

英 语 经 典 名 篇 阅 读

古希腊的故事

The Story of the Greeks

(美) H·A. 盖尔伯 著 洪津 孙琳 译



天津大学出版社

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译者前言

西方文明起源于古希腊,灿烂的古希腊文明给世界留下取之不尽的精神财富。英语中很多词汇和典故都来自古希腊,要学习英语和西方文化,应该先了解古希腊。古希腊文明曾是当时世界文明的中心与顶峰,以其特异的风采和卓越的成就流传后世。虽然记述古希腊历史故事的书不少,但本书自有其特色。

首先,本书以古希腊人物故事为线索,按时间顺序串起古希腊的重大事件,简洁清晰地展现了古希腊文明从起到兴到盛到衰的历史变迁的概貌,能激发起读者进一步深入探究浩繁复杂的古希腊历史和文化的兴趣。第二,原著叙事视角深入浅出,文笔生动活泼,可读性强,符合青少年的欣赏口味。第三,原著的英文浅显易懂,词汇重复率高,辅以生词和语法难点注释以及生动的译文,很适合英语爱好者作为学习英语的阅读材料。

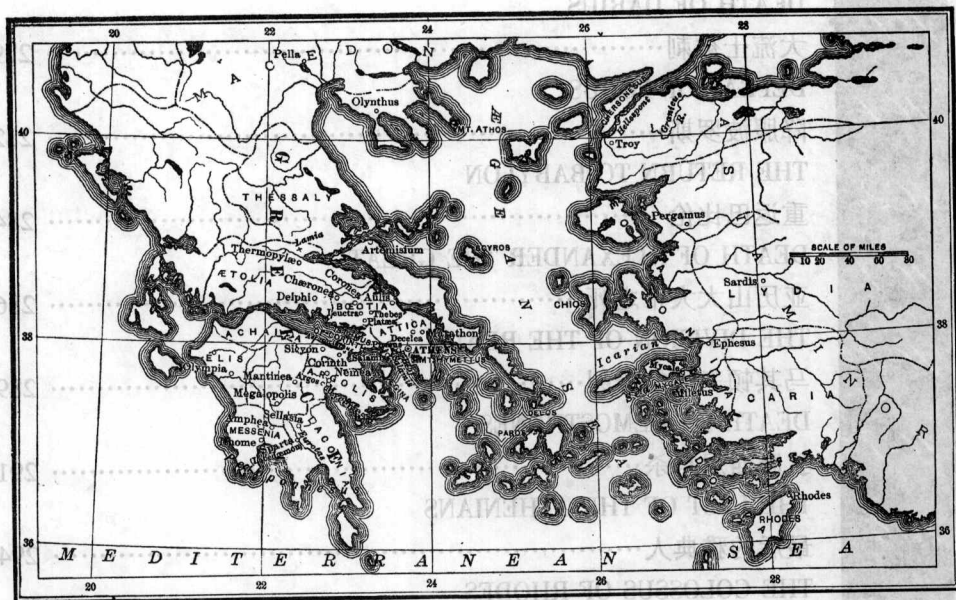
本书记述了古希腊的神话人物与英雄们非同寻常的经历,热情赞颂了他们的勇气、毅力、爱国精神等美德。读者能读到一些经典的古希腊神话传说,如丢卡利翁和皮拉的故事、伊阿宋寻找金羊毛、赫拉忒修斯冒险记、俄狄浦的悲剧、阿喀琉斯之踵、特洛伊战争,等等。读者还能认识一些真实的古希腊人物,如雅典最后一位国王科德罗斯、底比斯名将埃帕米农达、斯巴达政治家利库尔戈斯、改革者梭伦、哲学家苏格拉底、雄辩家狄摩西尼、西方医学之父希波克拉底、被誉为历史上最成功的军事指挥家之一的亚历山大大帝,等等。

通过阅读本书,读者可以了解一些古代西方军事史上著名的战争或战役的来龙去脉,如麦西尼亚战争、伯罗奔尼撒战争、马拉松战役、温泉关战役、萨拉米斯战役、普拉蒂亚战役、色诺芬万人大撤退、曼提尼亚战役、希波战争、亚历山大东征,等等。

读者在本书中还能得到有关古希腊的风土人情和典故的知识,如神庙、传神谕者、献祭,如奈迈阿运动会、奥林匹克运动会的起源,如伊卡洛斯海、爱琴海名称的由来,为什么生死之交的朋友会被比作达蒙和皮西厄斯,为什么勇敢坚强的男孩会被叫做“小斯巴达人”,什么是达摩克勒斯之剑,什么是戈尔迪乌姆之结,等等。

本套丛书由陆家齐老师总策划、组稿、协调。全书译稿由洪津、苏音审校。感谢陆家齐老师提供英文原著。

洪津



Map of Ancient Greece.

古希腊地图



Map Showing Greek Colonies and Conquests.

显示希腊人聚居地和征服地区的地图

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1. 早期的希腊居民



I. EARLY INHABITANTS OF GREECE

ALTHOUGH Greece (or Hel'las) is only half as large as the State of New York, it holds a very important place in the history of the world. It is situated in the southern part of Europe, cut off from the rest of the continent by a chain of high mountains which form a great wall on the north. It is surrounded on nearly all sides by the blue waters of the Med-it-er-ra'ne-an Sea, which stretch so far inland that it is said no part of the country is forty miles from the sea, or ten miles from the hills. Thus shut in by sea and mountains, it forms a little territory by itself, and it was the home of a noted people.

The history of Greece goes back to the time when people did not know how to write, and kept no record of what was happening around them. For a long while the stories told by parents to their children were the only information which could be had about the country and its former inhabitants^①; and these stories, slightly changed by every new teller, grew more and more extraordinary as time passed. At last they were so changed

1. 早期的希腊居民

① 希腊古名海腊斯。虽然它的面积仅为美国纽约州的一半,但是它在世界历史上占有极其重要的地位。希腊位于欧洲南部。绵延不断的崇山峻岭在希腊北面形成一道长城,把希腊与欧洲大陆的其他地区隔开。希腊几乎全被地中海蔚蓝的海水包围,海水深入希腊内陆,据说希腊任何地区距海都不到 40 英里,距山都不到 10 英里。这片依山环海的陆地形成自己小小的独立王国,成为一个著名民族的家园。

希腊的历史可以追溯到人们还不会书写的年代,因此当时发生在人们周围的事没有留下文字记载。长期以来,父母讲给孩子们的故事,是后人能得到的关于这个国家和它的早期居民的仅有资料。这些故事经由每个新的讲述者时都有微小变化,随着时间的推移变得越来越离奇。后来,故事的变化太大了,没人能分清

①inhabitant n. 居民

that no one could tell where the truth ended and fancy began.

The beginning of Greek history is therefore like a fairy tale; and while much of it cannot, of course, be true, it is the only information we have about the early Greeks. It is these strange fireside stories, which used to amuse Greek children so many years ago, that you are first going to hear. ①

About two thousand years before the birth of Christ, in the days when Isaac wanted to go down into Egypt, Greece was inhabited by a savage② race of men called the Pe-las'gi-ans. They lived in the forests, or in caves hollowed out of the mountain side, and hunted wild beasts with great clubs and stone-tipped③ arrows and spears. They were so rude and wild that they ate nothing but④ raw meat, berries, and the roots which they dug up with sharp stones or even with their hands.

For clothing, the Pelasgians used the skins of the beasts they had killed; and to protect themselves against other savages, they gathered together in families or tribes, each having a chief⑤ who led in war and in the chase.

There were other far more civilized⑥ nations in those days. Among these were the Egypt'ians, who lived in Africa. They had

哪些是真实的历史、哪些是虚构的情节了。

因此,希腊历史的开篇就像是一个神话传说。虽然其中的许多内容不可能是真的,却是我们了解早期希腊人的唯一途径。你首先听到的,就是多年前希腊大人哄小孩子的一些神奇的炉边故事。

大约在耶稣基督诞生前二千年,就在以撒搬迁往埃及的时候,希腊居住着一个名叫佩拉斯吉的原始民族。他们居住在森林里或是在山腰挖的洞穴里,用粗大的棍棒、石头磨尖做成的箭和矛捕捉野兽。这个民族粗鲁而野蛮,他们只吃生肉、浆果,还用锋利的石头甚至用手挖树根吃。

佩拉斯吉人以自己捕猎的野兽的兽皮为衣。为了保护自己不受其他野蛮人的攻击,他们以家族或部落为单位聚居,每个群体有一个首领,他在打仗和狩猎时负责指挥。

当时还有更文明的民族,其中包括居住在非洲的埃及人。他们很久以前就学会了用火,拥有

①It is... that... 强调结构

②savage *a.* 原始的,野蛮的,未开化的

③stone-

tipped *a.* 用石头磨尖的

④but *prep.* 除了……之外

⑤each having a chief... 每个群体有一个首领(分词独立结构)

⑥civilize *v.* 使文明,使开化

1. 早期的希腊居民

long known the use of fire, had good tools, and were much further advanced than the Pelasgians. They had learned not only to build houses, but to erect^① the most wonderful monuments in the world, — the Pyramids, of which you have no doubt heard.

In Egypt there were at the time a number of learned men. They were acquainted with^② many of the arts and sciences, and recorded all they knew in a peculiar writing of their own invention. Their neighbors, the Phoe-ni'-cians, whose land also bordered on^③ the Mediterranean Sea, were quite civilized too; and as both of these nations had ships, they soon began to sail all around that great inland sea.

As they had no compass, the Egyptian and Phoenician sailors did not venture out of sight^④ of land. They first sailed along the shore, and then to the islands which they could see far out on the blue waters.

When they had come to one island, they could see another still farther on; for, as you will see on any map, the Mediterranean Sea, between Greece and Asia, is dotted with islands, which look like stepping-stones going from one coast to the other.

Advancing thus carefully, the Egyptians and Phoenicians finally came to Greece, where they made settlements, and began to teach the Pelasgians many useful and

精巧的工具,比佩拉斯吉人先进得多。埃及人不仅学会了盖房子,还建造了世界上最奇妙的纪念碑——金字塔,对此你肯定已经听说过了。

那时埃及有许多学者,他们掌握了多种艺术和科学,并用自己发明的特殊文字把他们知道的事情全部记录下来。他们的邻居腓尼基人的国土也在地中海沿岸,文明程度也相当高,这两个民族都拥有船只,不久他们就开始环绕那个巨大的陆间海航行。

埃及和腓尼基水手都没有指南针,不敢冒险到看不见陆地的地方。起初他们只是沿海岸航行,后来才到他们可以看见的蓝色海洋中远离陆地的岛屿。

他们到达一个岛屿后,又可以遥望到更远的岛屿。你可以在任何地图上看到,在连接希腊与亚洲的地中海上有星星点点的岛屿,看上去很像从一边海岸到另一边海岸的踏脚石。

埃及人和腓尼基人就这样小心翼翼地前进,最后到达了希腊。他们定居下来,并开始教佩拉斯吉人许多有用而且重要的技能。

①erect v. 建立,建造 ②be acquainted with... 与……相识,了解 ③border on 接壤 ④out of sight of 在看不见……的地方

important things.

II. THE DELUGE OF OGYGES

2. 奥奇其斯洪水

THE first Egyptian who thus settled in^① Greece was a prince called In'achus. Landing in that country, which has a most delightful climate, he taught the Pelasgians how to make fire and how to cook their meat. He also showed them how to build comfortable homes by piling up^② stones one on top of another, much in the same way as the farmer makes the stone walls around his fields.

第一个迁居希腊的埃及人是一位王子,名叫伊那科斯。他在那个气候宜人的国家登陆之后,教会佩拉斯吉人使用火和煮肉的方法。他还指导他们把石头一块块垒起来建造舒适的家,这与农民在自己的田地四周建石墙的方法十分相似。

The Pelasgians were intelligent, although so uncivilized; and they soon learned to build these walls higher, in order to keep the wild beasts away from their homes. Then, when they had learned the use of bronze^③ and iron tools, they cut the stones into huge blocks of regular shape.

尽管佩拉斯吉人尚未开化,却十分聪明,很快就学会把墙筑得更高,以使野兽不能靠近他们的家。后来,当他们学会使用青铜和铁制造工具后,就把石头切割成有规则的大块石料。

These stone blocks were piled one upon another so cleverly that some of the walls are still standing, although no mortar^④ was used to hold the stones together. Such^⑤ was the strength of the Pelasgians, that^⑥ they raised huge blocks to great heights, and made walls which their descendants^⑦ declared must have been built by giants.

这些石料一块块堆砌得十分巧妙,一些城墙今天仍然矗立着,尽管当初没有用砂浆把石块黏和在一起。佩拉斯吉人的力量就是这样强大,他们把硕大的石料高高举起,筑成他们的后代断言是巨人建造的墙。

As the Greeks called their giants Cy'clops, which means "round-eyed," they

希腊人把他们的巨人叫做库克路普,意为“圆眼睛”,因此不

①settle in 迁入新居并安顿下来 ②pile up 把……堆积,聚积 ③bronze n. 青铜
④mortar n. 砂浆,灰泥 ⑤such pron. 这样的人(或事) ⑥that... 可视为前文 such 的同位语从句 ⑦descendant n. 子孙,后代,后裔

2. 奥奇其斯洪水

soon called these walls Cy-clo-pe'an; and, in pointing them out to their children, they told strange tales of the great giants who had built them, and always added that these huge builders had but one eye, which was in the middle of the forehead.

Some time after Inachus the Egyptian had thus taught the Pelasgians the art of building, and had founded a city called Ar'gos, there came a terrible earthquake. The ground under the people's feet heaved^① and cracked, the mountains shook, the waters flooded the dry land, and the people fled in terror to the hills.

In spite of the speed with which they ran, the waters soon overtook them. Many of the Pelasgians were thus drowned, while their terrified companions ran faster and faster up the mountain, nor stopped to rest until they were quite safe.

Looking down upon the plains where they had once lived, they saw them all covered with water. They were now forced to build new homes; but when the waters little by little sank into the ground, or flowed back into the sea, they were very glad to find that some of their thickest walls had resisted the earthquake and flood, and were still standing firm.

The memory of the earthquake and flood was very clear, however. The poor Pelasgians could not forget their terror and the

久他们就称这些墙为独眼巨人墙。他们指着高墙给自己的孩子们看时,会讲述筑墙的伟大巨人的传奇故事,而且总是加上一句:这些筑墙的巨人只在前额中间长着一只眼睛。

埃及人伊那科斯教会佩拉斯吉人建筑技术并建起一座叫做阿尔戈斯的城市之后,那里发生了一场可怕的地震。大地在人们脚下隆起、断裂,山在摇晃,洪水淹没了干涸的土地,人们惊慌地逃向山里。

尽管人们跑得飞快,洪水还是很快追了上来。许多佩拉斯吉人被洪水吞没,他们的同伴惊恐万分,向山上奔逃的脚步越来越快,直到感觉安全了才停下来歇歇脚。

俯瞰自己曾经居住过的平原,他们看到那里全部被洪水淹没,他们不得不建立新家。然而,当洪水渐渐渗入土地或重归大海,他们欣喜地发现,他们建造的一些最厚的墙经受住了地震与洪水的考验,依然纹丝不动地屹立着。

然而,地震和洪水的记忆历历在目,可怜的佩拉斯吉人无法忘却自己的恐惧和那么多朋友的

①heave v. 隆起,鼓起