

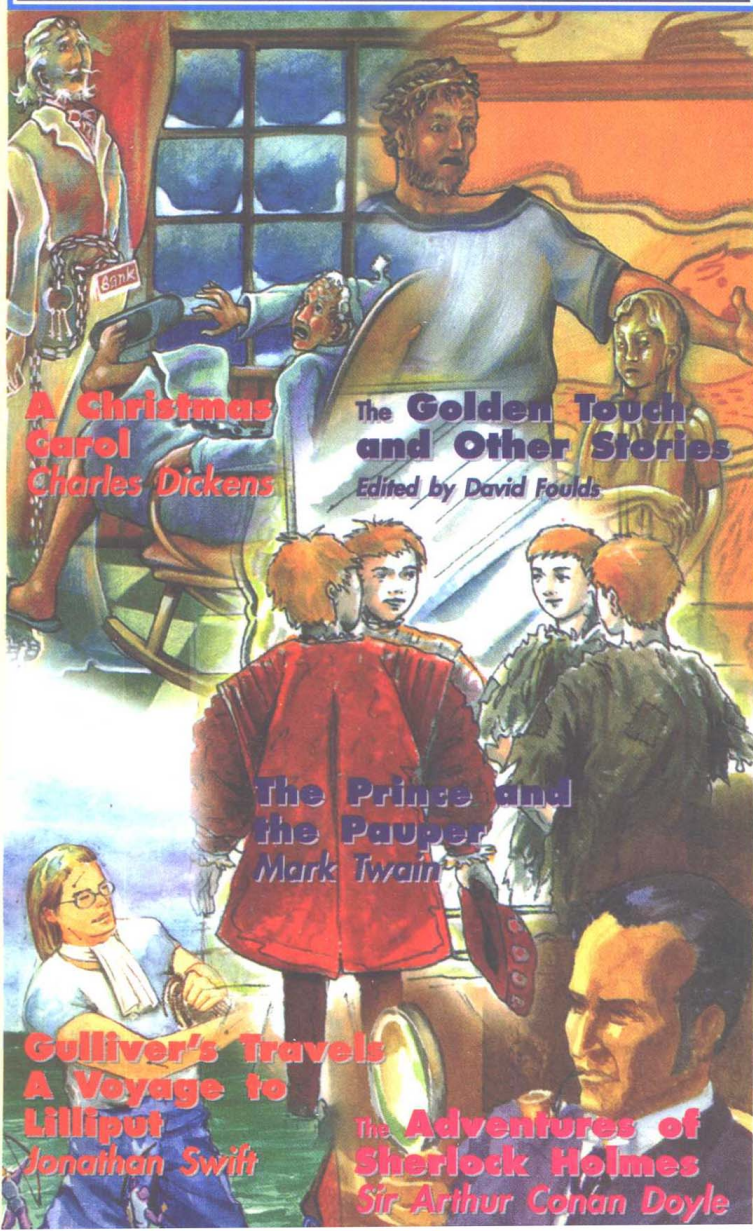
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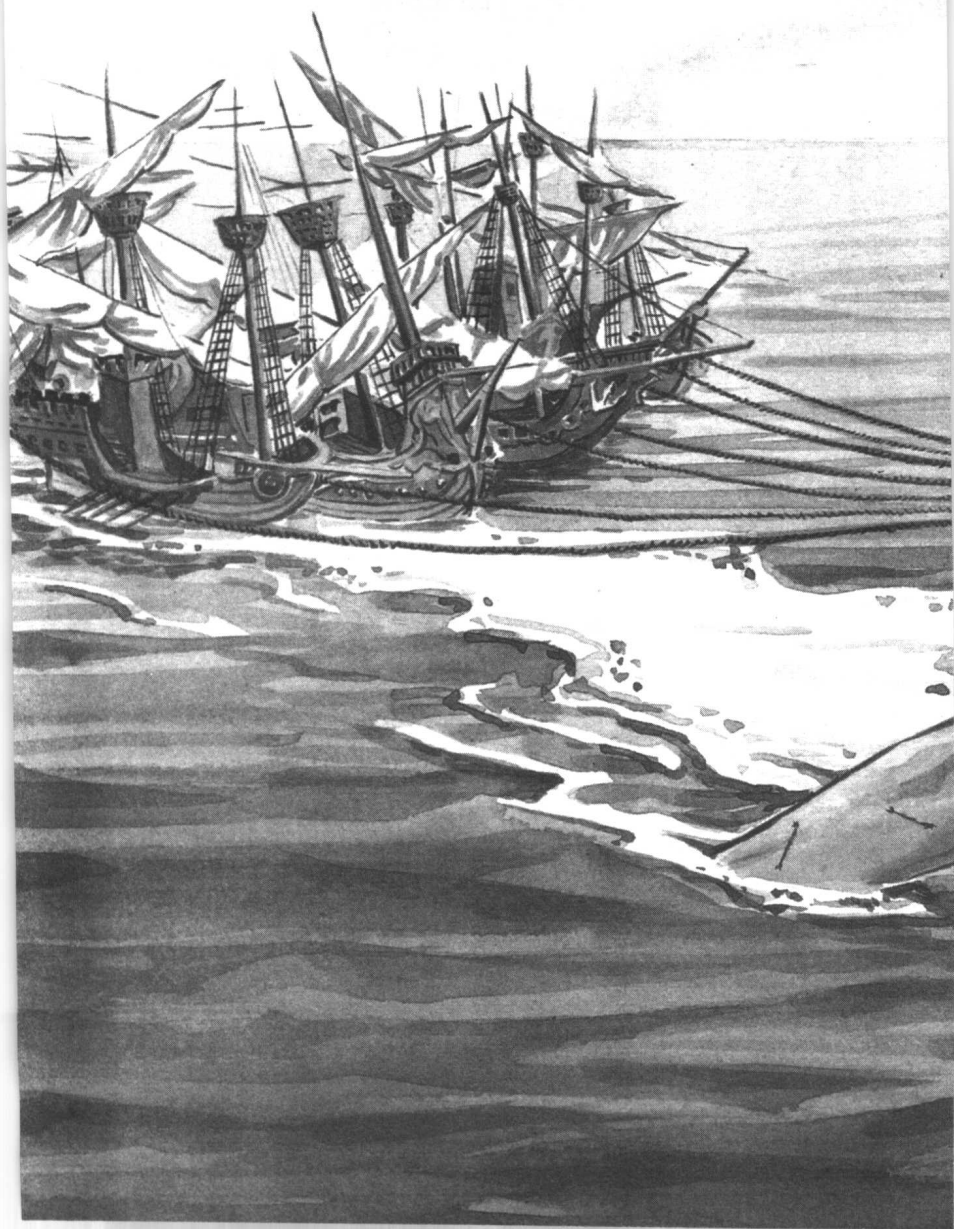
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Gulliver's Travels
— A Voyage to Lilliput
格列佛游记
——小人国

Jonathan Swift
Syllabus designer: David Foulds
[注释] 宋 芳

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Gulliver's Travels

A Voyage to Lilliput

Jonathan Swift



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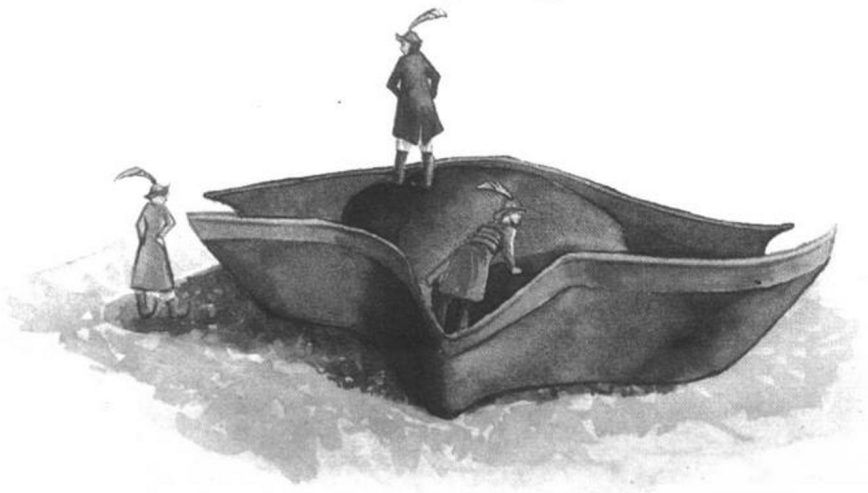
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A SHIP'S DOCTOR

A student of medicine

My father had five sons. I was the third. When I was fourteen he sent me to Cambridge to study. I was there for three years. Then he did not have enough money to pay my teachers any longer, so I went to London. 5

I wanted to be a doctor. In London I studied medicine with a famous doctor, Mr James Bates. While I was studying I worked for him, too, so my father did not have to pay him any money. There was one other thing I wanted to do very much. I hoped to travel, and visit 10 foreign lands some day.

I loved reading. Of course, I liked to read about being a doctor. But I also read about science, mathematics, and engineering, which means knowing how to build machines. Best of all, I liked reading about foreign 15 countries, and the way people lived in other lands. When I had enough money, I bought books. But Dr Bates did not pay me much, so I could not buy many!

After four years I went home to see my family. I had a pleasant surprise. My father and my uncle gave me 20 forty pounds. Also they promised to send me thirty pounds each year while I learnt more about medicine. That does not seem to be much money these days, but in those days it was a lot.

So, at last, I had enough money to do what I wanted. 25 I left Dr Bates and went to study at Leyden in Holland for two years. I still wanted to travel, so I learnt many things which I could use on long sea-journeys, or 'voyages' as they are called.

My first voyages

After I finished studying at Leyden I became a ship's doctor. Dr Bates, my old teacher, advised me to take this job. He said it would be very good for me.

5 For three and a half years I sailed in a ship called the *Swallow*. I went on voyages from England to Turkey and other places. Then I decided to remain on land, in London, for a while. Dr Bates thought this was a good idea. He helped me, too. He sent many people
10 who were ill to me, and I was often very busy.

I rented a house and later I married a young woman called Mary Burton. Her father gave us four hundred pounds as a wedding present. This, I thought, was a very useful present.

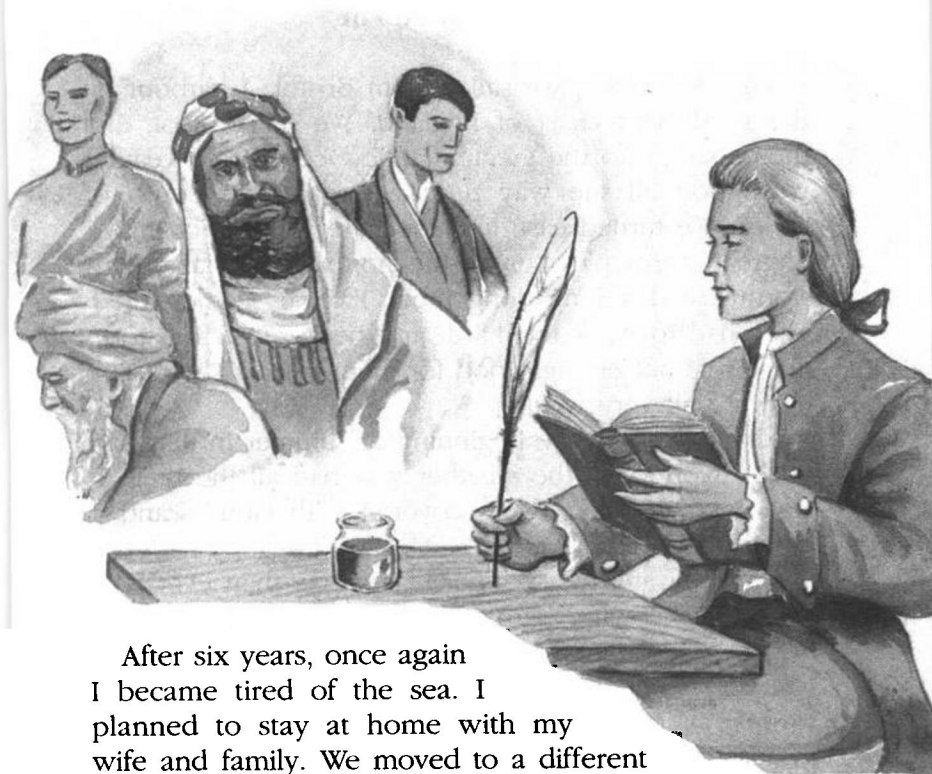
15 After two years my old friend and helper, Dr Bates, died. After that I did not have so much work to do. My wife and friends advised me to travel again.

I learn many new things

I sailed several times to Indonesia, which is a very long
20 distance from England. These voyages lasted for six years and I earned a good amount of money. On these journeys I had plenty of time to read many interesting books. Some of them were new, while others had been written a long time before.

25 When we stopped in a foreign land I watched the people there very carefully. I noticed the special way they dressed and the special things they ate. I found out about their lives at home and at work. I found out about any special laws they had, and about the way
30 their king or governors ruled them. In other words, I studied their 'customs'.

I also tried to learn their languages. My memory is good so I learn new languages easily.



After six years, once again
I became tired of the sea. I
planned to stay at home with my
wife and family. We moved to a different
part of London, near the River Thames. There
is a great harbour there, which is always full of ships
from every country in the world.

It was a busy place. All day and every day people
worked in the harbour. Most of them put things on to
ships, and took things from ships when they arrived. I
thought that many seamen and harbour workers would
need a doctor. But my luck was not very good. I
worked hard for over three years, but I only earned a
little money. It was not enough for my family. So I
took a good job on another ship, called the *Antelope*.
This ship was going to the South Sea Islands, in the
Pacific Ocean.

A great storm

On 4th May 1699, we sailed from Bristol, a harbour on the south-west coast of England. We sailed west, and then south, into the great Atlantic Ocean. The weather
5 was good all the way until we reach the south of Africa. We turned east, and then the weather changed. A great storm blew us to the north of Australia. This storm lasted a long, long time. Twelve seamen died. They had to work too hard, and because of the storm
10 there was not enough food for them to eat. The rest of us were all very weak.

November was the beginning of summer in that part of the world, but the weather was bad all the time. It was cold, the skies were covered with clouds, and it
15 rained a lot.

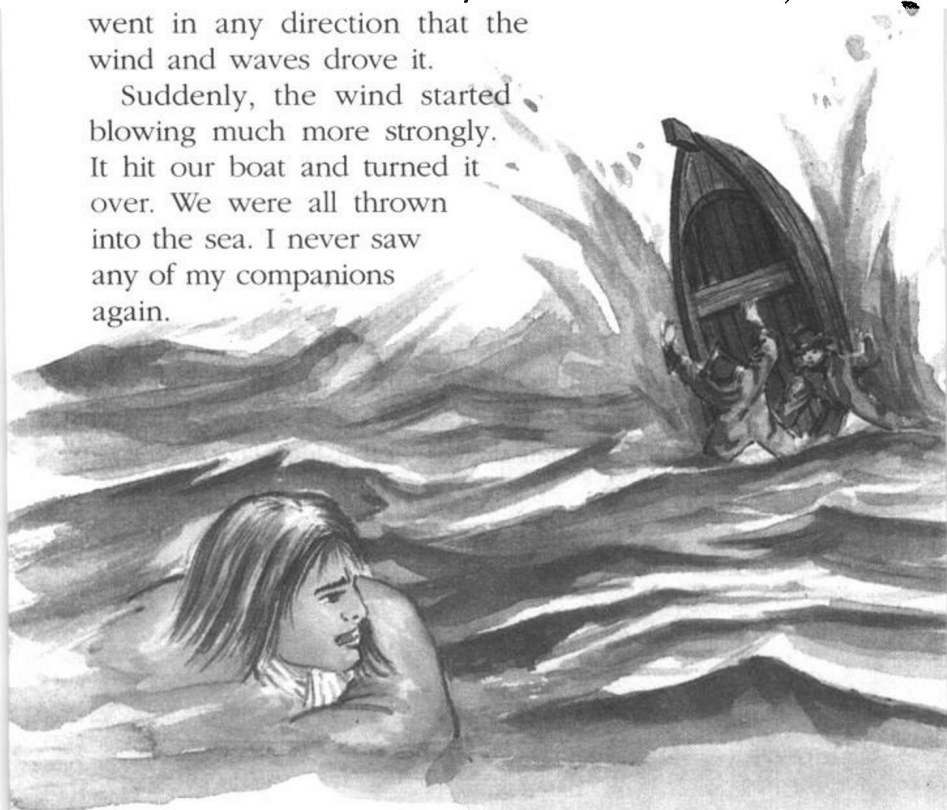
One morning the weather was worse than ever. The wind was blowing hard and driving us forward quite fast. It was raining, so we could not easily see where we were going.

20 Soon after ten o'clock, one of the men suddenly saw some rocks close to the ship. The seamen did their best to keep our ship away from the rocks, but the wind was too strong. It drove us towards them, and we hit them with a great crash. There was a lot of
25 noise and shouting. People ran about the ship in all directions. No one knew what to do.

The ship was badly damaged. There was a large hole in one side, and sea-water was coming through it. The ship started to go down. Five of the men and I put a
30 small boat over the side of the ship, into the sea. Quickly, we got into the small boat and rowed away from those dangerous rocks. Soon after that, we looked back and saw the *Antelope* going down below the waves.

We rowed for about ten miles, but then we became tired. We could not row any more. Our little boat just went in any direction that the wind and waves drove it.

Suddenly, the wind started blowing much more strongly. It hit our boat and turned it over. We were all thrown into the sea. I never saw any of my companions again.



Close to death by drowning

I swam and swam. The wind and the waves helped to move me along. I allowed my legs to drop sometimes, but I could not feel any rocks or land below me. I wanted to stop and rest because I was so tired. 15

After an hour or two I could swim no more. I was ready to stop. If I did, then I knew that I would go down below the waves and die in the sea by drowning. I stopped swimming. I went under the water a little way. Then, to my surprise, my feet touched land! 20

I kept swimming forward. From time to time I tried to touch the land with my feet again. As I moved forward I found I could touch the land with my feet more and more easily.

5 Slowly the water became shallower and shallower. After I had swum about two miles I found that I was able to walk. Then, after I had walked for another mile, I saw land in front of me, and got to the shore.

10 When I reached dry land it was about eight o'clock in the evening. I could not see any people or houses and I was too weak and tired to look for any.

15 The grass on the beach was the shortest and softest I had ever seen. That seemed strange, but I did not give it much thought. I just lay down on it. I was so hungry and tired that I felt half-dead. I fell asleep at once.

A PRISONER

Tied to the ground

I slept very well for about nine hours. When I woke up, I tried to get on to my feet, but I could not move. My arms and legs were tied to the ground. My long, thick hair also seemed to be tied down. I could feel several thin pieces of string across my body from my neck down to the top of my legs. The only part of my body that I could move was my eyes. 5

The sun soon became hot and bright. As it moved slowly across the sky it began to shine on to my face. The bright light hurt my eyes. It was very painful to keep them open, and I could not move my head, so I had to close them. 10

I could hear a lot of noise around me. Many things were moving about. But I could not see what they were. When I opened my eyes I could only see the sky and the bright sun. 15

After a time I felt something on my left leg. It was alive and it moved very gently over my body towards my chin. I tried to look down as far as I could. 20

Suddenly I saw something. There, in front of me, standing on my body, was a very, very small man. He was only about six inches tall. He was holding a bow with an arrow in it, and he had more arrows in a bag on his back. Then I felt about forty more little people climbing over me. 25

This was the biggest surprise of my life. I could not believe it. I was so surprised that I shouted very loudly,

and all the little people ran away. They were very frightened. Many jumped to the ground. Some of them were hurt quite badly when they fell off my body.

I try to get free

5 But soon these little men came back. One of them came very close, as he wanted to see my whole face. He lifted up his hands and eyes to show that I pleased him very much. Then he called out in a high and clear voice. I could not understand his language. The
10 others repeated his words. I did not know then what they were saying.

While I was lying there I began to feel more and more uncomfortable. My arms and legs hurt because I could not move them. I tried hard to get free. I broke
15 some of the strings. Then I pulled some pieces of wood, called stakes, out of the ground. The strings had been tied to these stakes. My left arm was free! At the same time I pulled hard on the left side of my head. It was very painful but I loosened some more stakes that held
20 down my hair. Now I was able to turn my head about two inches.



The little people shoot arrows at me

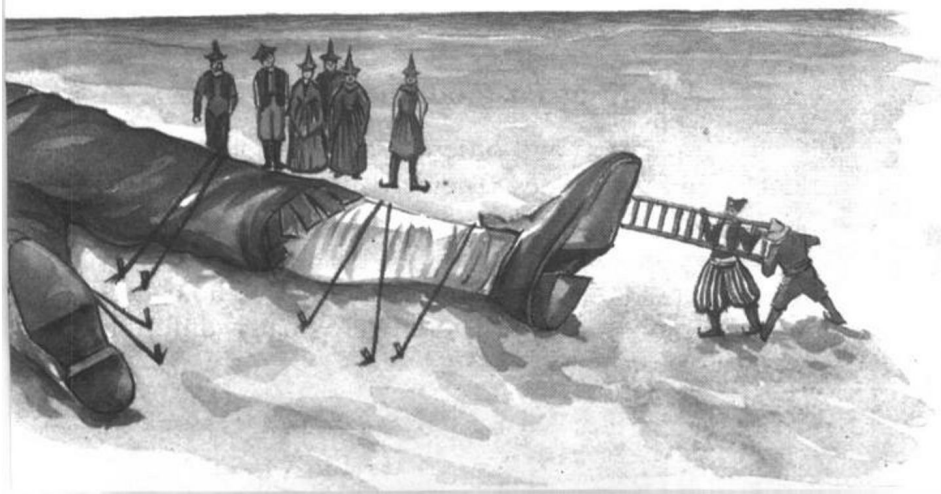
As I was doing this the little people ran away. I did not have time to catch even one of them. I heard someone shout an order in a loud voice. At once about one hundred arrows were shot through the air at me. I did not feel the arrows that went into my clothes, but I did feel those that went into my face and my left hand. These felt like sharp needles and were very painful.

I shouted with pain. I covered my face with my left hand and I tried to break all the strings. I wanted to get free but the little men shot more arrows. Some also tried to push their spears into me.

Luckily my jacket was made of a very strong cloth. Their spears were not sharp enough to go through that, so most of them did not hurt me.

I decided to lie still until night-time. My left hand was not tied so I thought it would be easy to get free later. As soon as it was dark I would be able to get away. When I was standing up I was sure that I could beat the little soldiers who were left to watch me.

But my plan was not needed. When the little people saw that I was lying still they stopped shooting.



A small man speaks to me

Soon after this I began to hear a knocking sound about four yards from my head. It made me think that someone was making something. My hair was still
5 loose on one side, so I could turn my head a little way. After a while I moved it very carefully, and very slowly. I did not want to frighten the soldiers again.

I saw that some of the little people had built a platform. They had used small pieces of wood, each
10 one about the size and shape of a ruler. The top of the platform was about eighteen inches from the ground.

Four people were standing on the platform. When I had turned my head a little more, so that I could see them easily, one of the four began to speak. He was
15 taller than the others and he seemed more important, too. I could not understand anything he said, but it looked as if he was speaking to me.

Sometimes his voice sounded kind. Sometimes he sounded angry. I tried to speak to him, but of course,
20 we could not understand each other.

All this time I was in pain because it was so hot. I lifted my hand to protect my face from the sun. Then I opened my mouth and pointed to it because I was hungry. The man who had been speaking understood
25 that. He knew what I wanted.

I am given food and drink

He left the platform and ordered some people to place ladders against my sides. They did this at once.

More than a hundred men climbed up the ladders.
30 They carried baskets of meat. The meat in each basket came from a different animal. I did not know the names of these animals at all. There were many different

shapes but each piece was smaller than the wings of a little bird.

I ate two or three pieces in one mouthful. Their loaves of bread were as small as beans. I ate them three at a time and they fed me as fast as they could. 5

I showed them that I was thirsty. They thought about this for a little time. They did not have any cups or glasses that were big enough for me. Then someone had a clever idea. They rolled a barrel close to my head and they knocked off its top. I could just reach it 10 with my free hand.

I lifted up my head a little, opened my mouth, and drank. I thought the barrel would have water in it, but I was wrong. It held about half a pint of wine which had a very pleasant taste. I emptied the whole barrel 15 with one big swallow.

The little men hurried to me with another barrel. I emptied that one very quickly, too, as I was so thirsty. Then I moved my head to ask for another. But there was no more. I had drunk all their wine!

