see what the genie will do unto^② thee."

In a short time a huge cloud of dust and vapor was seen advancing toward them, and from the midst of^③ it stepped forth the genie. A drawn sword was in his hand, and his eyes sent out darts of fire.

"Rise," said he to the merchant, "that I may kill thee as thou hast killed my son!"

Then the sheik came forward and said, "O thou genie and prince of genii, if I relate to thee the story of this gazelle, and if thou shalt find it to be more wonderful than the adventure of the merchant here, wilt thou give up thy claim to his life?"

And the genie answered: "Yes, O sheik. If thou relate to me the story, and I find it to be as thou hast said, I will give up to thee my claim upon his life."

Then said the sheik: "Know, O genie, that I had once a wife and a slave and a beloved son. It happened that I had occasion to journey to a distant city, and during my absence my wife, who had studied enchant-

商人告诉了酋长事情的原委和他来此处的原因,这使老人感到万分惊讶,他对商人说:“哦,我的老弟,这事太奇妙了。我倒要看看这个妖怪会怎样对付你,否则我决不离开这儿。”

没一会儿,一大团烟尘滚滚而来,他们发现妖怪就在其中,他手握出鞘的大刀,两眼冒着火星。

“站起来,”他对商人喊道,“我现在可以像你杀死我的儿子一样杀死你啦!”

此时,酋长挺身而出说:“妖怪大爷、妖怪大王,如果我给你讲一个关于这只小羚羊的故事而你觉得故事比这位商人的遭遇更离奇,那你能不能就不再要他的命?”

妖怪回答说:“好啊,酋长,要是你讲的故事让我觉得真如你说的那样离奇,那我就冲你的面子,放弃要他偿命的权利。”

于是酋长说:“妖怪大爷,听着,我曾经有个妻子、一个奴仆和一个心爱的儿子。不幸发生了这样一件事:我有事到远方的一个城市去不在家时,我的那个学过

①beyond measure 极度地
of 自……之中

②unto: to 的古体,《圣经》中常用。

③from the midst

商人和妖怪

ment, transformed my slave into a cow and my young son into a calf and gave them both into the care of a herdsman. When I returned after a long time and inquired for my household, my wife said, 'Thy slave is dead, and as for thy son I know not whither he has fled.' Then was my sorrow great, and for the space of a year I mourned for them."

"One day when I had ordered my herdsman to fetch a cow for the sacrifice, he brought me my slave whom my wife had enchanted. And the cow mourned so violently that I would not slay her, but ordered the herdsman to bring me a calf instead, whereupon he led out my son who had been transformed into a calf. I went up to him, knife in hand—"

Here Scheherazade saw that it was dawn and ceased her story. Then said Dinarzade, "How interesting is thy tale, my sister!"

"It is nothing," said Scheherazade, "to the tales I could tell thee were the king willing to listen."

Then said the king to himself, "I will not slay her until the story is ended."

So he went forth to the audience hall and issued his orders and gave judgment even unto the close of the day, and he told the vizier not one word of what had happened. The vizier wondered with exceeding

妖术的老婆把我的奴仆变成了一头母牛,把我的小儿子变成了一头牛犊后,就把他俩交给了一个牧人看管。过了很长一段时间,我回到家里,问起家中的情况时,老婆说:‘你的奴仆死了,至于你的儿子,我也不知道他逃到哪儿去了。’我听后非常伤心,我为他们难过了整整一年。”

“一天,我吩咐牧人杀一头母牛作祭品,他为我牵来我老婆施了魔法的奴仆。这头母牛显得十分痛苦使我下不了手,我又让牧人牵头小牛来,于是他把变成牛犊的我的儿子牵来。我手握屠刀向他走去……”

舍哈拉扎德眼见天已破晓,就没有继续讲下去。狄纳尔扎德说,“姐姐,故事太有意思了!”

“这没有什么,”舍哈拉扎德说,“我还能给你讲一些国王喜欢听的故事。”

国王心想:“等把故事讲完我再杀她。”

于是国王继续上朝理政,发布命令,审理政务直到天黑,他没有向宰相透露昨晚的事情。宰相很感诧异,退朝后,国王不顾宰相的惊讶,径自来到寝宫。