

• 英汉对照 •

# 世界各国 神话和传说精选

REALMS OF GOLD  
MYTHS & LEGENDS  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

郑大民 编译



世界图书出版公司

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# Contents

## 目 录

### Earth, Air, Fire and Water

#### 地球、大气、火和水

Iyadola's Babies ..... 2

依娅多拉的宝宝们

Naming the Winds ..... 12

给风取名字

How Maui Stole Fire from the Gods ..... 18

莫依怎样从天上偷得火种

Water, Moon and Sun ..... 32

水、月亮和太阳

### Love and Death

#### 爱与死亡

The Death of Balder ..... 38

鲍尔德之死

Persephone ..... 54

普西芬尼

Bedd Gelert ..... 64  
贝德·盖勒特

The Hare in the Moon ..... 72  
月亮中的兔子

The Unicorn ..... 80  
独角兽

The Willow Pattern Story ..... 90  
垂柳图案的故事

### **Fools and Heroes**

#### **蠢人们和英雄们**

The Golden Touch ..... 100  
点金术

The Wishing Fish ..... 116  
渔夫和金鱼的故事

The Giants who Couldn't Swim ..... 130  
不会游泳的巨人

How Perseus Killed the Gorgon ..... 144  
珀修斯怎样杀死蛇发女怪

Much have I travell'd in the realms of gold,  
And many goodly states and kingdoms seen;  
Round many western islands have I been  
Which bards in fealty to Apollo hold. . .

JOHN KEATS

*On First Looking into Chapman's Homer*

我曾游历过许多金子的国度，  
见过许多美好的城邦和王国；  
我曾到过的许多海岛在西方，  
诗人们已使它们忠于阿波罗……

约翰·济慈<sup>①</sup>

《初读查普曼<sup>②</sup>所译荷马史诗有感》

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① 约翰·济慈(1795—1821)——英国浪漫主义诗人，著名作品有《夜莺》、《希腊古瓮》、《秋颂》等。

② 乔治·查普曼(1559—1634)——英国诗人、戏剧家、翻译家，译有荷马史诗《伊利亚特》和《奥德赛》，主要诗作有《和平之泪》，剧作有《向东方去》等。

## IYADOLA'S BABIES

### *A West African Myth*

Nyame, the great sky god, was lonely up in the clouds so one day he made a huge round basket and filled it with animals, with insects and birds. When it was ready he cut a big hole in the sky, a curved hole like a slice of orange. Then he pushed the basket through, stretched out his hand and hung it on a cloud. So he could see it better he cut some pointy little holes to let the light through. These were the stars, and the big curved one was the moon.

For a while Nyame was happy, looking down at his big round basket, which he had called Earth, but then he got bored. So he made another basket, filled it with flowers and plants, then sprinkled them all over Earth through the orange-shaped hole.

He was pleased with it now, and he spent long happy days watching the animals coming and going on Earth, watching the blossom come out, the grass grow long and lush. But others were watching too, for inside Nyame lived two little spirit people, a man and a woman, and they sometimes crept right to the edge of the sky god's mouth and peeped out.

One day Nyame caught a bad cold and gave a

## 依娅多拉的宝宝们

——西非神话——

了不起的天神尼亚姆一个人高高地在九天之上十分孤独。于是，有一天他做了一只很大很大的圆圆的篮子，并在里面放了许多走兽、昆虫和飞禽，把它装得满满的。这件事情做完之后，他把天戳破，使天上有了一个很大的洞，一个轮廓弯弯的、形如一片橘子的大洞。然后他把大篮子从洞里放下去，手也伸下去，把篮子挂在一朵云上。为了能看得更清楚一些，他又在天上戳了一些形如尖角的小洞，使光线从其中通过。这些小洞就是星星，那个轮廓弯弯的大洞就是月亮。

有那么一阵子尼亚姆望着下面那只他取名为地球的大圆篮子；觉得很开心，不过后来他就感到腻了。于是他又做了一只篮子，装上鲜花和树木，并通过那只橘子形状的大洞把它们撒遍地球的表面。

现在他高兴了；有很长一段时间，他天天快活地望着地球上飞禽走兽来来往往，望着朵朵鲜花开放出来，望着草儿长得越来越长，鲜嫩可爱。不过，别人也在观看——在尼亚姆的身体里面住着两个小精灵，一个男人和一个女人，他们有时候爬到天神嘴巴的边缘偷看外面的情况。

有一天尼亚姆得了重感冒，打了一个大大的喷



terrific sneeze. Out fell the spirit people, through the big curved hole in the clouds, and down, down, down until they landed on Earth with a bump.

What a funny place it was, after the comfortable warm darkness inside Nyame! They wandered all over it, looking at the trees and the flowers. They watched the animals playing and the insects scurrying busily about; they marvelled at the rain, at the wind and the sun. Soon the man spirit found that he could catch the animals with sharp sticks, and he became a hunter.

Iyadola, the woman spirit, grew lonely then. Her man didn't want her to come hunting with him; he left her all alone, in the cave where they had made their home. So one day she worked out a plan, and when he came back that night she was eager to tell him all about it.

He didn't want to listen though. "I don't like your plans," he said grumpily. "It was your plan to creep into Nyame's mouth, to see what he was doing. If it hadn't been for you we'd still be safe and warm, not stranded on Earth getting hungry, with me having to hunt for our food."

But Iyadola was determined to explain. "We could get some clay," she said, "and we could make some little creatures that looked just like us. We could bake them in the fire and breathe life into them, so that they could walk and talk, like we

嚏。两个精灵一下子从他的嘴里跌了出来，穿过那只轮廓弯弯的大洞一直往下掉呀，掉呀，掉呀，最后呼地一声落到了地球上。

在尼亚姆黑乎乎的身体里面，他们暖暖和和舒舒服服地过了许多日子，然后才来到地球上，他们觉得这是一个多么有趣的地方呀！他们在地球的每一个角落中漫游，欣赏各种各样的树木和花朵；他们看到许多走兽在奔跑玩耍，各种飞虫急匆匆地飞来飞去；他们还看到下雨、刮风和太阳，这一切都让他们感到很惊异。不久，那个男精灵发现他可以用尖尖的木棍逮住动物，于是他就成了猎手。

这样，依娅多拉——那个女精灵——就觉得孤独了。她的男人不要她跟着一起去打猎；他把她孤零零地一个人留在家——那是一个山洞，他俩把它当作自己的家。于是有一天依娅多拉动脑筋冒出了一个想法，当天晚上男人一回到家里，依娅多拉就急切地要把这个想法详详细细地告诉他。

可是男人不想听。“我不喜欢你的想法，”他抱怨说，“当初我们爬到尼亚姆的嘴巴里去看看他在做什么就是你想出来的。要是你不想出这么一个怪念头，我们现在还会在他肚子里安全、暖和地生活着，不像现在这样流落到地球上，弄得我每天都得去打猎，才能使我们有东西吃。”

但是依娅多拉下决心要把自己的想法解释给男人听。“我们可以弄些泥土来”，她说，“然后用泥土捏出一些跟我们模样相同的小家伙。我们可以把它们放在火里烘烤一下，然后把生命吹进他们的身体，使他们能和我们一样会走路和说话。他们就可以做我

do. They could be our children. If they were with me I wouldn't be so lonely when you went off hunting all day."

The man spirit had to agree that this was a fine idea so the very next day they got busy. They heaped up the fire till it glowed red hot and made a whole batch of little clay children, putting them carefully into the bright embers so they would cook properly. Then they sat back and waited excitedly to see what would happen next.

What happened was that Nyame came thundering through the trees, shouting out their names in his enormous, deep voice. They were frightened of the great sky god and they snatched their little clay children out of the fire, wrapping them in cool leaves in case he saw what they'd been up to. He was a moody kind of god, and they thought he might punish them.

But he only wanted to see how they liked Earth, with all its plants and animals, its creeping things, its rivers and its rainbows. He was a god who liked praise. "We love it, Nyame," they said in chorus, bowing low before him; and he went away content.

The minute he was out of sight they made some more children and put them in the fire, but they'd scarcely wiped the clay off their hands before Nyame came crashing back. "I hope you're behaving yourselves, here on Earth," he said self-

们的孩子。要是他们跟我在一起，那么，你整天离开我在外面打猎时，我就不会感到孤独了。”

男人不能否认这是一个好主意。于是第二天两人就忙开了。他们生起一堆火，让火烧得旺旺的，发出热量和红光，然后他们又捏了好多小泥人，并小心翼翼地把它们放进火堆边那些明亮的余烬里，让它们得到恰如其份的烘烤。于是他们坐下来，身子往后靠，心情激动地等待着，看有什么事情会发生。

接着发生的事情是：尼亚姆来了。他穿过树林朝他们走来，脚步声轰隆隆的，像雷鸣一样，一边用他那深沉的、震耳欲聋的大嗓门喊着他们的名字。男人和女人害怕这法力无边的天神，赶紧把那些小泥人从火堆里抓出来，并用凉树叶把它们包起来，以免被天神看出他们在干什么。这天神喜怒无常，他俩想也许天神会惩罚他们。

然而天神只是来看看他们是不是喜欢地球，来看看他们对这个有各种各样植物和动物（包括蔓生植物和爬行动物）、有江河还有彩虹的地球印象如何。他是一个爱听恭维话的天神。“我们喜欢它，尼亚姆，”男人和女人齐声说，一边深深地向他鞠躬。天神心满意足地离去了。

天神刚刚从他们的视野里消失，男人和女人又另外捏了一些小泥人放进余烬里。可是，两人刚把沾在手上的泥土擦掉，尼亚姆出乎意料地又回到了他们面前。“我希望你们在这里——在这个地球上——放规矩点，”他高傲地说，“地球是我制造的，你们知

importantly. " I made it, you know. I expect you to look after it. By the way, what's this great fire for?" and he poked at it suspiciously.

" We were cold, Nyame," they said, feeling rather foolish for the sun was shining.

"Humph!" snorted the sky god, and away he went again. He had stayed so long that the second lot of clay children were all hut ruined.

All day the two little spirits baked busily, hut Nyame, who clearly thought he was missing something, kept coming back to check up on them. Sometimes, when they heard his footsteps, they had to whip the clay babies out before they were ready. Sometimes, he just wouldn't go away, with the result that the batch was overcooked.

In the end, though, the sky god got hungry and went back home for good. As soon as they felt it was safe, the spirit people unwrapped all the green leaves, set out their handiwork on the forest floor and looked at it.

Some of the children hadn't been in the fire nearly long enough and they were almost white. Others had been in far too long, while Nyame was busy talking, and these had been burnt black. There were lots of other colours too, yellow and red-brown, and pink.

Iyadola was delighted and she swept them all up in her arms. With the help of the spirit man she breathed warm life into them and soon they

道。我期望你们能好好照看它。顺便问一下，生这么一堆大火干什么？”说着他拿起一根棍子怀疑地在火中拨弄起来。

“我们觉得冷，尼亚姆”，他们回答说，同时心里感到这么说真愚蠢，因为当时阳光灿烂。

“哼！”天神哼了一声，随后再次离去。然而他呆的时间太长了，第二批小泥人统统被烤坏了。

整整一天男人和女人都忙于烘烤泥人，但是尼亚姆不断地回来查看他们，很显然他认为有什么事情他还没有发现。有时候，两人听见他的脚步声便不得不赶紧把尚未烘烤好的小人拨出火堆；有时候，天神迟迟不肯离去，结果使火堆里的一批小泥人被烘烤过了头。

不过，最后天神肚子饿了，他回家去吃饭，不再到地球上来查看男人和女人。当两个精灵觉得安全了，他们就立刻把所有的绿色树叶包打开，把他们捏的小泥人统统放在树林中的地上，并注视着它们。

一些小泥人被烘烤的时间不够长，还差那么一点儿，他们的颜色几乎是白的。另外一些小泥人由于当时尼亚姆仍在火堆旁跟男人和女人说得正起劲，所以被烤过头很长时间，它们便成了黑颜色。还有许多其它各种各样的颜色，比如黄色、红棕色和粉红色。

依娅多拉十分高兴，她一下子把它们都抱在怀里。在男人的帮助下，她把生命吹进这些小泥人的体内，使它们都有了生机，于是它们开始伸展和扭动刚

stretched, wiggled their new little legs, and ran about the forest. After that she no longer complained when the man sharpened his sticks and went hunting. She would never be lonely again; she had her children. And that is why she is called 'Iyadola' because it means 'Earth Mother'.

充满活力的小腿，随后便在树林里四处奔跑。从此以后，当男人削尖他的木棍去打猎的时候，女人再也不抱怨了。她再也不会感到孤独了，她有了自己的孩子。这就是为什么她被称为“依娅多拉”的缘故，因为“依娅多拉”的意思就是“大地母亲”。



## NAMING THE WINDS

*An Iroquois Myth  
from North America*

Ga-oh the giant lives far away, up in the sky. From Earth he looks quite small but in fact he is the biggest of all the giants, and the most powerful. For at the beginning of time Ga-oh named the Four Winds, and he rules them still.

First he called Bear to him, Bear whose huge shaggy paws scooped out valleys as he lumbered along, heaping up the earth into towering mountain ranges. "Bear," said the god, "you are surely the strongest of all. You have only to blow a little and the rivers turn to ice. Wherever you go men shiver and shake, making big fires to keep you away. It is always winter with you. Be my great North Wind and command my herd of winter gales, when I set them free."

So Bear bowed his head before Ga-oh and the god slipped a strong lead round his neck. Then he bounded off to take his proud place in the far north of the sky where he sat growling and making thunder, waiting for Ga-oh's next command.

The god called again, to Fawn. His voice was very different this time, low and soft, the voice of water rippling over little stones. Nervously, the creature came to him and with her came birdsong,