



美国青少年  
必读经典

中英对照

Walter Sherwood's  
Probation

下

沃尔特的考验

[美] 霍瑞修·爱尔杰 著 王越 译

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Walter D. Mignolo

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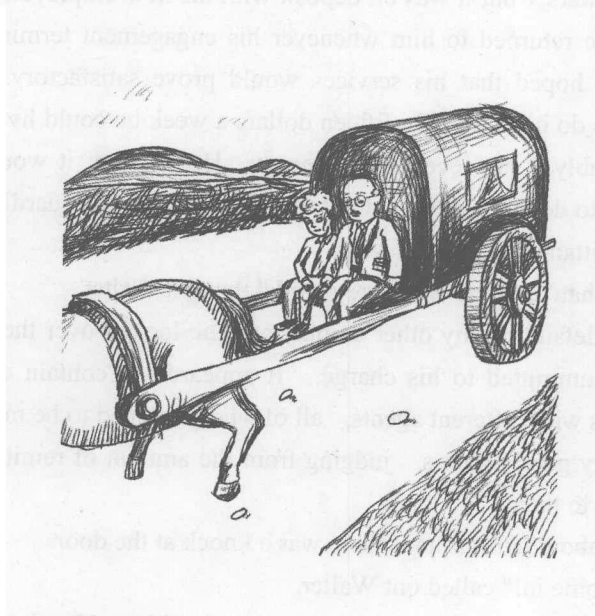
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WALTER FHERWOOD'S  
PROBATION



## WALTER'S VISITORS

Walter sat down at the desk complacently. He had parted with thirty dollars, but it was on deposit with his new employer, and would be returned to him whenever his engagement terminated. He only hoped that his services would prove satisfactory. He meant to do his best. On fifteen dollars a week he could live very comfortably, and even save money. He felt that it would be prudent to do this, as he did not wish to call upon his guardian for any remittances during the year.

"I shan't have to work very hard." thought Walter.

In default of any other employment he looked over the large ledger committed to his charge. It appeared to contain certain accounts with different agents, all of whom seemed to be meeting with very good success, judging from the amount of remittances credited to them.

In about half-an-hour there was a knock at the door.

"Come in!" called out Walter.

A man of about thirty-five entered briskly. He was rather shabbily dressed, and his red face indicated possible indulgence in intoxicating liquor.

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# 沃尔特的客人

沃尔特得意地在桌子旁边坐了下来。他又失去了三十美元，可他把这笔钱存在了自己的新老板那里，而且等他结束这份工作的時候，老板还会把钱还给他。他只希望自己的工作能够让人满意。他准备竭尽全力。一个星期十五美元可以让他生活得非常舒适，他还可以存点钱。他觉得自己的做法非常明智，因为他不想在当年就让监护人给自己汇钱。

“这份工作好像不是很辛苦。”沃尔特想道。

由于没有其他事情可做，他开始浏览这个交给自己的大账本。上面好像是不同代理商的账目记录，从他们的汇款来看，这些代理商好像都取得了很大的成功。

半小时后，有人敲门了。

“请进！”沃尔特叫道。

一个大约三十五的男人轻快地走了进来。他穿得很寒酸，脸色发红，说明他可能喝了酒。

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"Is Mr. Locke in?" he asked.

"No, sir."

"I wanted to see him."

"I am his confidential clerk," said Walter proudly. "Are you an agent?"

"Yes, I am an agent. I suppose I ought to see him."

"He will be back at one o'clock."

"I can't stop, as I have been away for some weeks and want to go out and see my family at Barrington."

"If you wish to leave any message I will give it to Mr. Locke as soon as he returns."

"Perhaps that will do. My name is Jerome Grigson. Tell Mr. Locke I have met with excellent success in Ohio. In the last four weeks I have sold goods to the amount of four hundred and seventeen dollars."

"I should think it was doing remarkably well," observed Walter.

"It is; but any one could sell for Locke business chiefly in Mr. Locke's hands. How long have you been in the office?"

"Not long," answered Walter, who did not care to admit that his term of service covered less than an hour.

"You've a good place with a rising firm. Mind you keep it!"

"I will try to," said Walter earnestly.

"They're square men, Locke & Green. I never worked for

“洛克先生在吗？”他问道。

“不在，先生。”

“我想见他。”

“我是他的机要职员，”沃尔特自豪地说道，“您是代理商吗？”

“是的，我是个代理商。我想我应该见到他。”

“他一点钟回来。”

“我不能等，因为我要离开几个星期，想出门去看看我在巴里顿的家人。”

“要是您愿意留下任何信息的话，我等洛克先生一回来就转交给他。”

“说不定这是个好办法。我叫杰罗姆·格里森。告诉洛克先生我已经在俄亥俄州取得了巨大成功。在过去的四个星期里，我卖出了四百一十七美元的货物。”

“我想那是个很好的成绩。”沃尔特回答道。

“确实；可任何人都可以做代理，所以生意主要还是掌握在洛克先生手里。你在这家公司多长时间了？”

“不长。”沃尔特回答道，他不想告诉对方自己开始工作还不到一个小时。

“你在一家正在发展的公司找到了一份好工作。尽量保住它！”

“我会尽力的。”沃尔特认真地说道。

“他们都是正直的人，洛克和格林，我从来没有为比他



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squarer men."

This was pleasant to hear. Walter felt that he Had made no mistake in parting with his thirty Dollars.

"Well, I must be going. Have you taken down my name?"

"Yes, sir; Jerome Grigson."

"Right. Say, I will look in some time to-morrow and bring in a check for four hundred and seventeen dollars.

"Very well, sir."

Mr. Grigson left the office. Twenty minutes Later a boy of about his own age opened the door. He glanced at Walter diffidently.

"You advertised for a confidential clerk," he said. "Is—is the place filled?"

"Yes." answered Walter, in a tone of satisfaction.

"You don't want anybody else, do you?" asked the youth, looking disappointed.

"Not at present, but we might be able to employ you as an agent."

"Is it hard work?"

"Well, of course you will have to exert yourself," said Walter condescendingly, toying with a pen as he spoke, "but successful men can earn good wages with us."

He was talking as if he was one of the partners, but it is a way young clerks have.

们更正直的人工作过。”

这让沃尔特感到很高兴。沃尔特觉得自己拿出三十美元的决定完全正确，一点儿错都没有。

“好了，我得走了。你记下我的名字了吗？”

“是的，先生；杰罗姆·格里森。”

“是的。好了，我明天早晨还会再来一趟，我会带来一张四百一十七美元的支票。”

“很好，先生。”

格里森先生离开了。二十分钟后，一个跟沃尔特年龄差不多的孩子打开了门。

他犹豫着看了看沃尔特。

“您登广告说要招聘一名机要职员吗，”他说道，“您——找到人了吗？”

“是的。”沃尔特用一种满意的声调回答道。

“您不想招其他人了吗？”年轻人看起来非常失望。

“目前不需要，但我们可以请您当我们的代理商。”

“这工作辛苦吗？”

“当然，你需要努力工作，”沃尔特一边玩着钢笔一边说道，完全是一副居高临下的口吻，“可那些取得成功的人能和我们一起来赚很多钱。”

他说话的样子就像是一位合伙人，可年轻的职员大多都是如此。

"Are you one of the firm?" asked the young man doubtfully.

"No," answered Walter, "not exactly. Mr. Locke will be in about one o'clock, and if you will come round a little after that you can talk with him about an agency. I will put in a good word for you." he added, in a patronizing tone.

"Thank you, sir. I'd like to get a place."

The youth departed and Walter was left alone. But not for long. A middle-aged man entered and looked inquiringly at Walter.

"Are you Mr. Green?" he asked.

"No, sir."

"I have seen Mr. Locke, but I thought you might be Mr. Green."

Walter felt flattered to be taken for one of the firm.

"I am the confidential clerk," he said. "Can I do anything for you?"

"I wanted to see Mr. Locke and pay him some money."

"I will take it and receipt for it." said Walter briskly.

"Well, I suppose that will do, as you are the clerk."

"What's name?" asked Walter, opening the book.

"Jonas Damon. Here is a check on the Corndish National Bank of Illinois for two hundred and twenty-seven dollars. I have made it payable to Locke & Green."

"All right." said Walter, in a businesslike tone.

“您是这家公司的一员吗？”那个年轻人怀疑地问道。

“不是，”沃尔特回答道，“还不是。洛克先生大约一点钟会回来，要是你那时候过来的话，你可以跟他谈谈做代理的事。我可以给你说句好话。”他又说道，俨然是一副主人的口吻。

“谢谢您，先生。我确实想找份工作。”

年轻人离开了，房子里只剩下沃尔特一个人。可没过多久，一位中年男人走了进来，他看了看沃尔特，像是要问什么问题。

“您是格林先生吗？”他问道。

“不，先生。”

“我见过洛克先生，所以我以为您可能是格林先生。”

居然被人当成是公司的合伙人，这让沃尔特感觉自己受到了恭维。

“我是这里的机要职员，”他说道，“能为您做些什么吗？”

“我想见洛克先生，要付给他一些钱。”

“我可以代收，并给您开张收据。”沃尔特马上说道。

“哦，既然你是职员，我想应该可以。”

“什么名字？”沃尔特打开账簿问道。

“乔纳斯·戴蒙。这是伊利诺宜州的康递什国家银行的支票，一共是两百二十七美元。我把它转给了洛克—格林公司。”

“好的。”沃尔特说道，一副生意人的样子。

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"If you wish to see Mr. Locke he will be in at one o'clock." he added, as he put the check in his vest pocket.

"No, I am obliged to go out of town in half-an-hour. It isn't necessary to see him. He would rather see the check."

Mr. Damon laughed, and so did Walter. It Made him feel quite like a business man to be installed in an office, receiving and crediting checks.

"Have you been long in our employment?" he asked.

"About six months."

"I hope you have found it satisfactory?"

"Yes, I have made an excellent living. How much salary do you get?"

"Fifteen dollars a week." answered Walter rather complacently.

"You look like a smart young fellow. You'd easily make double the money as an agent."

"Thank you for the suggestion. I may undertake that some time. I have been a life-insurance agent."

"Did it pay?"

"Not as well as I hoped. I think I shall like my present place better."

"I must be going. Tell Mr. Locke I will be in tomorrow."

"All right."

"It is evident," thought Walter, "that I am in the employ of a

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“要是您想见洛克先生的话，他一点钟会回来。”他一边把支票放进自己的马甲口袋里，一边说道。

“不了，我半小时后就要出城。我没必要见他。他更愿意看到支票。”

戴蒙先生笑道，沃尔特也笑了起来。坐在办公室里，收支票，记记账，这让他感觉自己更像是个生意人。

“您做这份工作很长时间了吗？”他问道。

“大约六个月。”

“我希望您对它还满意。”

“是的，我过得很好。你的薪水是多少？”

“一星期十五美元，”沃尔特相当自豪地回答道。

“你看起来是一个很聪明的小伙子。要是当代理商的话，你可以很轻松地赚到比这多一倍的钱。”

“谢谢您的建议。我以后会考虑的。我以前曾经做过人身保险代理。”

“挣得多吗？”

“没有我想象得多。我想我更喜欢现在这份工作。”

“我得走了。告诉洛克先生，我明天会过来的。”

“好的。”

“显然，”沃尔特想道，“这是一家很有实力而且发展迅

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substantial and prosperous firm. The duties are certainly very light and pleasant. I am in luck to get a clerkship here. It is rather surprising Mr. Locke didn't ask for references."

Then it occurred to him that the deposit was taken as a substitute for references. Then again Walter flattered himself that his personal appearance might have produced a favorable impression upon his employer and had some influence in leading to an engagement.

His next caller was a young man, dark and sallow, with a slight mustache.

"Is this the office of Locke & Green?" he asked.

"Yes, sir."

"Will you describe Mr. Locke to me?" asked the young man, who appeared to be laboring under some excitement.

Walter was rather surprised at such a request, but complied with it.

"Yes, he's the man," said his visitor, slapping his hands together impetuously. "He's the man that cheated me out of fifty dollars!"

"You must be mistaken," said Walter. "How did he cheat you out of it?"

"One moment—are you his confidential clerk?"

"Yes."

"I thought so," returned the young man, laughing wildly. "So was I."

速的公司。我的工作很轻松，也很令人愉快。我很幸运能找到这样一份工作。而洛克先生居然没要推荐人，这真让人感到奇怪。”

这时他突然想到自己用存款代替了推荐人。然后沃尔特又恭维自己，认为是自己的长相给老板留下了良好的印象，并使得他给了自己这份工作。

下一位客人是一个年轻人，皮肤黝黑，脸色发黄，长着淡淡的络腮胡子。

“这是洛克—格林公司吗？”他问道。

“是的，先生。”

“你能向我描述一下洛克先生的长相吗？”年轻人问道，看起来他非常激动。

沃尔特对这样的要求感到有些意外，不过他还是同意了。

“是的，就是他，”客人激动地拍手说道，“他就是那个骗走了我五十美元的家伙。”

“你肯定弄错了，”沃尔特说道，“他怎么骗你的钱的？”

“等一下——你是他的机要职员吗？”

“是的。”

“我想也是，”年轻人狂笑道，“我以前也是。”



WALTER SHEPWOOD'S PERJURATION

"You were his clerk?"

"Yes, for two weeks. I paid him fifty dollars good money as security."

"You did?" repeated Walter, with some anxiety.

"Yes; at the end of two weeks he told me I would not suit."

"But he paid you your wages and returned you your money?"

"No, he didn't!" exploded the young man. "He told me to come round on Monday morning and he would pay me."

"Well?"

"I called Monday, and he was gone! He had moved, the scoundrel! I should like to choke him!"

"Was it this office?"

"No. Let me see that book! Ah, it is the same that I kept. Have you, too, given him money?"

"I deposited thirty dollars."

"Ah, it is the same old game! You will never see a cent of it again."

"But," said Walter, "I don't understand. He is doing a good business. I have had calls from two of his agents. One of them handed me this check." and he drew out the check Mr. Damon had given him.

The young man took it and laughed bitterly.

"I don't believe there is any such bank," he said. "I never heard of it."