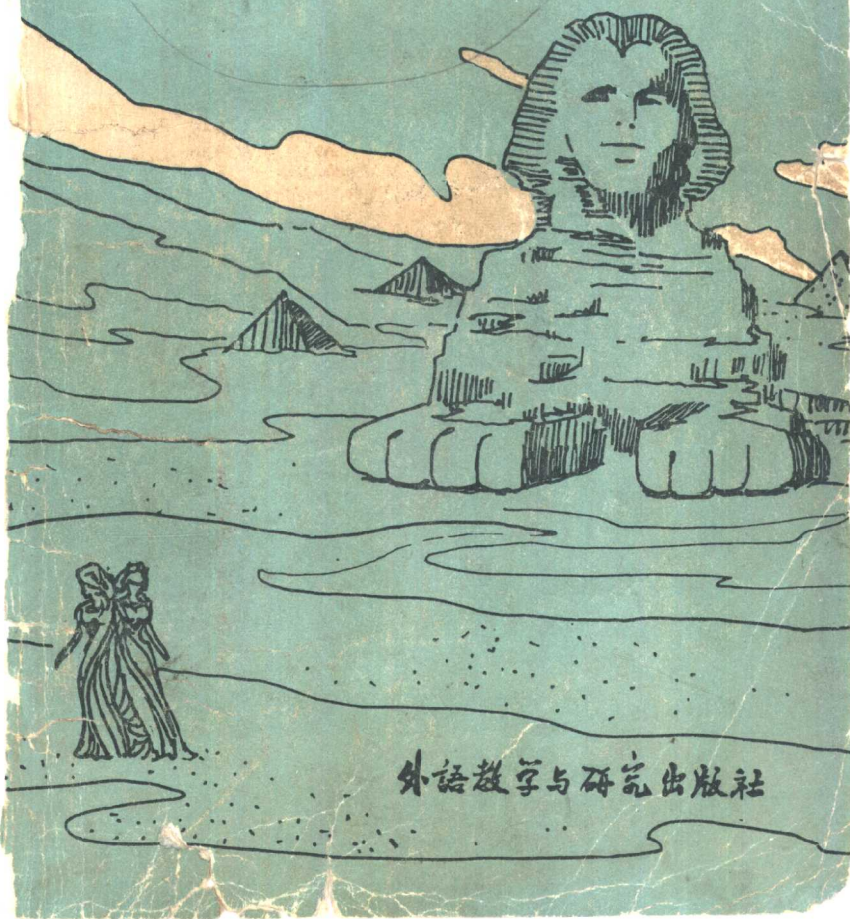


简易英语注释读物

Morning Star

晨 星



外语教学与研究出版社

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Sir H. Rider Haggard 原著

Michael West 简写

李 燕 妹 注释

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MORNING STAR

A Story of Egypt

SIR H. RIDER HAGGARD

Simplified by Michael West

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本书简介

本书原作赖德·哈格德 (Rider Haggard) 是英国著名传奇故事作家。除《晨星》(Morning Star) 外, 还写过《她》(She), 《所罗门王的宝藏》(King Solomon's Mines,) 《艾伦·奎特梅恩》(Alan Quatermain) 等小说, 都以情节见长。

《晨星》是一个古代埃及神话故事: 美丽聪明的埃及公主晨星在其父法老年老时, 加冕为埃及女王。孟菲斯总督阿比亲王贪婪奸诈, 对王位觊觎已久。法老和女王巡视各地, 至孟菲斯城, 被阿比囚禁, 法老被害, 晨星留下“化身”, 本人和乳母阿斯蒂出走, 历尽艰辛, 前往凯什王国, 找到晨星倾心的青年勇士拉米兹, 最后在神灵保佑下, 击败阿比, 与拉米兹结成良缘。

简写本以两千三百个常用词介绍了全书的基本内容, 情节紧张动人, 语言优美明快, 极有吸引力。本书有助于巩固基础英语知识, 提高阅读和理解能力, 因此多年畅销不衰, 具有广泛影响。书末附有比较详细的注释, 可供具有中等水平的广大英语学习者阅读。

LIST OF PEOPLE

Abi—Governor of Memphis, descendant of a King of Egypt on his father's side, his mother was a Nubian.

Ahura—wife of Pharaoh, mother of Neter Tua.

Amathel—Prince of Kesh, son of the King of Kesh, a Nubian, lived at Napata.

Amen—father of the gods.

Asti—wife of Mermes, mother of Rames; she has magic powers; nurse of Neter Tua.

Hathor—Goddess of Love.

Hyksos—people who at one time ruled Egypt; Prince Abi was descended from the Hyksos.

Isis—a goddess.

Janges.

Ka—the double or spirit image of a person.

Kaku—astrologer of Prince Abi, later vizier of Abi, husband of Merytra.

Kepher—a beggar; he is a spirit and has no shadow, and declares the will of Amen.

Mena—a former King of Egypt.

Mermes—descended from former King of Egypt, husband of Asti, father of Rames, captain of the King's guard.

Merytra—a female slave of Abi, told Abi's plot to Pharaoh, becomes slave of Pharaoh, and later wife of Kaku.

Neferte—a false name which Asti gives to Neter Tua.

Neter Tua or *Morning Star*—daughter of Pharaoh and Ahura.

Osiris—god of the dead.

Pharaoh—King of Egypt, husband of Ahura, father of Morning Star.

Rames—son of Mermes and Asti; descended from former Kings of Egypt; born on the same day as Neter Tua and brought up with her.

Sekhet—the lion goddess.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

ABI	['abii]	阿比
ABTU	['æbtu]	阿布图
AHURA	[a'hurə]	阿胡勒
AMATHEL	['æmæθei]	阿马塞尔
AMEN	[aa'men]	阿门
ASTI	['æstii]	阿斯蒂
BUBASTES	[biu'bæstli:]	比乌巴斯蒂兹
HATHOR	['heiθɔɔ]	黑索
HYKSOS	['hiksɔs]	希克索斯
ISIS	['aisis]	艾西斯
JANEES	[dʒæ'nli:]	吉尼斯
KA	[kaa]	卡
KAKU	['kaku]	卡库
KARNAK	['kaanæk]	卡纳克
KEPHER	['kefə]	凯弗
KESH	[keʃ]	凯什
LUXOR	['laksɔɔ]	拉克索
MEMPHIS	['memfis]	孟菲斯
MENA	[mi:nə]	米纳
MERMES	['mæmli:]	默米兹
MERYTRA	[me'ritrə]	梅里特勒
NEFERTE	[ne'fæti]	内弗蒂
NETER TUA	['netə 'tuə]	内特·图厄

NILE	[naɪl]	尼罗河
OSIRIS	[ɒ'saɪrɪs]	奥萨里斯
PHARAOH	['feərəʊ]	费厄罗
RAMES	['ræmiɪz]	拉米兹
RIDER HAGGARD	['raɪdə 'hæɡəd]	赖德·哈格德
SEKHET	[seket]	塞凯特
THEBES	[θiɪbz]	底比斯

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One

WHAT THE STARS TOLD PRINCE ABI

It was evening in Egypt thousands of years ago. Prince Abi, Governor of Memphis¹ arrived in his ship outside the walls of the great city of Thebes.² He was a large, dark man. His mother was one of the Hyksos³ people, and one of his family had once been a Pharaoh.⁴ The Hyksos were a people who had come from outside Egypt and had become rulers of the country.

Prince Abi sat looking at the setting sun. On each side of him stood slave-women fanning him. He was angry. One of the slaves touched his head with the feathers of her fan. Prince Abi stood up and struck her so that the poor woman fell to the ground.

"Careless cat!" he cried. "Do that again⁵ and you shall be beaten."

"Pardon, great Lord!" she said, beginning to weep. "It was an accident. The wind caught my fan."

"Be more careful. Merytra," said Prince Abi to the slave-woman. "Stop weeping. Go and send Kaku, the astrologer, here. Go, both of you."

"He called me a cat," said Merytra angrily to her companion as they went.

"And he once said that I was ugly," said the other, "I wish a holy crocodile would eat him."

"Hush!" said Merytra. "There is that astrologer, and he looks angry."

Hand in hand they went before the learned man and bowed down.

"Master of the stars,"⁷ said Merytra, "we have a message for you.—No, don't look at my cheek. Those marks are the marks of the hand of Prince Abi."

"You had better be careful what you are saying. Why did he hit you?"

She told him.

"Oh," he said. "It was very bad to hit such a pretty girl."

"Thank you, O master of learning," said Merytra.

"Will you tell our fortunes for nothing?"⁸

"Yes, yes.—I understand that he is angry."

"He is, Kaku. Listen!"

As Merytra spoke an angry roar reached them from above: "Where is the cursed astrologer?"

"There!" said Merytra. "I told you that he was angry. Do not trouble about the rest of the papers. Go at once."

"The question is," said Kaku, as he ran towards

the place leading to the upper part of the ship, "the question is how Prince Abi will like what is written in the papers."

"Good luck to you," said the girl. "You will need it."

A minute later the astrologer was bowing down before Abi in the upper part of the ship. He bowed so low that his cap fell off his head.

"Why were you so long in coming?" said Abi.

"Because your slaves could not find me. Royal Son of the Sun.¹⁰ I was working in my room."

"But I thought I heard you laughing with them there. Why do you call me 'Royal Son of the Sun'? That is Pharaoh's name. What have the stars shown you? I am now at the turning point of my fortunes,¹¹ not knowing whether I am to be Pharaoh of Upper and Lower Egypt,¹² or only the Prince of a mere city."

"If your majesty will tell his servant¹³ exactly what he wishes to know, perhaps I may be able to answer the question."

"Majesty? I wish to know for what reason you call me 'majesty'. I am only Prince of Memphis. Did the stars tell you something? Have you asked them about the future?"

"Certainly, certainly!" said Kaku. "I studied the stars all last night, and have been working out the results, but they are not finished. Question me and I

will answer."

"Look!" said Abi. "The sun is setting behind the tombs of the kings. That is a sign of bad fortune for me. I wished to reach this city in the morning when the stars were more favourable, but the wind held me back. Tell me, shall I be buried in the Valley of the Kings?"¹⁴

"I think so, Prince Abi. The stars seem to say that you will."

"You are keeping something back from me," said Abi, looking at Kaku's face. "Shall I be buried in the tomb of a Pharaoh?"

"I cannot say," said the astrologer. "There is a force which is working against you."¹⁵ Another star crosses your path."¹⁶

"What star?" said Abi.

"The star of Amen,¹⁷ father of the gods."

"Amen!" said Abi. "How can a man fight against a god?"

"Against two gods," said the astrologer. "For with the star of Amen is the star of Hathor,¹⁸ Queen of Love. Look!"

Kaku pointed to the east, where the sky was still red with the sunset.

As they watched the light faded, and there in the sky was a bright and beautiful star, and very close to

it another star. For a few minutes only they were seen. Then they vanished.

"The star of Amen, and with it the star of Hathor," said the astrologer.

"Well," said Abi, "they are far from my star, and they have soon gone."

"Yes, Prince, but in twenty years' time they will be near your star and their power will be greater. They will conquer you there, above the Valley of the Kings. After twenty years! But during those twenty years you shine alone."

Abi seized the paper and threw it down.

"Fool!" said he. "Do you think that you will frighten me with this nonsense about stars? Here is my star."

He drew out the sword at his side, and shook it over the head of Kaku:

"This is the star of Abi."

"I have told you the truth as I see it," said Kaku. "If you wish me to tell pleasant things, that is easy. But it seems to me that your future is not so evil.¹⁹ You will have twenty years of power. If after that trouble comes, what does it matter?"²⁰

"That is true," said Abi. "I am in a bad temper to-day. I will give you a gold cup as the price of your work. You must always tell me the truth."

Kaku bowed. He was pleased that things had gone

so well²¹. He picked up his papers and was just going to leave when some men were seen riding along the bank of the Nile²² towards the ship.

"That is the captain of my guard," said Abi. "He is bringing me the answer from Pharaoh. Don't go, Kaku. Stay and hear it and give me your advice."

Two

A PLOT AGAINST PHARAOH

Soon the captain of the guard¹ appeared before Prince Abi.

"What does Pharaoh say?" asked the Prince.

"He says that he will receive you, although he did not send for you.² It is not necessary for you to come, as he has heard long ago of your victory over the people of the desert, and he does not want the heads of their officers which you were bringing to him."

"Pharaoh was always a woman in such matter,"³ said Abi. "He should be thankful that he has soldiers who know how to make war. I will go to him tomorrow."

"My lord," said the captain, "that is not all the message. Pharaoh says that he has heard that you have with you a guard of three hundred soldiers: he will not allow

these men inside the gates. He says that you should come before him attended by five persons only.”⁴

“Oh,” said Adi. “Does Pharaoh fear that I shall capture him and the armies and the great city with only three hundred men?”

“No, Prince,” said the captain. “I think he fears that you may kill him and declare yourself Pharaoh, for you come next⁵. Pharaoh has no children.”

“Ah!” said Abi. He walked forward to the front of the ship. Night had fallen, and the moon was pouring her silver light over the desert, the mountains and the city. From the gardens and streets came the sound of music, and on the walls the watchmen called the hour.⁶ It was a wonderful scene, and the heart of Abi beat as he looked upon it. What wealth, what power lay there. There stood the house of Pharaoh, and Pharaoh had no child, and he was not strong. But it would be difficult, for Abi knew that Pharaoh was loved by the priests and people, but he, Abi, was feared and hated. Why should he wait? Why should he not try his fortune? He had three hundred soldiers with him, brave men. It was a feast day. The gates were not well guarded. He might break through them in the night and make his way to the palace, kill Pharaoh, and in the morning be seated on Pharaoh's throne.⁷ He turned and walked back to where his men were standing, and spoke to the officer.