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[古希腊] 伊索 著 肖毛 译编

# 伊索寓言

鸟虫篇

*Aesop's Fables*

春风文艺出版社

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## 乌鸦和水罐

一只乌鸦快要渴死了，看到一个大水罐，就高兴地飞上去，想要喝水。可惜，水罐里的水太浅，他根本够不着。乌鸦想了好多办法，还是一口都喝不到。最后，乌鸦叼来好多小石子，把它们一个个地丢进水罐，直到水渐渐地升到自己嘴边，才终于喝到了水，救了自己一命。

需要是发明之母。

## The Crow and the Pitcher

A CROW perishing with thirst saw a pitcher, and hoping to find water, flew to it with delight. When he reached it, he discovered to his grief that it contained so little water that he could not possibly get at it. He tried everything he could think of to reach the water, but all his efforts were in vain. At last he collected as many stones as he could carry and dropped them one by one with his beak into the pitcher, until he brought the water within his reach and thus saved his life.

Necessity is the mother of invention.





## 燕子和乌鸦

一只燕子和一只乌鸦争论谁的羽毛更美。最后，乌鸦说道：“你的羽毛虽然漂亮，却只有在春天才能显出来；我的羽毛却能一直跟着我过冬。”

酒肉朋友不可交。

## The Swallow and the Crow

THE SWALLOW and the Crow had a contention about their plumage. The Crow put an end to the dispute by saying, “Your feathers are all very well in the spring, but mine protect me against the winter.”

Fair weather friends are not worth much.



## 乌鸦和渡鸦

有一只乌鸦，非常羡慕渡鸦，因为人们把渡鸦看作一种预示吉凶的鸟，总是细心观察他，从他飞行的姿势预兆未来的祸福。一次，这只乌鸦看到几个过路的行人，立刻飞上一棵大树，蹲在一个树杈上，呱呱大叫。行人听了，转向乌鸦，想要看看预兆。这时，一个人对同伴说：“接着赶路吧，朋友们，那只不过是一只乌鸦，你们知道，她的叫声什么都不能预示。”

冒名顶替，只能自取其辱。

## The Crow and the Raven

A CROW was jealous of the Raven, because he was considered a bird of good omen and always attracted the attention of men, who noted by his flight the good or evil course of future events. Seeing some travelers approaching, the Crow flew up into a tree, and perching herself on one of the branches, cawed as loudly as she could. The travelers turned towards the sound and wondered what it foreboded, when one of them said to his companion, "Let us proceed on our journey, my friend, for it is only the caw of a crow, and her cry, you know, is no omen."

Those who assume a character which does not belong to them, only make themselves ridiculous.



## 乌鸦和墨丘利<sup>①</sup>

一只掉进罗网的乌鸦，祈求阿波罗<sup>②</sup>救他，发誓说自己一旦得救，就会向阿波罗的神殿敬献一些乳香，作为答谢。可是，等阿波罗救了他，他却把誓言忘到脑后去了。不久，这只乌鸦又一次掉进罗网，不敢再求阿波罗，转而向墨丘利许同样的愿。墨丘利立刻来到他身边，说道：“你这家伙，实在太卑鄙了！刚刚耍了你从前的守护神，现在又想哄我？”

### The Crow and Mercury

A CROW caught in a snare prayed to Apollo to release him, making a vow to offer some frankincense at his shrine. But when rescued from his danger, he forgot his promise. Shortly afterwards, again caught in a snare, he passed by Apollo and made the same promise to offer frankincense to Mercury. Mercury soon appeared and said to him, “O thou most base fellow? how can I believe thee, who hast disowned and wronged thy former patron?”

① 墨丘利 (Mercury)：罗马神话里的众神使者，朱庇特之子，掌管商业、畜牧、旅行、盗窃等等，即希腊神话中的赫耳墨斯 (Hermes)。

② 阿波罗 (Apollo)：希腊、罗马神话里的太阳神，朱庇特之子，掌管医药、音乐、诗歌等。



## 乌鸦和毒蛇

一只非常饥饿的乌鸦，看见一条毒蛇躺在背阴处睡大觉，贪婪地飞了过去，想要抓住他。毒蛇扭过头，一口就把乌鸦咬得奄奄一息。临死前，乌鸦叹道：“真倒霉！本想发一笔横财，结果却换来一场横死。”

## The Crow and the Serpent

A CROW in great want of food saw a Serpent asleep in a sunny nook, and flying down, greedily seized him. The Serpent, turning about, bit the Crow with a mortal wound. In the agony of death, the bird exclaimed: "O unhappy me! who have found in that which I deemed a happy windfall the source of my destruction."



## 白费力气的穴乌

据说，朱庇特有一次打算给鸟类选一个国王，便规定了一个日子，让百鸟在那一天飞到他面前，他要亲自挑选一只最美的鸟，作为百鸟之王。穴乌知道自己长得不怎么样，就漫山遍野地收集百鸟脱落的羽毛，一根根地粘在自己身上，希望用这一手把自己打扮得出类拔萃。等到选美的那一天，鸟类们都聚集在朱庇特面前，那只穴乌也飞了过来，全身五光十色，华丽非凡。朱庇特认为这只鸟的羽毛最美，正打算让他做鸟王，百鸟却愤怒地大声抗议，纷纷拔回了原本属于自己的羽毛，转眼间，粘在穴乌身上的羽毛全被拔光，他又变回了原来的样子。

## The Vain Jackdaw

JUPITER DETERMINED, it is said, to create a sovereign over the birds, and made proclamation that on a certain day they should all present themselves before him, when he would himself choose the most beautiful among them to be king. The Jackdaw, knowing his own ugliness, searched through the woods and fields, and collected the feathers which had fallen from the wings of his companions, and stuck them in all parts of his body, hoping thereby to make himself the most beautiful of all. When the appointed day arrived, and the birds had assembled before Jupiter, the Jackdaw also made his appearance in his many feathered finery. But when Jupiter proposed to make him king because of the beauty of his plumage, the birds indignantly protested, and each plucked from him his own feathers, leaving the Jackdaw nothing but a Jackdaw.