The Color of Light:
The Story of Isaac Newton

# 光的颜色：
# 牛顿的故事

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三民书局编辑部 译

SUPER SCIENTISTS 超级科学家系列

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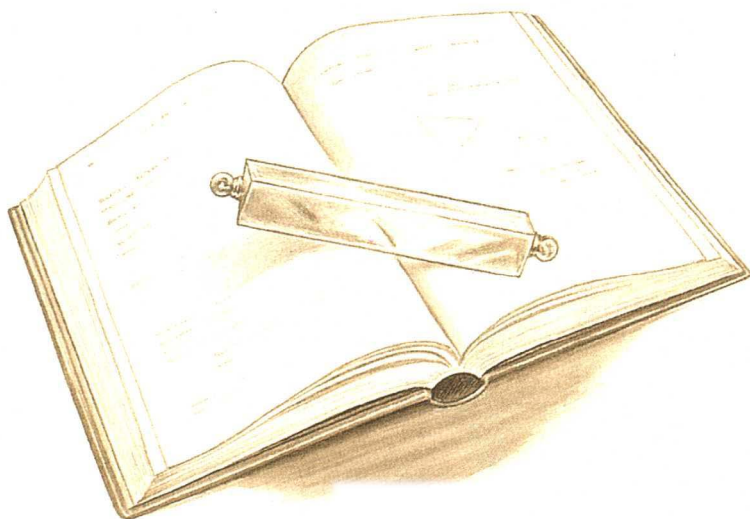
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# Flee from the Plague
## ( July 1665 )



The **Plague**. The Plague. The Plague. The words kept repeating themselves inside Isaac's head. He couldn't stop saying them.

The Plague was coming closer and closer. It had **leaped** and **crept** north from London, from town to village. People were falling ill and dropping down dead within a day. Whole families were dying. Nobody knew how the terrible sickness spread. But it was spreading through England, like an evil unstoppable fog.
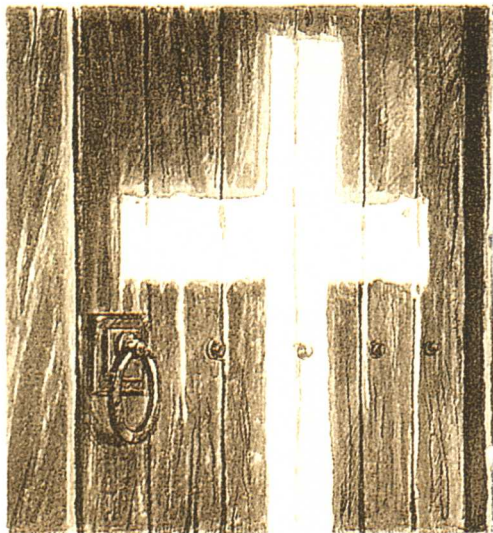
# 逃离鼠疫
## （1665年7月）

鼠疫！鼠疫！鼠疫！这两个字不断地在艾萨克的脑海中盘旋，挥之不去。

鼠疫逐渐逼近，它来势汹汹地从伦敦一步步北上，从城市蔓延到乡村。百姓接二连三地发病，不到一天就被夺去生命，甚至全家都面临死亡的威胁。没有人知道这可怕的疾病是如何传播开来的，但它就像一阵无法抵挡的、阴森邪恶的浓雾，笼罩着整个英格兰。

plague [pleig] 名 瘟疫
(the Plague) 黑死病，鼠疫
leap [liːp] 动 跳跃；跃动
creep [kriːp] 动 悄悄接近
（过去式 crept [krept]）

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And now the Plague had reached the edges of **Cambridge**.

The students had been told to leave. The **University** was closing down.

He must get away! He would go back home, to the farm on the hillside where he had been born. It would take him two days traveling.

Isaac **packed up** his **precious** notebooks, and his few clothes. He put Tabs his cat inside a **wicker** basket. Then he joined the **jostling crowds** of students pushing across the bridge, away from the narrow streets of Cambridge.

鼠疫现在已蔓延到剑桥的外围。

学校通知学生尽快撤离，剑桥大学即将关闭。

他必须赶快离开！他要回家，回到出生的山村农庄，行程需要两天的时间。

Cambridge [`keimbridʒ] 名 剑桥
(英国英格兰东南部的城市，为剑桥大学的所在地)
university [ˌjuːniˈvəːsiti] 名 大学

艾萨克收拾起他最心爱的笔记簿和几件衣物，将小猫泰波丝放进柳篮中，然后随着一大群学生拥挤着过了桥，离开了剑桥狭窄的街道。

pack up　收拾行李，打包
precious [ˋpreʃəs] 形 重要的
wicker [ˋwikə] 名 柳树的细枝；
　　　形 用柳枝编成的
jostle [ˋdʒɔsl] 名 拥挤
crowd [kraud] 名 人群

# Thinking about light
## ( December 1665 )

Isaac lay in bed. His room was dark, and cold as stone. The wind **whistled** in the chimney. It had snowed last night. Isaac could hear the usual noises downstairs, the servants working, and **clattering** about. A pig **grunted** in the **farmyard** outside. He felt under his bed and found a **wrinkled** red and yellow apple.

One window **shutter** wasn't tightly closed, and a thin **beam** of sunlight came into his room. Isaac **flapped** his blanket and watched **specks** of dust **whirl** and rise in the light. The specks of dust must be in the air all the time, but he could only see them when they passed through the beam of light, like actors suddenly **appearing** on **a stage**.
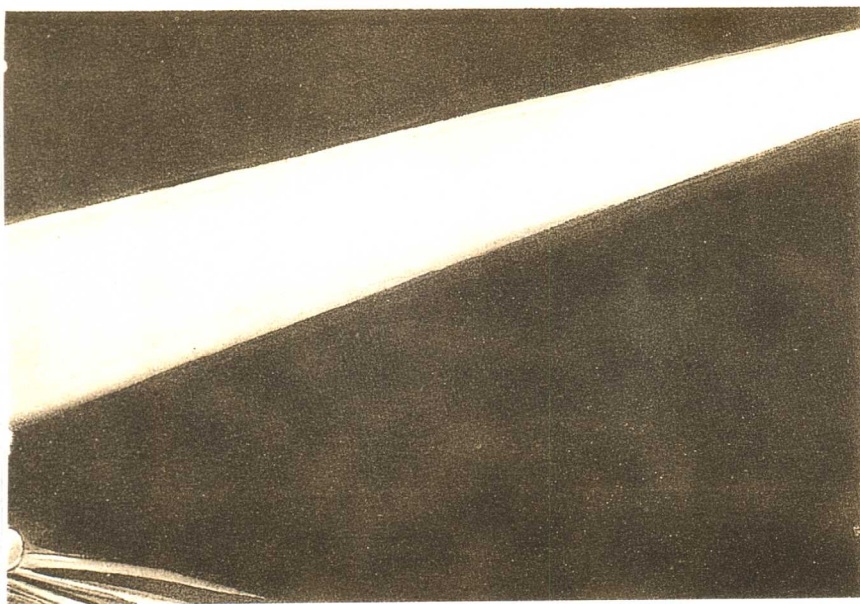
# 光
## （1665年12月）

艾萨克躺在床上。房内又黑又冷。寒风在烟囱里飕飕作响。昨天晚上下了一场雪。艾萨克听见楼下传来熟悉的嘈杂声，那是仆人工作时的喧哗声。农舍外小猪呼噜呼噜地叫着。艾萨克一个不留神跌到床下，发现一颗皱巴巴、红中带黄的苹果。

whistle [`hwisl] 动 飕飕响
clatter [`klætə] 动 喧闹
grunt [grʌnt] 动 (猪)呼噜作声
farmyard [`fɑːmˌjɑːd] 名 农家庭院
wrinkle [`riŋkl] 动 使起皱纹

有一扇窗户的遮板没关紧，一束阳光穿过缝隙射入他的房间。艾萨克抖了抖毯子，看到灰尘的微粒在光亮中旋转飞扬。这些灰尘应该一直都在空气中，可是惟有透过这道亮光，才能看到它们，就好像演员忽然出现在舞台上一样。

shutter [`ʃʌtə] 名 百叶窗，遮雨板

beam [biːm] 名 光线

flapp [flæp] 动 拍动

speck [spek] 名 细粒

whirl [hwəːl] 动 旋转

appear [ə`piə] 动 出现

stage [steidʒ] 名 舞台

The sunlight landed on the floor in a round white **blob**. Isaac tried to **hit** the blob with his apple **core**. He watched the little blob of light move silently across his floor, as the sun outside moved through the sky.
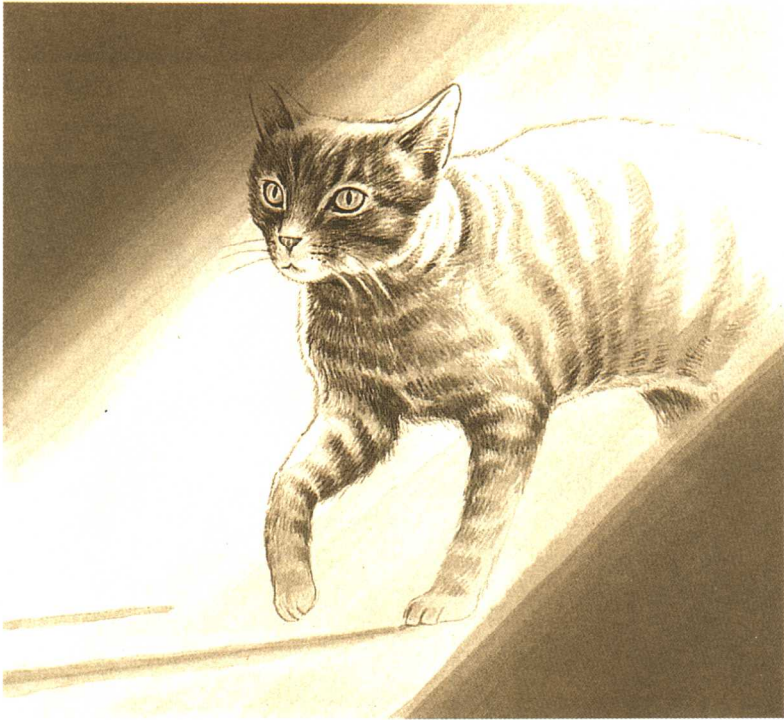


But Isaac did not move out of bed. He had been thinking all night and he was still thinking. What was light? How did light happen?

阳光照射在地板上，形成了一片模糊的光圈，艾萨克想用苹果核击中光圈。当太阳在天空中缓缓移动时，他望着这道光束也静静地移过地板。

但是，艾萨克并没有起床。整晚，他不停地思索着相同的问题，到底光是什么呢？光是怎么产生的呢？

blob [blɔb] 名 一团模糊的东西

The bedroom door **squeaked** open and in came Isaac's cat. She walked across the floor through the beam of sunlight. It shone on her beautiful **tabby fur**, and her pink nose.

What are colors? Thought Isaac, as he **stroked** Tabs. Do colors happen in the dark, when you can't see them? Does light somehow make colors?

房间的门嘎地一声地开了，艾萨克的猫咪走了进来。她穿过地板上的亮光；阳光照射在她那身美丽的斑纹毛皮和她粉红色的鼻子上。

究竟颜色是什么东西呢？艾萨克一面抚摸着泰波丝，一面想着。当四周暗得看不见颜色时，它们还存在吗？难道是光制造了颜色吗？

squeak [skwiːk] 动 嘎嘎响
tabby [`tæbi] 形 有斑纹的
fur [fəː] 名 毛皮
stroke [strouk] 动 抚摸