

书虫·牛津英汉对照读物

The Monkey's Paw

W.W. Jacobs

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简 介

你可以许三个愿,你可以要世界上存在的三样东西,你的愿望将变为现实。你会说,“这在现实世界是不可能发生的。”那么,好好想想吧。你能要什么?你想要什么?

当你许愿的时候,这仅仅是个开始。当你改变了一样东西,接着你会改变世界上的每一样东西。一个变化引起另一个变化。谁又能知道这些变化又将在哪里结束?

在这个故事中,怀特一家可以许三个愿,但他们犯了一个小小的错误。他们的第一个愿望变成了现实。接着,顷刻间,他们的生活陷入了一场可怕的恶梦……

雅各布斯(1863—1943)是一位短篇小说作家。《猴爪》是他的最有名的小说之一。

Chapter 1

It was cold and dark out in the road and the rain did not stop for a minute. But in the little living-room of number 12 Castle Road it was nice and warm. Old Mr White and his son, Herbert, played chess and Mrs White sat and watched them. The old woman was happy because her husband and her son were good friends and they liked to be together. 'Herbert's a good son,' she thought. 'We waited a long time for him and I was nearly forty when he was born, but we are a happy family.' And old Mrs White smiled.

It was true. Herbert was young and he laughed a lot, but his mother and his father laughed with him. They had not got much money, but they were a very happy little family.

The two men did not talk because they played carefully. The room was quiet, but the noise of the rain was worse now and they could hear it on the windows. Suddenly Old Mr White looked up. 'Listen to the rain!' he said.

'Yes, it's a bad night,' Herbert answered. 'It's not a good night to be out. But is your friend, Tom Morris, coming tonight?'

'Yes, that's right. He's coming at about seven o'clock,' the old man said. 'But perhaps this rain...'

Mr White did not finish because just then the young man heard a noise.

'Listen!' Herbert said. 'There's someone at the door

1

外面的马路上又冷又黑,雨一直下个不停。但城堡路12号的一间小客厅里却满暖和。老怀特先生和他的儿子赫伯特在下象棋,怀特太太坐在一旁看着他们。老妇人因她的丈夫和儿子是好朋友并乐于在一起而高兴。“赫伯特是一个好孩子,我们等了很长时间才要到的孩子,他出生的时候我都快四十岁了,但我们的家庭很幸福。”老怀特太太想着、想着,脸上露出了笑容。

这是事实,赫伯特年轻又爱笑,他的母亲和父亲也总跟着乐。他们并没有很多钱,但他们有一个幸福的小家庭。

两个男人无言地下着棋。房间里很安静,但雨声现在更大了,他们能听到雨点打在窗上的声音。突然,老怀特先生抬起头说,“听听雨声!”

“是的,这是一个糟糕的夜晚,”赫伯特答道,“这样的夜晚不宜外出,但你的朋友汤姆·莫里斯今晚不是要来吗?”

“是的,你说得对。他将在7点钟左右到,但也许这雨……”老汉说。

怀特先生没有说下去,因为就在这时,年轻人听到了一种声音。

“听!”赫伯特说,“现在门外有人。”



castle *n.* a very large strong building to defend against attack. 城堡。
chess *n.* 象棋。
nearly *adv.* almost. 几乎,差不多,将近。
suddenly *adv.* 突然。
look up 向上看,抬头。
listen to 听。
noise *n.* sound. 声音,嘈杂声。

now.'

'I didn't hear a noise,' his father answered, but he got up from his chair and went to open the front door. Mrs White got up too and began to put things away.

Mr White said, 'Come in, come in, Tom. It's wonderful to see you again. What a bad night! Give me your coat and then come into the living-room. It's nice and warm in there.'

The front door was open, and in the living-room Mrs White and Herbert felt the cold. Then Mr White came back into the living-room with a big, red-faced man.

'This is Tom Morris,' Mr White told his wife and son. 'We were friends when we were young. We worked together before Tom went to India. Tom, this is my wife and this is our son, Herbert.'

'Pleased to meet you,' Tom Morris said.

'Pleased to meet you, Mr Morris,' Mrs White answered. 'Please come and sit down.'

'Yes, come on, Tom,' Mr White said. 'Over here. It's nice and warm.'

'Thank you,' the big man answered and he sat down.

'Let's have some whisky,' Old Mr White said. 'You need something to warm you on a cold night.' He got out a bottle of whisky and the two old friends began to drink and talk. The little family listened with interest to this visitor from far away and he told them many strange stories.

他的父亲答道，“我没有听到声音。”但他还是从椅子上起来去开门，怀特太太也站起来开始收拾东西。

怀特先生说，“汤姆，快请进，快请进。又见到你真高兴。多么糟糕的夜晚！把外套给我，到客厅里去，那儿暖和。”

前门打开了，客厅里的怀特太太和赫伯特感觉到一阵寒气。怀特先生领着一位高大的红脸汉子回到了起居室。

“这是汤姆·莫里斯，”怀特先生告诉他的太太和儿子，“我们年轻的时候是好朋友，在汤姆去印度之前我们在一起工作过。汤姆，这是我太太，这是我儿子，赫伯特。”

“很高兴见到你们，”汤姆·莫里斯说。

“我们也很高兴见到你，莫里斯先生。”怀特太太答道，“请过来坐下吧。”

“对，过来，汤姆，到这儿来，这儿舒服暖和一点。”怀特先生说。

“谢谢你。”高大的汉子答应着坐下了。

“我们喝一点威士忌吧，”老怀特先生说，“这样寒冷的夜晚，你需要一点东西暖和身子。”他拿出一瓶威士忌，两位老朋友边喝边谈。这个小家庭饶有兴趣地倾听着这位来自远方的造访者告诉他们许多离奇的故事。

get up 站起来。chair *n.* 椅子。put away 整理，把……放在一边。wonderful *adj.* 漂亮的，精彩的。come back 返回。sit down 坐下。whisky *n.* a kind of spirits. 威士忌酒。visitor *n.* a person who visits a place. 造访者。strange *adj.* 奇怪的。

Chapter 2

After some time Tom Morris stopped talking and Mr White said to his wife and son, 'Tom was a soldier in India for twenty-one years. India is a wonderful country.'

'Yes,' Herbert said. 'I'd like to go there.'

'Oh, Herbert!' his mother cried. She was afraid because she did not want to lose her son.

'I wanted to go to India too,' her husband said, 'but...'

'It's better for you here!' the soldier said quickly.

'But you saw a lot of strange and wonderful things in India. I want to see them too one day,' Mr White said.

The soldier put down his whisky. 'No!' he cried. 'Stay here!'

Old Mr White did not stop. 'But your stories were interesting,' he said to Tom Morris. 'What did you begin to say about a monkey's paw?'

'Nothing!' Morris answered quickly. 'Well ... nothing important.'

'A monkey's paw?' Mrs White said.

'Come on, Mr Morris! Tell us about it,' Herbert said.

Morris took his whisky in his hand, but suddenly he put it down again. Slowly he put his hand into the pocket of his coat and the White family watched him.

'What is it? What is it?' Mrs White cried.

2

不知过了多长时间,汤姆·莫里斯停止了交谈。怀特先生告诉他太太和儿子,“汤姆到印度服兵役有 21 年了。印度是一个非常有趣的国家。”

“是的,”赫伯特说,“我喜欢去那儿。”

“不,赫伯特!”他母亲惊叫起来。她非常害怕,因为她不想失去儿子。

“我也想去印度,”她的丈夫说,“不过……”

“对你来说,这儿很不错!”老兵很快地说。

“你在印度看到了那么多奇怪又有趣的东西,我想有一天也能去看看。”怀特先生说。

老兵放下威士忌。“不!”他嚷道,“别说了!”

老怀特先生并没有停下,“你的故事很有趣,”他对汤姆·莫里斯说,“关于猴爪的事你想告诉我们什么?”

“没什么!”莫里斯很快地回答,“真的,无关紧要。”

“猴爪?”怀特太太惊问。

“继续给我们讲讲吧,莫里斯先生。”赫伯特说。

莫里斯用手拿起他的威士忌,但突然又把它放下,然后慢慢地把手伸进他的外套口袋。怀特一家看着他。

“那是什么东西?那是什么东西?”怀特太太叫道。



soldier *n.* 战士, 士兵。
country *n.* 国家。cry *v.*
哭, 喊叫。quickly *adv.*
快速地。put down
放下。important *adj.* 重
要的。come on 继续。
pocket *n.* 衣袋, 口袋。

Morris said nothing. He took his hand out of his pocket. The White family watched carefully—and in the soldier's hand they saw something little and dirty.

Mrs White moved back, afraid, but her son, Herbert, took it and looked at it carefully.

'Well, what is it?' Mr White asked his friend.

'Look at it,' the soldier answered. 'It's a little paw ... a monkey's paw.'

'A monkey's paw!' Herbert said—and he laughed. 'Why do you carry a monkey's paw in your pocket, Mr Morris?' he asked the old soldier.

'Well, you see,' Morris said, 'this monkey's paw is magic!'

Herbert laughed again, but the soldier said, 'Don't laugh, boy. Remember, you're young. I'm old now and in India I saw many strange things.' He stopped talking for a minute and then he said, 'This monkey's paw can do strange and wonderful things. An old Indian gave the paw to one of my friends. My friend was a soldier too. This paw is magic because it can give three wishes to three people.'

'Wonderful!' Herbert said.

'But these three wishes don't bring happiness,' the soldier said. 'The old Indian wanted to teach us something—it's never good to want to change things.'

'Well, did your friend have three wishes?' Herbert asked the old soldier.

莫里斯什么也没说,他把手拿出口袋。怀特一家仔细地看——在老兵手里他们看到了一个又小又脏的东西。

怀特太太害怕地缩了回来,但她的儿子赫伯特却把那东西拿过来仔细地看。

“喂,那是什么?”怀特先生问他的朋友。

“看看吧,”老兵答道,“它是一只小爪子啊……一只猴子的爪子。”

“猴子的爪子!”赫伯特说着大笑起来。“为什么你在口袋里带着猴爪,莫里斯先生?”他问老兵。

“你要明白,这个猴爪是有魔力的!”莫里斯说。

赫伯特又笑了,但老兵认真地说,“孩子,别笑了,记住,你还年轻,可我现在老啦,我曾在印度见到了很多奇怪的事情。”他停了一会儿,接着说,“这个猴爪能做奇怪而又奇妙的事情,一个印度老人把这个猴爪给了我的一位朋友,我的朋友也是一个当兵的。这猴爪有魔力是因为它能满足三个人每人提出的三个愿望。”

“太妙了!”赫伯特说。

“但这三个愿望并不能带来幸福。”老兵提醒说,“印度老人想告诉我们——想改变现实并不一定是好事。”

“那么,你的朋友也有三个愿望吗?”赫伯特问老兵。

dirty *adj.* not clean. 脏的。**carry** *v.* to take with. 带着。**magic** *adj.* not normal or natural. 有魔力的。**remember** *v.* 记住。**paw** *n.* 爪子。**Indian** *n.* people from India. 印度人。**wish** *n.* hope. 愿望。**never** *adv.* 从来不。

‘Yes,’ Morris answered quietly. ‘And his third and last wish was to die!’

Mr and Mrs White listened to the story and they felt afraid, but Herbert asked, ‘And did he die?’

‘Yes, he did,’ Morris said. ‘He had no family, so his things came to me when he died. The monkey’s paw was with his things, but he told me about it before he died,’ Tom Morris finished quietly.

‘What were his first two wishes, then?’ Herbert asked. ‘What did he ask for?’

‘I don’t know. He didn’t want to tell me,’ the soldier answered.

For a minute or two everybody was quiet, but then Herbert said, ‘And you, Mr Morris: did you have three wishes?’

‘Yes, I did,’ Morris answered. ‘I was young. I wanted many things—a fast car, money ...’ Morris stopped for a minute and then he said with difficulty, ‘My wife and my young son died in an accident in the car. Without them I didn’t want the money, so, in the end, I wished to lose it. But it was too late. My wife and my child were dead.’

The room was very quiet. The White family looked at the unhappy face of the old soldier.

Then Mr White said, ‘Why do you want the paw now? You don’t need it. You can give it to someone.’

‘How can I give it to someone?’ the soldier said. ‘The monkey’s paw brings unhappiness with it.’

“是的，”莫里斯静静地回答，“并且他的第三个也是最后一个愿望就是去死！”

怀特先生和怀特太太听了这个故事感到有些害怕，赫伯特问，“他死了吗？”

“是的，他死了，”莫里斯说，“他没有家，所以他死的时候把他的东西全给了我，猴爪是这些东西的附带品，不过他死之前就告诉过我有关猴爪的故事。”汤姆·莫里斯静静地说。

“那么，他的头两个愿望是什么？”赫伯特追问，“他要求什么？”

“我不知道，他不想告诉我。”老兵回答说。

一两分钟里大家都沉默着，然而赫伯特又问，“莫里斯先生，你有三个愿望吗？”

“是的，我有过，”莫里斯问答说，“我年轻时，我想要很多东西——一辆跑车，还有钱……”莫里斯顿了一会儿，然后很艰难地说，“我的妻子和我年轻的儿子在一次事故中丧生，没有了他们我不再想要钱，以至到最后，我希望一无所有，但为时已晚，我的妻子和孩子并不能死而复生。”

房子里很静，怀特一家看着老兵苦楚的脸。

接着，怀特先生问，“为什么你现在还要这个爪子呢？你不需要它，你可以把它送给别人。”

“我怎么能送给别人呢？”老兵说，“猴爪会给拥有它的人带来痛苦。”

die *v.* 死亡。 **quietly** *adv.* without making much noise. 静静地。 **ask for** 要求，索要。 **difficulty** *n.* the state of being not easy. 困难。 **accident** *n.* something that happens without anyone planning or intending it. 事故、意外。 **unhappy** *adj.* not happy. 不高兴的。 **unhappiness** *n.* 不幸。

‘Well, give it to me,’ Mr White said. ‘Perhaps this time it ...’

‘No!’ Tom Morris cried. ‘You’re my friend. I can’t give it to you.’ Then, after a minute, he said, ‘I can’t give it to you, but, of course you can take it from me. But remember—this monkey’s paw brings unhappiness!’

Old Mr White did not listen and he did not think. Quickly, he put out his hand, and he took the paw.

Tom Morris looked unhappy, but Mr White did not want to wait.

‘What do I do now?’ he asked his friend.

‘Yes, come on, Father,’ Herbert said. ‘Make a wish!’ And he laughed.

The soldier said nothing and Mr White asked him again, ‘What do I do now?’

At first the old soldier did not answer, but in the end he said quietly, ‘OK. But remember! Be careful! Think before you make your wish.’

‘Yes, yes,’ Mr White said.

‘Take the paw in your right hand and then make your wish, but ...’ Tom Morris began.

‘Yes, we know,’ Herbert said. ‘Be careful!’

Just then old Mrs White stood up and she began to get the dinner. Her husband looked at her. Then he smiled and said to her, ‘Come on. Help me! What can I wish for? We need money, of course.’

“那么，给我吧，”怀特先生说，“也许这次它……”

“不！”汤姆·莫里斯叫道，“你是我的朋友，我不能把它给你。”过了一会儿，他说，“我不能把它给你，但你可以从我身边把它拿走，不过要记住——猴爪会给你带来痛苦！”

老怀特没有听进去也没有仔细想，很快地伸出手拿走了猴爪。

汤姆·莫里斯看起来不高兴，但怀特先生等不及了。

“我现在能做什么？”他问他的朋友。

“对，这样吧，父亲，”赫伯特说，“许个愿吧！”赫伯特笑了。

老兵什么也不说，怀特先生又问他，“我现在能做些什么呢？”

开始，老兵什么也不回答，最后他静静地，说，“好吧，但记住要小心，在你许愿之前要考虑好。”

“行，行。”怀特先生说。

“把猴爪拿在你右手，然后许愿，但是……”汤姆·莫里斯又开始了他那套。

“行了，我们知道。”赫伯特说，“要小心！”

这时怀特太太站起来去做晚饭。她的丈夫看着她，并笑着对她说，“过来帮帮我，我能许一个什么愿呢？当然，我们需要钱。”

perhaps adv. maybe.
也许. laugh v. 笑. of
course certainly. 当然.

Mrs White laughed, but she thought for a minute and then she said, 'Well, I'm getting old now and sometimes it's difficult to do everything. Perhaps I need four hands and not two. Yes, ask the paw to give me two more hands.'

'OK, then,' her husband said, and he took the monkey's paw in his right hand. Everybody watched him and for a minute he waited. Then he opened his mouth to make his wish.

Suddenly Tom Morris stood up. 'Don't do it!' he cried.

The old soldier's face was white. Herbert and his mother laughed, but Mr White looked at Tom's face.

Old Mr White was afraid and he put the monkey's paw into his pocket.

After a minute or two they sat down at the table and began to have dinner. The soldier told the family many strange and wonderful stories about India. They forgot the monkey's paw, and because the soldier's stories were interesting, they asked him many questions about India. When Tom Morris stood up to leave, it was very late.

'Thank you for a very nice evening,' Morris said to the family. 'And thank you for a very good dinner,' he said to Mrs White.

'It was a wonderful evening for us, Tom,' Old Mr White answered. 'Your stories were very interesting. Our life isn't very exciting and we don't have the money to visit India, so please come again soon. You can tell us some more stories