

美国青少年 必读经典

中英对照

Hector's Inheritance

赫克托的遗产

[美] 霍瑞修·爱尔杰 著 王越 译

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中国书籍出版社

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*MECTORS
INHERITANCE*



CHAPTER XX

HECTOR GAINS A VICTORY

There were two persons on whom Ben Platt's declaration made a profound impression. These were Jim Smith and his uncle, the learned Socrates. The latter was surprised, for he was fully persuaded that the charge he had made was a true one, and Hector was a thief. As for Jim, his surprise was of a very disagreeable nature. Knowing as he did that, he himself had taken the money, he was alarmed lest his offense was to be made known, and that the pit which he had digged for another should prove to be provided for himself.

Socrates was the first to speak after taking time to recover himself from his surprise.

"This is a very extraordinary statement, Platt," he said, "You say you can prove Roscoe's innocence?"

"Yes, sir," answered Platt, firmly.

"I wish no trifling here, sir," said the principal, sharply, "I myself found the wallet in Roscoe's pocket."

"Yes, sir," answered Ben Platt, "I know it was there"

"You knew it was there!" repeated Socrates, "How did you know it was there?"

"Because I saw it put in."

第 20 章

赫克托取得了胜利

本·普莱特的话给两个人留下了深刻的印象。这两个人就是吉姆·史密斯和他的叔叔，博学的苏格拉底。后者大吃一惊，因为他完全相信指控是真实的，赫克托是个小偷。至于吉姆，他大吃一惊，觉得不可思议。他知道是自己拿走了钱包，他很担心自己做的事情会被揭发出来，这样一来，他为别人设计的陷阱就会落到他自己头上。

在从惊讶中恢复冷静之后，苏格拉底首先开始讲话。

“你的话可真是让人吃惊，普莱特，”他说道，“你说你可以证明罗斯科是无辜的？”

“是的，先生。”普莱特果断地说。

“我希望你不要开玩笑，先生。”这位校长严厉地说，“我可是从赫克托的口袋里找到了钱包。”

“是的，先生，”本·普莱特回答道，“我知道它在那儿。”

“你知道它在那儿！”苏格拉底回答道，“你怎么知道的？”

“因为我看到有人把它放在那儿了。”



HECTOR'S INHERITANCE

Here Jim Smith's face turned from red to pale, and he moved about uneasily in his seat. "Could Ben Platt have been hidden somewhere in the room?" he asked himself, "If so, what was he to do?" There was but one answer to this question. He must brazen it out, and boldly contradict the witness. But he would bide his time. He would wait to hear what Ben had to say.

"Did you put it in yourself?" asked Socrates, savagely.

"No, Mr. Smith, I didn't put it in," answered Ben, indignantly.

"None of your impudence, sir!" said the schoolmaster, irritated.

"I merely answered your question and defended myself," answered Ben.

There was a little murmur among the pupils, showing that their sympathy was with the boy who had been so causelessly accused by the principal.

"Silence!" exclaimed Socrates, annoyed. "Now," he continued, turning to Ben, "since you know who put the wallet into Roscoe's pocket—a very remarkable statement, by the way—will you deign to inform me who did it?"

"James Smith did it!" said Ben, looking over to the principal's nephew, who was half expecting such an attack.

"It's a base lie!" cried Jim, but his face was blanched, his manner was nervous and confused, and he looked guilty, if he were not so.

赫克托的遗产

听到这句话，吉姆·史密斯的脸立刻由红变白，他在自己的座位上不安地动来动去。“本·普莱特难道一直藏在房间的什么地方吗？”他问自己道，“要是这样的话，他想干什么呢？”问题的答案只有一个。他必须拼命抵赖，大胆地否认对方的证词。可他要等待。他要等着听听本到底有什么要说的。

“是你把它放在那里的吗？”苏格拉底野蛮地问道。

“不，史密斯先生，我没有把它放在那里。”本忿忿地回答道。

“不许无礼，先生！”校长被激怒了。

“我只是在回答您的问题，为我自己辩解罢了。”本答道。

学生中有人在小声说话，说明他们都很同情刚才这个被校长无缘无故地批评的孩子。

“安静！”苏格拉底烦躁地叫了起来。“好了，”他转向本，接着说道，“既然你知道是谁把钱包放进罗斯科的口袋里的——顺便说一句，这很让人吃惊——你愿意告诉我是谁做的吗？”

“詹姆斯·史密斯干的！”本说，他看了看校长的侄子，这位侄子已经大致预料到自己会遭到这样的攻击。

“真是一个卑鄙的谎言！”吉姆叫道，可他的脸还是变得煞白，他开始有些紧张忙乱起来，即便本来没罪，他现在的样子看起来也是有罪。

HECTOR'S INHERITANCE

"My nephew?" asked Socrates, flurried.

"Yes, sir."

"It isn't so, Uncle Socrates," said Jim, excited, "I'll lick you, Ben Platt, when we get out of school."

"You forget yourself, James," said Socrates, with a mildness he would not have employed with any other pupil.

"I beg your pardon, Uncle Socrates," said Jim, with contrition, "but I can't be silent when I am accused of things I don't do."

"To be sure, you have some excuse, but you should remember the respect you owe to me. Then you did not do it?"

"Certainly not, sir."

"So it appears, Platt, that you have brought a false charge against your fellow-pupil," said Mr. Smith, severely, "I can conceive of nothing meaner."

"Mr. Smith," said Hector, "what right have you to say that the charge is false? Is it the denial of your nephew? If he took the wallet he would, of course, deny it."

"So would you!" retorted Socrates.

"No one saw me conceal it," said Hector, significantly.

Then Wilkins rose.

"Mr. Smith," he said, "I have some evidence to offer."

“我的侄子？”苏格拉底激动地说道。

“是的，先生。”

“不是这样的，苏格拉底叔叔，”吉姆激动地说道，“本·普莱特，等我们离开学校的时候，我会给你好看的。”

“别胡说，詹姆斯，”苏格拉底说道，在对其他学生说话的时候，他可不会这么温柔。

“请原谅，苏格拉底叔叔，”吉姆后悔地说道，“可当有人用那些我根本没做过的事情诬陷我的时候，我不可能让自己安静下来。”

“可以肯定，你有你的理由，可你应该记得要对我表示尊重。这么说你并没有做这件事情了？”

“当然没有，先生。”

“看起来也是，普莱特，你在诬陷你的同学，”史密斯先生严厉地说道，“我简直想像不出任何比这更卑鄙的事情了。”

“史密斯先生，”赫克托说道，“您有什么权利认定这指控是诬陷？难道是因为您侄子否认了这件事情吗？如果是他拿了钱包的话，他当然会否认。”

“你也是！”苏格拉底反驳道。

“没有人看见我把钱包藏起来。”赫克托意味深长地说道。然后威尔金斯站了起来。

“史密斯先生，”他说道，“我也有些证据。”

HECTOR'S INHERITANCE

"Out with it, sir," said the principal, angrily, for he was fighting against an inward conviction that his nephew was really the guilty party.

"I was walking along the corridor about the time Platt speaks of Smith's visit to Roscoe's room, and I met your nephew walking in the opposite direction. When I entered the room, Platt told me that, half-concealed by the closet door, he had seen Jim Smith enter and thrust the wallet into Roscoe's pocket. Soon after, you and Mrs. Smith came into the room, guided by your nephew, who let you know just where the wallet was hidden. He had very good reasons for knowing," added Wilkins.

If a look would have annihilated Wilkins, the look directed towards him by Jim Smith would have had that effect.

"It's a conspiracy against me, Uncle Socrates," said Jim, intent upon brazening it out, "They're all in league together."

"The testimony of Wilkins doesn't amount to much!" said Mr. Smith.

"He may have seen James in the corridor, but that is by no means a part of his complicity in this affair."

"Just so!" said Jim, eagerly.

"Ben Platt's evidence ought to count for something," said Hector.

"He saw your nephew putting the wallet into the pocket of my pants."

赫克托的遗产

“说出来吧，先生。”校长气愤地说道，他正在努力压制自己内心的转变，因为他也开始相信是自己的侄子偷了钱包了。

“大约就在普莱特刚才说的史密斯来到罗斯科房间的那个时候，我正走在走廊里，看到您的侄子正从对面走过来。当我走进房间的时候，普莱特告诉我，他刚才透过壁橱虚掩的门，看见吉姆·史密斯走进房间，把钱包放进了罗斯科的口袋里。不久之后，您和史密斯太太就走进了房间里，前面是您的侄子带路，他告诉你们他刚刚放钱包的地方。他有充分的理由知道那地方。”威尔金斯又说道。

如果一副表情能够杀死威尔金斯的话，吉姆·史密斯看着威尔金斯时候的表情足以达到这样的效果。

“他们这是在合伙害我，苏格拉底叔叔，”吉姆想要抵赖，“他们都是一伙儿的。”

“威尔金斯的证词并不算什么！”史密斯先生说道。

“他可能确实是在走廊里看见詹姆斯了，可这并不能说明什么。”

“是的！”吉姆立刻说道。

“本·普莱特的证据应该能够说明什么吧。”赫克托说道。

“他看到您的侄子把钱包放进我裤子的口袋里。”

HECTOR'S INHERITANCE

Socrates was clearly perplexed. In spite of his partiality for his nephew, the case against him certainly looked very strong.

Hector, however, determined to make his defense even stronger.

“ I would like to ask Platt,” he said, “ at what time this took place?”

“ At three o'clock.”

“ How do you know it was three?” asked the principal, sharply.

“ Because I heard the clock in the village church strike three.”

“ I would like to ask another boy—Frank Lewis—if he heard the clock strike three?”

Lewis answered in the affirmative.

“ Where were you at the time?”

“ In the playground.”

“ What were you doing?”

“ Playing ball.”

“ Was I in the game?”

“ Yes.”

“ How long had the game been going on?”

“ Half an hour.”

“ How long had the game been going on, do you know?”

“ From half to three-quarters of an hour.”

赫克托的遗产

苏格拉底显然有些迷惑了。虽然他有些偏向自己的侄子，可证据显然对他不利。

可赫克托还是决定要让自己的辩护更加有力。

“我想问问普莱特，”他说道，“这件事大概发生在什么时候？”

“三点钟。”

“你怎么知道是三点钟？”校长严厉地问道。

“因为我听到村里教堂的钟响了三下。”

“我想再问另一个孩子——弗兰克·路易斯——他听到钟响了三下吗？”

路易斯给出了肯定的答案。

“那时你在哪里？”

“在操场上。”

“在干什么？”

“打球。”

“我在打球吗？”

“是的。”

“我们玩了多长时间？”

“半小时。”

“那你知道那场球通常会持续多长时间吗？”

“半小时到四十五分钟。”



HECTOR'S INHERITANCE

"Can you remember whether I was with you all the time?"

"You were."

"Now, Platt, will you tell me how long after the wallet was put into my pocket before Mr. Smith appeared in search of it?"

"Not over half an hour."

"I submit, then," said Hector, in a matter-of-fact manner, "that I was absent in the playground during the entire time when it was found in my room. I believe this is what lawyers call an alibi that I have, fortunately, been able to prove."

"You are a very smart lawyer!" sneered the principal.

The boys were by this time so incensed at Mr. Smith's evident effort to clear his nephew at the expense of Roscoe, that there was a very audible hiss, in which at least half a dozen joined.

"Is this rebellion?" asked Socrates, furiously.

"No, sir," said Ben Platt, firmly, "We want justice done; that is all."

"You shall have justice—all of you!" exclaimed Socrates, carried beyond the limits of prudence.

"I am glad to hear that, sir," said Hector, "If you do not at once exonerate me from this charge, which you know to be false, and write to my guardian retracting it, I will bring the matter before the nearest magistrate."

“你还觉得我当时跟你在一起吗？”

“你跟我在一起。”

“好了，普莱特，你能告诉我钱包丢了多长时间之后史密斯先生来到房间找钱包吗？”

“不超过半小时。”

“那么我可以推断，”赫克托淡淡地说道，“当你们在我房间里找到钱包的时候，我正在操场上。我相信这就是被律师们称为‘不在犯罪现场的证据’，幸运的是，我可以证明这一点。”

“你是个很聪明的律师！”校长冷笑道。

这时孩子们已经很清楚，史密斯先生显然是在以牺牲罗斯科为代价来洗刷自己侄子的清白，人群中立刻有好几位学生发出了一阵清晰的嘘声。

“你们是在造反吗？”苏格拉底厉声问道。

“不是，先生，”本·普莱特坚定地说道，“我们只是想正义得到伸张，就是这样。”

“你们都会得到正义的——你们都会！”苏格拉底大声叫道，他显然已经丧失了理智。

“我很高兴听到这个，先生，”赫克托说道，“给我的监护人写信收回您对我的指控，否则我会把这件事情上诉到最近的法院的。”

HECTOR'S INHERITANCE

This was more than Socrates had bargained for. He saw that he had gone too far, and was likely to wreck his prospects and those of the school.

“ I will look into the matter,” he said, hurriedly, “ and report to the school hereafter. You may now apply yourselves to your studies.”

赫克托的遗产

这可不是苏格拉底所能讨价还价的了。他发现自己有些做过头了，这样做会毁了他的前途和这所学校的未来。

“我会处理这件事情的，”他急忙说道，“并把这件事情通告给学生们。你们现在可以开始学习了。”

