

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

海底两万里

Jules Verne

Syllabus designer: David Foulds

Adaptor: David Foulds

[注释] 王 哲

**上海外语教育出版社
牛津大学出版社**



Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

Jules Verne



Hong Kong
Oxford University Press
Oxford Singapore Tokyo

Originally published by Oxford University Press
(China) Limited.

© Oxford University Press

This Chinese edition is licensed for sale in the
mainland part of China only and not for export
therefrom

English text and artwork © Oxford University
Press (1997)

Chinese text © Shanghai Foreign Language
Education Press (1998)

'Oxford' is a trademark of Oxford University
Press.

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea

海底两万里

原 著: Jules Verne

Syllabus designer: David Foulds

Adaptor: David Foulds

注 释: 王 哲

Illustrator: 陈启贤

责任编辑: 王金鹤

CONTENTS

1 THE NARWHAL	1
2 THE MONSTER IS FOUND	11
3 THE <i>Nautilus</i>	20
4 ON THE FLOOR OF THE OCEAN	29
5 STUCK ON A ROCK	38
6 PEARLS AND A SHARK	47
7 A SECRET PASSAGE	54
8 A TREASURE FLEET	63
9 TRAPPED	72
10 THE BATTLE OF THE OCTOPUSES	81
11 CAPTAIN NEMO'S REVENGE	91
QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES	101



THE NARWHAL

A sea monster

My name is Pierre Arronax. I am the Assistant Professor at the Museum of Natural History in Paris. I am also the author of a well-known book called *Mysteries of the Ocean Depths*. The story that I am about to write describes some of these mysteries, and tells how I was able to see them with my own eyes. 5

In June 1866, I was sent by the French Government to take part in a scientific expedition to Nebraska, an unexplored region of the United States of America. I spent nine months there, and collected a large number of rocks, plants and animals for the museum. 10

In March 1867, I arrived in New York with my notes and my collection of specimens. I wanted to return to France as soon as possible, but before I could leave, I had to pack up my collection, and go to a few meetings. I was also asked to give one or two lectures. 15

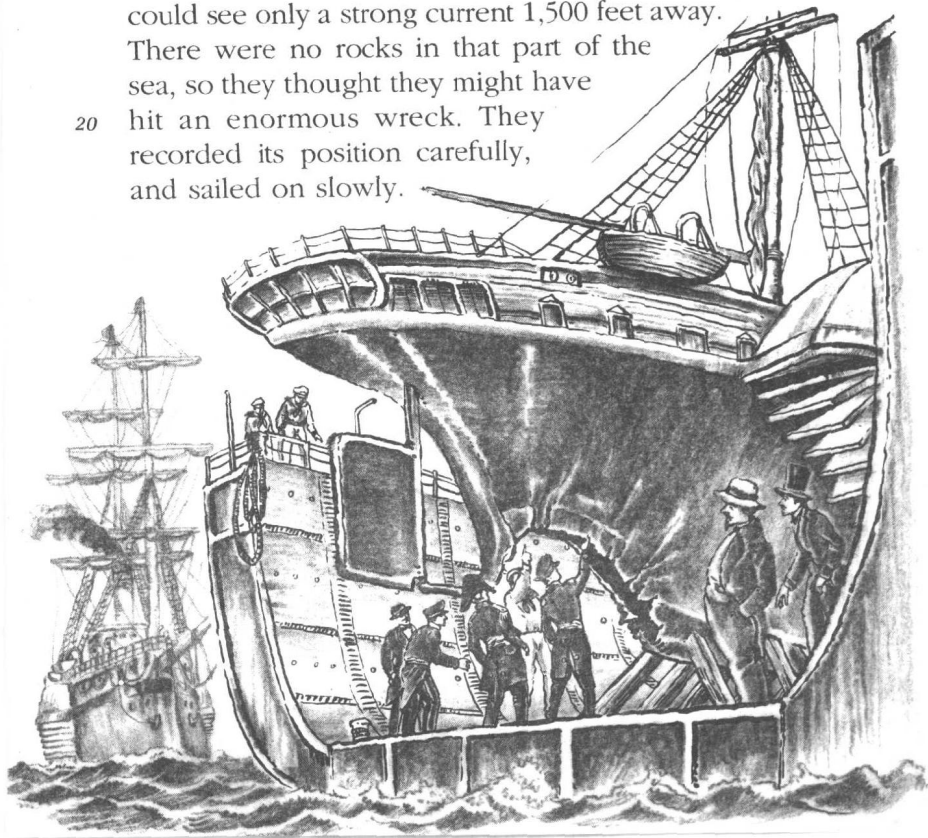
I decided, therefore, to take rooms in a hotel for myself and Conseil. Conseil is my servant, and also my scientific assistant. I found a good hotel and we started work. I gave three lectures which were praised by all who heard them. Conseil kept the plants and animals in good condition. I hoped that we would be able to leave at the beginning of April, but on 20th March, something happened which changed all my plans. 20 25

Everyone will remember that in July and August of 1866 several ships met a strange object in the sea. One ship, the *Governor Higginson*, came across it five miles off the coast of Australia. At first the captain thought he had found an unknown island, but suddenly two columns of steam shot thirty yards up into the air. He knew then that it was not an island, but he could not tell what it was. 30

Three days later, the crew on the *Columbus*, sailing across the Indian Ocean about 700 miles from Australia, saw the same thing. Fifteen days later, two more ships saw it in the North Atlantic. Both captains thought that it was
5 larger than their own ships, about 100 yards in length.

Nobody could agree what it was. Some said it was a floating island, but they could not explain how it moved so fast. Others said that it was a sea monster, but nobody took that idea seriously. For a few months, the papers
10 were full of amazing pictures and amusing jokes about monsters, and then the subject was forgotten.

Then, on 20th March 1867, when I was back in New York, the *Moravia* was crossing the Atlantic, with 237 passengers on board. She was sailing at a steady speed
15 of fifteen knots (about seventeen miles per hour), when she struck something. The officers on the watch deck could see only a strong current 1,500 feet away. There were no rocks in that part of the
20 sea, so they thought they might have hit an enormous wreck. They recorded its position carefully, and sailed on slowly.



They reached New York five days later. When the ship was examined, it was found that part of her keel had been broken off. If her hull had not been very strong, she would have sunk with all the passengers and crew.

When this happened, people were very worried, and began to wonder if the monster had come back. I was invited to give some lectures about creatures that live in the sea. When I was asked what had damaged the *Moravia*, I said that there was not enough evidence to decide. But secretly I thought that it might be a monster. I decided to stay in New York and see if anything else happened.

On 13th April, another ship called the *Scotia* was sailing at thirteen knots to Liverpool. At exactly 8.17 p.m., while the passengers were having dinner, a slight shock was felt. The chief engineer went down to see if the bottom of the ship had been damaged. He found that water was pouring into one of the divisions of the hold. Fortunately, it was possible to keep the water out of the other divisions, so the ship was not in danger. She was able to sail on slowly, and reached Liverpool a day late.

When the engineers in Liverpool examined her, they could hardly believe their eyes. Two and a half yards below the water line there was a large hole. It was triangular, and the edges of the hole were quite straight. Something had forced itself through an iron plate which was one and a half inches thick.

After this, it seemed that all ships were in danger. Even governments began to take the matter seriously. All the information about the strange object was collected together, and important people were asked to give their opinions.

There was very little information. The object was about 100 yards long and could travel at fifty knots for a long period of time. It could travel on the surface, and under the surface. It had a hard body, and carried some sharp weapon which could make a hole in iron.

- Some people said that it was a submarine vessel, but this idea was not accepted. Firstly, every government said firmly that they had not made such a ship, and that they were certain no other government had made one.
- 5 Secondly, it was impossible for a private person to build such a ship. Even if he had a place to build it, or the money to pay for it, he could not have built it without someone knowing.

My theory

- 10 Most people said it was a monster. When I was asked for my opinion, I felt that I could no longer say that there was not enough evidence. But I did not want to be laughed at, so I wrote a careful letter to the *New York Herald*. This is part of what I wrote:
- 15 , 'Could a monster as large as this exist? Yes, it could, for there are many parts of the sea which we have never visited. We have no idea what lives at the bottom of the ocean.
- 'What would it look like? It might be very different from
20 anything that we have seen before. If it lived near the bottom of the ocean, it would have to be very large and strong, in order to resist the water pressure.
- 'But I believe that it is a huge specimen of a creature that fishermen meet quite often. I mean the narwhal. The
25 largest caught so far was twenty yards long. It had a bone sword at the front which was as hard as steel, and six feet long. If we can imagine a narwhal five times larger than that one, then we have a creature that fits the evidence so far.
- 30 'Therefore, unless new evidence is provided, I shall believe that the cause of these accidents is a giant narwhal, which is as strong and powerful as a warship. I must add, however, that it is possible that we are dealing with something quite different from what we have ever
35 imagined or experienced.'

My article was praised by everyone, and I was very pleased.

All now agreed that there was a monster, and the public called for action to find it and kill it, so that it could not put any more ships in danger.

The United States was the first country to take action, and in New York they made preparations for an expedition to catch the narwhal. A very fast warship, the *Abraham Lincoln*, was made ready. The commander, Captain Farragut, was allowed to put on board all the weapons and equipment that he wanted.

Within two weeks the ship was ready, but no one knew in what direction it should sail. For two months no ship saw the monster. People grew very impatient, until on 2nd July, they learned that a steamship sailing from California to Shanghai had seen it in the North Pacific Ocean.

Everybody was full of excitement. The *Abraham Lincoln* was once more made ready and loaded with food, water, and fuel for the engines.

Three hours before it left New York harbour, I received this letter:

*Mr Pierre Arronax,
Assistant Professor at the Paris Museum of Natural
History
Fifth Avenue Hotel
New York*

*Sir,
If you will agree to join the Abraham Lincoln in the
expedition to find the narwhal, the United States
government will be very pleased that a famous
scientist from France is taking part. Captain Farragut
has a cabin ready for you.*

*Very sincerely yours,
J.B. Hobson
Secretary of the Navy*

At first I could not decide what to do. On the one hand, I was tired after my recent travels. I wanted to see my house again, and continue with my scientific work. On the other hand, this was a great chance to find out what the monster was. Perhaps I would bring glory to France.
5 Within a few minutes I made up my mind. I would go.

Next I had to ask Conseil if he would come with me. He had been with me on every expedition I had made in the last ten years. I expected, therefore, that he would agree, but I had to ask him, because this one might be
10 both long and dangerous.

‘Conseil!’ I shouted.

‘Yes, sir,’ he said, entering the room.

‘Ah, Conseil. I’ve been invited to join the expedition that will look for the narwhal.’
15

‘Yes, sir.’

‘Will you come with me?’

‘Yes, sir.’

‘Then pack our things. We leave in two hours. Put all my clothes and my scientific notebooks and instruments
20 into one large box.’

‘Yes, sir.’ He left to begin at once.

While he packed, I made arrangements with the hotel to look after my specimens. Two hours after I had received the letter, we reached the ship. Some sailors carried the
25 luggage on board, and I was taken to Captain Farragut.

‘Are you Professor Arronax?’ he asked me.

‘Yes, I am. You must be Captain Farragut.’

‘Yes. You are very welcome, Professor. Your cabin is
30 ready for you.’

I went down to the cabin where Conseil was unpacking our luggage. It seemed very comfortable, so I left him to finish the work and went up on deck.

The ship was already leaving the harbour. A huge crowd of people cheered and waved their handkerchiefs.
35 We moved down the river to the open sea, and were soon on our way.

The search for the monster

When land was out of sight, and we were sailing at full speed in the Atlantic Ocean, I went to talk to the captain.

'Good evening, Captain.'

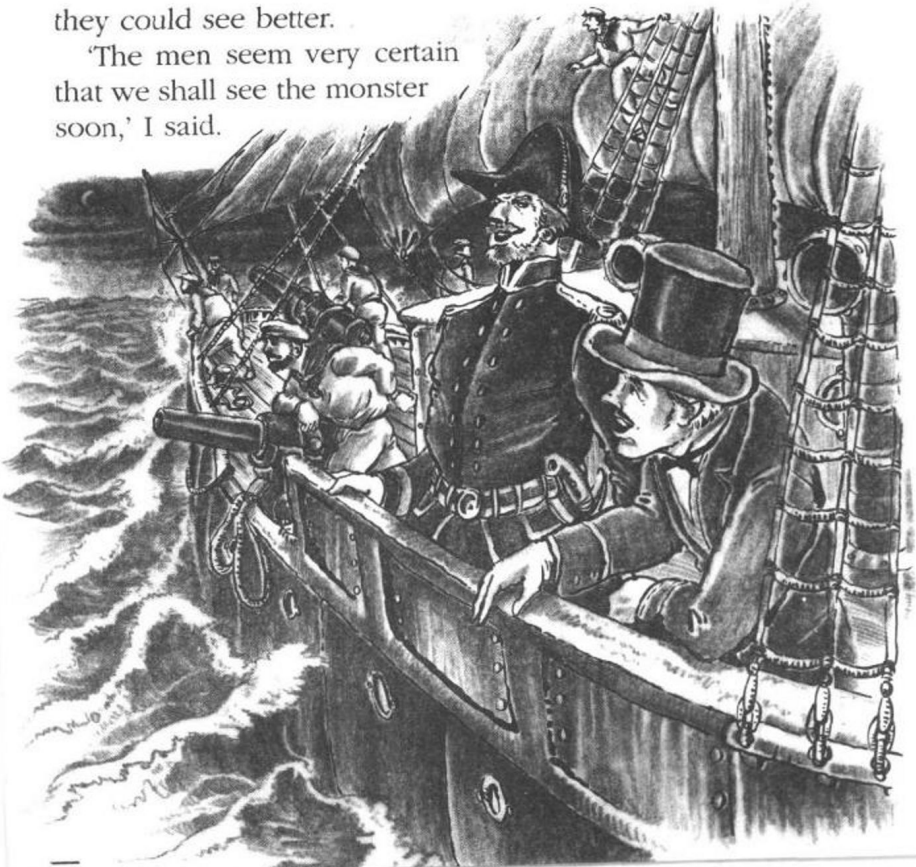
'Good evening, Professor Arronax. How do you like your cabin?' 5

'It's very comfortable, thank you, Captain. This seems to be a fine ship. How fast can she sail?'

'Eighteen and one-third knots, Professor. She was chosen for her speed, and I am sure she will be fast enough to catch the monster. I have ordered the engineers to go at full speed, and we should be in the Pacific three weeks from now.' 10

I noticed that many of the sailors were already looking out to sea, and that some had climbed up the mast so that they could see better. 15

'The men seem very certain that we shall see the monster soon,' I said.



'Of course they are. Everyone is certain. And everyone hopes to win 2,000 dollars. I have promised to give that amount of money to the first person to catch sight of the monster.'

5 'You are determined to find the monster, I can see.'

'Absolutely determined, Professor. I shall find it, and either I will destroy the monster, or the monster will destroy me.'

'What weapon will you use, Captain?'

10 'This warship carries all the most modern weapons. We have a gun which fires harpoons, a larger one which fires bullets, and our largest gun of all can fire a heavy shell over a distance of ten miles.'

'Excellent!' I cried.

15 'But we also have on board the greatest harpooner in the world. I should like you to meet him.'

The captain called for Ned Land. When the harpooner arrived, the captain introduced us and then left us together.

A conversation with Ned Land

20 Ned was about forty years old, tall and strongly built. He was a French Canadian, and although he did not talk much to the other men, he liked to talk to me in French. Ned used to tell me stories of his adventures as a whale hunter, and we became good friends.

25 One day, when we had been at sea for three weeks, and were moving north in the Pacific Ocean, I asked Ned what he thought about the monster.

'Well, Ned,' I said, 'how long do you think it will be before we catch the monster?'

30 'A very long time, Professor, because I do not believe that such a monster exists.'

'Good heavens!' I cried. 'Why not? You must have seen many huge whales.'

35 'Yes, I have, but I've seen nothing that could scratch the iron plates of even the smallest ship.'

'But Ned, there are stories of ships which the sword of a narwhal has cut through.'

'Those were wooden ships, not iron ones.'

'Well, Ned, I believe that somewhere there is a huge monster, like a whale, or a large dolphin, or a narwhal, which can move very fast, and has a sword that is strong enough and sharp enough to make a hole in iron.'

'Well, I don't.'

'But think of this. If such a monster exists, we have not seen it before because it usually lives at the bottom of the sea. And if it lives at the bottom of the sea, it must be very large and very strong, in order to bear the enormous pressure of the water. An ordinary creature could not live so far down.'

'Yes, I agree that if this monster exists, it must be very strong.'

'If it doesn't exist, Ned, what made that hole in the *Scotia*?'

Ned could not answer me.

Perhaps he did not believe that there was a monster, but Ned continued to spend all his time looking out to sea. So did I. I was not interested in the reward of 2,000 dollars, of course. But I did wish to make a scientific discovery which would bring glory to me and my country.

For three months we sailed the waters of the Pacific, and saw nothing but ordinary whales. We travelled along the coasts of America and Asia, and then sailed back across the middle of the ocean. We sent boats out at a distance from us, and followed a winding course, so that we might cover a larger area.

Gradually the crew became disappointed. Some said that we would never find a monster in the vast area of the Pacific Ocean. Others even began to say that there was no monster at all.

Captain Farragut was willing to search for the monster for years, but he had to think about the feelings of the crew. On 2nd November he announced that they would

continue to search for three more days. If by the end of that time they had seen nothing, they would return home.

This decision pleased everybody. All the crew began to look out for the monster more eagerly, and we all stayed
5 on deck hoping to be the first to see it.

On the second night Conseil came to watch with me.

'Ah, Conseil, so you have come up to see if you can win the 2,000 dollars.'

'No, sir, that is not my purpose. No one will win the
10 2,000 dollars.'

'I'm afraid you're right, Conseil. We shouldn't have come on this voyage. We should have gone back to France. We could have been there six months ago.'

'Yes, sir. You could have written your book about the
15 expedition to Nebraska by now.'

'Oh dear. I'm afraid we shall be laughed at for going on this voyage.'

'Yes, sir. People will certainly laugh at you, sir, and if I may say so, sir...'

20 'Yes, Conseil, what do you want to say?'

'You deserve to be laughed at, sir. A professor should be intelligent, sir, and not say things or do things which...'

At that very moment Ned Land shouted out, 'Look over there! Look — the very thing we have been searching for!'

THE MONSTER IS FOUND

We see the monster

When Ned Land shouted that he could see the monster, everyone rushed to the deck. The captain ordered the engines to stop. Since it was night, I did not expect Ned to have seen anything, but when I looked in the right direction, there it was. Ned had won the 2,000 dollars. The monster was very large. Its wet skin was shining in the moonlight, but there also seemed to be a strange light coming from it. It was moving towards us, slowly. 5

The captain at once ordered the engines to start again. He tried to move away from the monster, but the monster was too fast. After circling around us, it went away for about two or three miles. Then it came back at very great speed.

We were certain that it would hit us, but when it was twenty feet away, it suddenly dived down, and then re-appeared on the other side of the ship.

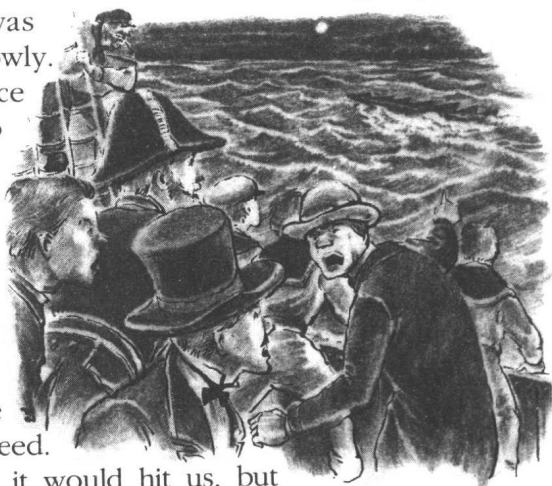
I went to speak to the captain.

'Why haven't you attacked?' I asked.

'It is too dark. I must wait until daylight, so that I can decide what parts to strike.'

'But what do you think it is?'

'I am quite certain that you're right and that it's a huge narwhal. I think also that it's an electric one. It seems very dangerous. We must keep a close watch on it all night.' 30



Only one thing happened during the night. At about midnight the light coming from the monster went out, and we wondered if it was still there. An hour later, however, there was a loud whistling sound, like steam escaping
5 from a pipe. That told us the monster was still near.

We spent the night planning our attack. Ned Land asked the captain to prepare a small boat for him, so that he could get near and harpoon the beast. The officers brought the guns onto the deck.

10 By dawn we were all ready, but the thick mist prevented us from seeing anything. Once again, it was Ned Land who caught sight of the monster first.

When he pointed it out, we all saw a long black object in the water. Its tail beat the sea with great violence,
15 turning the water behind it white. As it came nearer, I judged it to be about eighty yards long. Suddenly columns of water shot from two holes up into the air, making the noise we had heard in the night. Now we knew how it breathed.

20 The captain ordered the engines to go at full speed. We all cheered, because now we were going to attack. Black smoke poured into the sky, and the ship shook as the engines drove it through the water. In a few minutes we would be near enough to shoot.

25 **We chase the monster**

The monster, however, moved further off. For three-quarters of an hour it kept just ahead of us, although we went faster than ever before. We actually reached a speed of nineteen and a half knots, which was one knot over
30 the safety mark. It was no use Ned Land going out in a boat, but he asked to be put out in front of the warship. From there, he could throw his harpoon when we got close enough.

But we never did. The monster not only kept ahead
35 of us, but it went even faster, at about thirty knots.