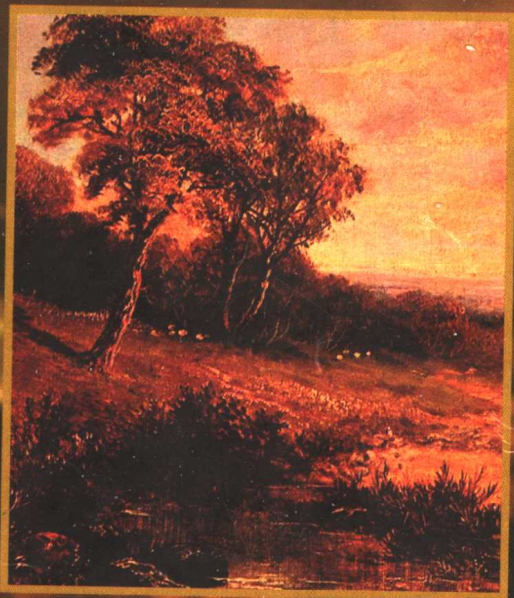


*The Call of the Wild*

# 野性的呼唤



文化艺术出版社

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纪沫 注释

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# **The Call of the Wild**





## Chapter 1

## Into the Primitive①

"Old longings nomadic② leap,  
Chafing at custom's chain;  
Again from its brumal sleep  
Wakens the ferine strain."

Buck did not read the newspapers, or he would have known that trouble was brewing③, not alone for himself, but for every tide-water dog, strong of muscle and with warm, long hair, from Puget Sound to San Diego. Because men, groping④ in the Arctic darkness, had found a yellow metal, and because steamship and transportation companies were booming the find, thousands of men were rushing into the Northland. These men wanted dogs, and the dogs they wanted were heavy dogs, with strong muscles by which to toil⑤, and furry⑥ coats to protect them from the frost⑦.

Buck lived at a big house in the sun-kissed Santa Clara Valley. Judge Miller's place, it was called. It stood back from the road, halfhidden among the trees, through which glimpses could be caught of the wide cool veranda⑧ that ran around its four sides. The house was approached by gravelled⑨ driveways which wound about through wide-spreading lawns⑩ and under the interlacing⑪ boughs of tall poplars. At the rear things were on even a more spacious scale than at the front. There were great stables, where a dozen groomers and boys held forth, rows of vine-clad servants' cottages, an endless and orderly array of outhouses, long grape arbors⑫, green pastures, orchards, and berry patches. Then there was the pumping plant for the artesian well⑬, and the big cement⑭ tank where Judge Miller's boys took their morning plunge and kept cool in the hot afternoon.

And over this great demesne⑮ Buck ruled. Here he was born, and here he had lived the four years of his life. It was true, there were other dogs. There could not but be other dogs on so vast a place, but they did not count. They came and went, resided⑯ in the populous kennels, or lived obscurely in the recesses of the house after the fashion of Toots, the Japanese pug, or Ysabel, the Mexican hairless — strange creatures

① primitive ['prɪmɪtɪv]  
adj. of the earliest  
times 上古的, 原始的

② nomadic [nəu'mædɪk]  
adj. of nomads 游牧部落的

③ brew [bru:] vi.  
bring about, be forming 酝酿

④ grope [graup] vi.  
feel or search about as one does in the dark 摸索, 搜寻

⑤ toil [toɪl] vi. move  
with difficulty and trouble 跋涉

⑥ furry ['fʌrɪ] adj. of  
or like fur 毛皮的

⑦ frost [frɒst] n.  
weather condition  
with temperature below the freezing-point  
of water 严寒的天气

⑧ veranda [və'reɪndə]  
n. roofed and floored  
open space along the  
side(s) of a house 走廊, 阳台

⑨ lawn [lɔ:n] n. area  
of grass 草地

⑩ interlace [ɪntə'leɪs]  
vi. cross as if woven  
(使) 交错

⑪ arbor ['ɑ:bə] = ar-  
bour n. shady place among trees 树木中的荫处

⑫ artesian [ɑ:'tɪʒiən]  
well: well producing  
a constant supply of  
water rising to the  
surface without  
pumping 喷水井

⑬ cement [sɪ'ment]  
n. gray powder  
which, after being  
wetted, becomes hard  
like stone 水泥

⑭ demesne [di'mein]  
n. the holding of land  
as one's own property  
领地

⑮ reside [rɪ'zaid] vi.  
live and have one's  
home 居留, 居住

that rarely put nose out of doors or set foot to ground. On the other hand, there were the fox terriers①, a score of them at least, who yelped fearful promises at Toots and Ysabel looking out of the windows at them and protected by a legion② of housemaids armed with brooms③ and mops④.

But Buck was neither house-dog nor kennel-dog. The whole realm was his. He plunged into the swimming tank or went hunting with the Judge's sons; he escorted⑤ Mollie and Alice, the Judge's daughters, on long twilight⑥ or early morning rambles⑦; on wintry nights he lay at the Judge's feet before the roaring library fire; he carried the Judge's grandsons on his back, or rolled them in the grass, and guarded their footsteps through wild adventures down to the fountain⑧ in the stable yard, and even beyond, where the paddocks were, and the berry patches. Among the terriers he stalked⑨ imperiously⑩, and Toots and Ysabel he utterly ignored, for he was king—king over all creeping, crawling, flying things of Judge Miller's place, humans included.

His father, Elmo, a huge St. Bernard, had been the Judge's inseparable companion, and Buck bid fair to follow in the way of his father. He was not so large—he weighed only one hundred and forty pounds—for his mother, Shep, had been a Scotch shepherd⑪ dog. Nevertheless, one hundred and forty pounds, to which was added the dignity that comes of good living and universal respect, enabled him to carry himself in right royal fashion. During the four years since his puppyhood he had lived the life of a sated⑫ aristocrat⑬; he had a fine pride in himself, was ever a trifle egotistical⑭, as country gentlemen sometimes become because of their insular situation. But he had saved himself by not becoming a mere pampered house-dog. Hunting and kindred outdoor delights had kept down the fat and hardened his muscles; and to him, as to the cold-tubbing races, the love of water had been a tonic⑮ and a health preserver.

And this was the manner of dog Buck was in the fall of 1897, when the Klondike strike dragged men from all the world into the frozen North. But Buck did not read the newspapers, and he did not know that Manuel, one of the gardener's helpers, was an undesirable acquaintance. Manuel had one besetting sin⑯. He loved to play Chinese lottery. Also, in his gambling,

① terrier ['teriə] *n.* kinds of small and active dog (动) 梗

② legion ['lɪdʒən] *n.* vast host or number 众多

③ broom [brʊm] *n.* long-handled implement for sweeping floors 扫帚

④ mop [mɒp] *n.* bundle of coarse strings, cloth 拖把

⑤ escort ['eskɔ:t] *vt.* go with others to protect 护送

⑥ twilight ['twailait] *n.* faint half-light before sunrise or after sunset 曙光, 微明

⑦ ramble ['ræmbəl] *n.* walking for pleasure 漫步, 漫游

⑧ fountain ['faʊntɪn] *n.* spring of water 喷泉

⑨ stalk [stɔ:k] *vi.* walk with slow stiff strides 阔步走, 大步走

⑩ imperiously [im'piəriəslɪ] *adv.* arrogantly 傲慢地, 自大地

⑪ shepherd ['ʃepəd] *n.* man who takes care of sheep 牧羊人

⑫ sate ['seit] = satiate *vt.* satisfy fully 使满足, 使饱

⑬ aristocrat ['æristɒkræt] *n.* member of the class of nobles 贵族

⑭ egotistical [i'egɒ'tɪstɪkl] *n.* person who talk too much about oneself 自夸, 自负的人

⑮ tonic ['tɒnɪk] *n.* sth giving strength or energy 滋补品

⑯ besetting ['bi:seɪtɪŋ] *sin*: sin that most frequently tempts a person 易犯的罪恶

he had one besetting weakness—faith① in a system; and this made his damnation② certain. For to play a system requires money, while the wages of a gardener's helper do not lap over the needs of a wife and numerous progeny③.

The Judge was at a meeting of the Raisin Growers' Association, and the boys were busy organizing an athletic club, on the memorable night of Manuel's treachery④. No one saw him and Buck go off through the orchard on what Buck imagined was merely a stroll. And with the exception of a solitary⑤ man, no one saw them arrive at the little flag station known as College Park. This man talked with Manuel, and money chinked⑥ between them.

"You might wrap up the goods before you deliver 'm," the stranger said gruffly, and Manuel doubled a piece of stout⑦ rope around Buck's neck under the collar. "Twist it, an you'll choke 'm plentee," said Manuel, and the stranger grunted a ready affirmative.

Buck had accepted the rope with quiet dignity. To be sure, it was an unwonted performance but he had learned to trust in men he knew, and to give them credit for a wisdom that outreached his own. But when the ends of the rope were placed in the stranger's hands, he growled⑧ menacingly⑨. He had merely intimated⑩ his displeasure, in his pride believing that to intimate was to command. But to his surprise the rope tightened around his neck, shutting off his breath. In quick rage he sprang at the man, who met him halfway, grappled him close by the throat, and with a deft⑪ twist threw him over on his back. Then the rope tightened mercilessly, while Buck struggled in a fury, his tongue lolling⑫ out of his mouth and his great chest panting⑬ futilely. Never in all his life had he been so vilely⑭ treated, and never in all his life had he been so angry. But his strength ebbed, his eyes glazed, and he knew nothing when the train was flagged and the two men threw him into the baggage car.

The next he knew, he was dimly aware that his tongue was hurting and that he was being jolted along in some kind of a conveyance. The hoarse shriek of a locomotive whistling a crossing told him where he was. He had travelled too often with the Judge not to know the sensation of riding in a baggage car. He opened his eyes, and into them came the unbridled⑮ anger of a kidna-

① faith [feiθ] *n.* trust, strong belief 信任, 信仰

② damnation [dæm'neɪʃn] *n.* being damned; ruin 遭天罚, 毁灭

③ progeny ['prɒdʒəni] *n.* descendants 子孙, 后裔

④ treachery ['tretʃəri] *n.* disloyalty 不忠, 叛逆

⑤ solitary ['sɒlɪtri] *adj.* lonely 独自的, 孤独的

⑥ chink [tʃɪŋk] *vt.* make the sound of coins 发出硬币之叮当声

⑦ stout [staʊt] *adj.* strong; thick; not easily broken or worn out 坚固的, 结实的

⑧ growl [graʊl] *vi.* make a low, threatening sound (动物、人、雷)作低沉的怒吼声

⑨ menacingly ['me'næsɪŋli] *adv.* in a threatening manner 威吓地, 胁迫地

⑩ intimate ['ɪntɪmeɪt] *vt.* make known 宣布, 明白表示

⑪ deft [deft] *adj.* quick and clever 敏捷的, 灵巧的

⑫ loll [lɒl] *vi.* hang (舌)垂伸

⑬ pant [pænt] *vi.* to take short, quick breaths 喘气, 喘息

⑭ vilely ['vaɪli] *adv.* shamefully and disgustingly 可耻地, 卑鄙地

⑮ unbridled [ʌn'braɪld] *adj.* not controlled 无节制的

pped king. The man sprang for his throat, but Buck was too quick for him. His jaws closed on the hand, nor did they relax till his senses were choked out of him once more.

"Yep, has fits<sup>①</sup>," the man said, hiding his mangled<sup>②</sup> hand from the baggageman, who had been attracted by the sounds of struggle. "I'm takin' m up for the boss to 'Frisco. A crack<sup>③</sup> dog-doctor there thinks that he can cure 'm."

Concerning that night's ride, the man spoke most eloquently for himself, in a little shed back of a saloon<sup>④</sup> on the San Francisco water front.

"All I get is fifty for it," he grumbled, "an' I wouldn't do it over for a thousand, cold cash."

His hand was wrapped in a bloody handkerchief, and the right trouser leg was ripped from knee to ankle.

"How much did the other mug get?" the saloon-keeper demanded.

"A hundred," was the reply. "Wouldn't take a sou less, so help me."

"That makes a hundred and fifty," the saloon-keeper calculated, "and he's worth it, or I'm a squarehead<sup>⑤</sup>."

The kidnapper undid the bloody wrappings and looked at his lacerated hand. "If I don't get hydrophoby<sup>⑥</sup>—"

"It'll be because you was born to hang," laughed the saloon-keeper. "Here, lend me a hand before you pull your freight," he added.

Dazed<sup>⑦</sup>, suffering intolerable pain from throat and tongue, with the life half throttled<sup>⑧</sup> out of him, Buck attempted to face his tormentors<sup>⑨</sup>. But he was thrown down and choked repeatedly, till they succeeded in filing the heavy brass collar from off his neck. Then the rope was removed, and he was flung into a cage-like crate<sup>⑩</sup>.

There he lay for the remainder of the weary night, nursing his wrath<sup>⑪</sup> and wounded pride. He could not understand what it all meant. What did they want with him, these strange men? Why were they keeping him pent up<sup>⑫</sup> in this narrow crate? He did not know why, but he felt oppressed by the vague<sup>⑬</sup> sense of impending calamity<sup>⑭</sup>. Several times during the night he sprang to his feet when the shed door rattled<sup>⑮</sup> open, expecting to see the Judge, or the boys at least. But each time it was the bulging<sup>⑯</sup> face of the saloon-keeper that peered in at him by the

① fit [fit] *n.* sudden attack of hysteria 歇斯底里症的突发

② mangle ['mæŋgl] *vt.* damage badly 毁坏

③ crack [kræk] *n.* very clever or expert (形容用法) 技艺高超的

④ saloon [sə'lun] *n.* bar 酒吧

⑤ squarehead ['skweəhed] *n.* fool 傻瓜

⑥ hydrophoby [haidrə'faubi] = hydrophobian. a disease in which the throat muscles tighten so that drinking is impossible 狂犬病

⑦ dazed [deɪzd] *adj.* dizzy 晕眩的

⑧ throttle ['θrɒtl] *vt.* choke 使窒息

⑨ tormentor [tɔ:'men tɔ] *n.* sb or sth that causes severe pain or suffering 折磨者, 使人痛苦的人或物

⑩ crate [kreɪt] *n.* large framework of light boards 大板条箱

⑪ wrath [rɒθ] *n.* great anger 暴怒

⑫ pent up: repressed 被幽禁的

⑬ vague [veɪg] *adj.* not clear or distinct 不清楚的

⑭ calamity [kə'læmi ti] *n.* disaster 大灾祸

⑮ rattle ['rætl] *vi.* make a lot of quick little noises 发出嘎嘎声

⑯ bulge [bʌldʒ] *vi.* swell out 膨胀, 鼓起

sickly light of a tallow<sup>①</sup> candle. And each time the joyful bark that trembled in Buck's throat was twisted into a savage growl.

But the saloon-keeper let him alone, and in the morning four men entered and picked up the crate. More tormentors, Buck decided, for they were evil-looking creatures, ragged and unkempt<sup>②</sup>; and he stormed and raged at them through the bars. They only laughed and poked<sup>③</sup> sticks at him, which he promptly assailed<sup>④</sup> with his teeth till he realized that was what they wanted. Whereupon he lay down sullenly and allowed the crate to be lifted into a wagon. Then, he, and the crate in which he was imprisoned<sup>⑤</sup>, began a passage through many hands. Clerks in the express office took charge of him; he was carted about in another wagon; a truck carried him, with an assortment<sup>⑥</sup> of boxes and parcels, upon a ferry steamer; he was trucked off the steamer into a great railway depot, and finally he was deposited in an express car.

For two days and nights this express car was dragged along at the tail of shrieking<sup>⑦</sup> locomotives<sup>⑧</sup>; and for two days and nights Buck neither ate nor drank. In his anger he had met the first advances of the express messengers with growls, and they had retaliated<sup>⑨</sup> by teasing him. When he flung himself against the bars, quivering and frothing, they laughed at him and taunted<sup>⑩</sup> him. They growled and barked like detestable<sup>⑪</sup> dogs, mewed<sup>⑫</sup>, and flapped their arms and crowed. It was all very silly, he knew; but therefore the more outrage to his dignity, and his anger waxed<sup>⑬</sup> and waxed. He did not mind the hunger so much, but the lack of water caused him severe suffering and fanned his wrath to fever-pitch. For that matter, high-strung and finely sensitive, the ill treatment had flung him into a fever, which was fed by the inflammation<sup>⑭</sup> of his parched<sup>⑮</sup> and swollen throat and tongue.

He was glad for one thing: the rope was off his neck. That had given them an unfair advantage; but now that it was off, he would show them. They would never get another rope around his neck. Upon that he was resolved. For two days and nights he neither ate nor drank, and during those two days and nights of torment, he accumulated a fund of wrath that boded<sup>⑯</sup> ill for whoever first fell foul of him. His eyes turned blood-shot, and he was metamorphosed<sup>⑰</sup> into a

① tallow ['tæləu] *n.* hard fat used for making candles (用于做蜡烛的) 硬脂肪

② unkempt [ˌʌn'kempt] *adj.* untidy. 不整洁的

③ poke [pəʊk] *vt.* move in with a sharp push 戳

④ assail [ə'seɪl] *vt.* attack violently 猛击

⑤ imprison [ɪm'prɪzn] *vt.* put or keep in prison 下狱, 囚禁

⑥ assortment [ə'sɔ:t'mənt] *n.* various collection of different examples 属于一类或数类的各色物品的集合

⑦ shriek [ʃri:k] *vi.* scream shrilly 尖叫

⑧ locomotive ['ləʊkə'məʊtɪv] *n.* 火车头

⑨ retaliate [rɪ'tælieɪt] *vi.* take revenge 报仇

⑩ taunt [tɔ:nt] *vt.* attack sb with contemptuous reproach 辱骂, 讥笑

⑪ detestable [dɪ'tes'təbl] *adj.* deserving to be hated 可恨的, 可恶的

⑫ mew [mju:] *vi.* make the noise that gulls make 咪咪叫

⑬ wax [wæks] *vi.* grow, increase 增加

⑭ inflammation [ɪnflə'meɪʃn] *n.* inflamed condition 激怒, 炽热

⑮ parch [pɜ:tʃ] *vt.* to make hot and dry 使焦干

⑯ bode [bəʊd] (旧) be of bad promise for 预示有不好的前途

⑰ metamorphose [ˌmetə'mɔ:fəʊz] *vt.* change into another form 使变形

raging fiend①. So changed was he that the Judge himself would not have recognized him; and the express messengers breathed with relief when they bundled him off the train at Seattle.

Four men gingerly② carried the crate from the wagon into a small, high-walled back yard. A stout man, with a red sweater that sagged③ generously at the neck, came out and signed the book for the driver. That was the man, Buck divined, the next tormentor, and he hurled himself savagely against the bars. The man smiled grimly, and brought a hatchet④ and a club⑤.

"You ain't going to take him out now?" the driver asked.

"Sure," the man replied, driving the hatchet into the crate for a pry.

There was an instantaneous scattering of the four men who had carried it in, and from safe perches⑥ on top of the wall they prepared to watch the performance.

Buck rushed at the splintering⑦ wood, sinking his teeth into it, surging⑧ and wrestling with it. Wherever the hatchet fell on the outside, he was there on the inside, snarling⑨ and growling, as furiously⑩ anxious to get out as the man in the red sweater was calmly intent on getting him out.

"Now, you red-eyed devil," he said, when he had made an opening sufficient for the passage of Buck's body. At the same time he dropped the hatchet and shifted the club to his right hand.

And Buck was truly a red-eyed devil, as he drew himself together for the spring, hair bristling, mouth foaming⑪, a mad glitter⑫ in his blood-shot eyes. Straight at the man he launched⑬ his one hundred and forty pounds of fury, surcharged⑭ with the pent passion of two days and nights. In mid air, just as his jaws were about to close on the man, he received a shock that checked his body and brought his teeth together with an agonizing⑮ clip. He whirled over, fetching the ground on his back and side. He had never been struck by a club in his life, and did not understand. With a snarl that was part bark and more scream he was again on his feet and launched into the air. And again the shock came and he was brought crushingly to the ground. This time he was aware that it was the club, but his madness knew no caution. A dozen times he charged, and as often the club broke the charge

① fiend [fi:nd] *n.* devil 恶魔

② gingerly ['dʒɪndʒəli] *adv.* with great care and caution to avoid harming 极为小心地

③ sag [sæg] *v.* hang down unevenly 不整齐的下垂

④ hatchet ['hætfɪt] *n.* light, short-handled axe 手斧, 斧头

⑤ club [klʌb] *n.* heavy stick with one thick end 棍(一头较粗)

⑥ perch [pɜ:tʃ] *n.* elevated and secure position 高而安全的位置

⑦ splinter ['splɪntə] *vi.* break into pieces 碎裂, 成碎片

⑧ surge [sɜ:dʒ] *vi.* move forward like waves 汹涌

⑨ snarl [sna:l] *vi.* show the teeth and growl 嚎叫, 咆哮

⑩ furiously ['fjuəriəsli] *adv.* violently 猛烈地, 狂暴地

⑪ foam [fəʊm] *vi.* produce bubble 形成泡沫

⑫ glitter ['glɪtə] *n.* brilliant, sparkling light 灿烂的光辉

⑬ launch [ləʊnʃ] *vt.* send 发射, 发出

⑭ surcharge [sɜ:tʃə:dʒ] *vt.* make an additional charge to 额外索要

⑮ agonizing ['æɡənaɪzɪŋ] *adj.* causing pain 引起痛苦的

and smashed him down.

After a particularly fierce blow, he crawled to his feet, too dazed to rush. He staggered limply about, the blood flowing from nose and mouth and ears, his beautiful coat sprayed and flecked① with bloody slaver②. Then the man advanced and deliberately③ dealt him a frightful blow on the nose. All the pain he had endured was as nothing compared with the exquisite④ agony of this. With a roar that was almost lion-like in its ferocity⑤, he again hurled himself at the man. But the man, shifting the club from right to left, coolly caught him by the under jaw, at the same time wrenching downward and backward. Buck described a complete circle in the air, and half of another, then crashed to the ground on his head and chest.

For the last time he rushed. The man struck the shrewd⑥ blow he had purposely withheld⑦ for so long, and Buck crumpled up and went down, knocked utterly senseless.

"He's no slouch⑧ at dog-breakin', that's wot I say," one of the men on the wall cried enthusiastically.

"Druther break cayuses⑨ any day, and twice on Sundays," was the reply of the driver, as he climbed on the wagon and started the horses.

Buck's senses came back to him, but not his strength. He lay where he had fallen, and from there he watched the man in the red sweater.

"Answers to the name of Buck," the man soliloquized⑩, quoting from the saloon-keeper's letter which had announced the consignment⑪ of the crate and contents. "Well, Buck, my boy," he went on in a genial⑫ voice, "we've had our little ruction⑬, and the best thing we can do is to let it go at that. You've learned your place, and I know mine. Be a good dog and all 'll go well and the goose hang high. Be a bad dog, and I'll whale⑭ the stuffin' outa you. Understand?"

As he spoke he fearlessly patted the head he had so mercilessly pounded, and though Buck's hair involuntarily bristled at touch of the hand, he endured it without protest. When the man brought him water, he drank eagerly, and later bolted⑮ a generous meal of raw meat, chuck by chunk, from the man's hand.

He was beaten (he knew that); but he was not broken. He saw, once for all, that he stood no chance against a man with a club. He had

① fleck [flek] *vt.* mark with small spots or patches 使有斑点

② slaver ['sleivə] *n.* spit 口水

③ deliberately [di'libəritli] *adv.* intentionally 故意地

④ exquisite ['ekskwi:zɪt] *adj.* keenly felt 强烈感受到的, 极度的

⑤ ferocity [fə'rosɪti] *n.* savage cruelty 凶猛, 残暴

⑥ shrewd [ʃru:d] *adj.* astute 狡猾的, 冷不防的

⑦ withhold [wið'həʊld] *vt.* keep back 抑制, 保留

⑧ slouch [slautʃ] *n.* a lazy, untidy or useless person 懒鬼, 不中用的人

⑨ cayuse [kai'ju:s] *n.* a kind of horse 印第安种的小马

⑩ soliloquize [sə'lɪləkwaɪz] *vi.* talk to oneself 自言自语

⑪ consignment [kən'saɪnmənt] *n.* a number of goods consigned together 委托物

⑫ genial ['dʒɪniəl] *adj.* kindly 友善的

⑬ ruction ['rʌkʃən] *n.* noisy argument 吵闹, 骚动

⑭ whale [weɪl] *vi.* hunt 捕捉

⑮ bolt [bəʊlt] *vt.* swallow quickly 狼吞虎咽



learned the lesson, and in all his after life he never forgot it. That club was a revelation①. It was his introduction to the reign② of primitive law, and he met the introduction half-way. The facts of life took on a fiercer aspect; and while he faced that aspect uncowed③, he faced it with all the latent④ cunning⑤ of his nature aroused. As the days went by, other dogs came, in crates and at the ends of ropes, some docilely⑥, and some raging and roaring as he had come; and, one and all, he watched them pass under the dominion of the man in the red sweater. Again and again, as he looked at each brutal performance, the lesson was driven home to Buck: a man with a club was a lawgiver, a master to be obeyed, though not necessarily conciliated⑦. Of this last Buck was never guilty, though he did see beaten dogs that fawned⑧ upon the man, and wagged their tails, and licked his hand. Also he saw one dog, that would neither conciliate nor obey, finally killed in the struggle for mastery⑨.

Now and again men came, strangers, who talked excitedly, wheedlingly⑩, and in all kinds of fashions to the man in the red sweater. And at such times that money passed between them the strangers took one or more of the dogs away with them. Buck wondered where they went, for they never came back; but the fear of the future was strong upon him, and he was glad each time when he was not selected.

Yet his time came, in the end, in the form of a little weazened⑪ man who spat broken English and many strange and uncouth⑫ exclamations⑬ which Buck could not understand.

"Sacredam!" he cried, when his eyes lit upon Buck. "Dat one dam bully dog! Eh? How moch?"

"Three hundred, and a present at that," was the prompt reply of the man in the red sweater. "And seein' it's government money, you ain't got no kick coming, eh, Perrault?"

Perrault grinned⑭. Considering that the price of dogs had been boomed skyward by the unwonted demand, it was not an unfair sum for so fine an animal. The Canadian Government would be no loser, nor would its despatches⑮ travel the slower. Perrault knew dogs, when he looked at Buck he knew that he was one in a thousand—"One in ten t'ousand," he commented mentally.

Buck saw money pass between them, and

① revelation [revi 'leɪʃən] *n.* making known of sth secret or hidden 启示

② reign [rein] *n.* dominance 主权, 统治

③ uncowed [ʌn'kəʊəd] = uncovered *adj.* 未覆盖的

④ latent ['leɪtənt] *adj.* not visible 潜伏的

⑤ cunning ['kʌnɪŋ] *n.* clever at deceiving 狡猾, 奸诈

⑥ docilely ['dəʊsaɪli] = docile *adv.* easily trained or controlled 易驯服的, 温顺的

⑦ conciliate [kən'sɪli'eɪt] *vt.* win the support 安慰, 抚慰

⑧ fawn [fɔːn] *vi.* flatter 奉承, 巴结

⑨ mastery ['mɑːstəri] *n.* control 控制

⑩ wheedlingly ['wiːdlɪŋli] *adv.* of flattering or coaxing to get sth. one wants 哄骗地

⑪ weazened ['wɪznd] = wizened *adj.* shrivelled 外形枯槁的, 皱缩的

⑫ uncouth [ʌn'kuːθ] *adj.* awkward 笨拙的

⑬ exclamation [ˌeks klə'meɪʃən] *n.* sudden and loud cry from pain or surprise 呼喊, 惊叫

⑭ grin [grɪn] *vi.* smile broadly with contempt 轻蔑地笑

⑮ despatch [dis'pætʃ] = dispatch *n.* sth sent off to a destination for a special purpose 发送之物