

人类的故事

THE STORY OF MANKIND

中英对照全译本

[美] 房龙 著

Hendrik Willem van Loon

盛世教育西方名著翻译委员会 译



世界图书出版公司

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

人类的故事: 中英对照全译本/ (美) 房龙 (Van Loon, H. W.) 著; 盛世教育西方名著翻译委员会译. —上海: 上海世界图书出版公司, 2010.7

ISBN 978-7-5100-2365-1

I. ①人… II. ①房… ②盛… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物②人类学—通俗读物③世界史—通俗读物 IV. ①H319.4: Q②H319.4: K

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2010)第 122414 号

人类的故事

[美]房龙 著

盛世教育西方名著翻译委员会 译

上海世界图书出版公司 出版发行

上海市广中路 88 号

邮政编码 200083

北京兴鹏印刷有限公司印刷

如发现印刷质量问题, 请与印刷厂联系

(质检科电话: 010-84897777)

各地新华书店经销

开本: 880×1230 1/32 印张: 19 字数: 609 000

2010 年 7 月第 1 版 2010 年 7 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 978-7-5100-2365-1/H·1026

定价: 29.80 元

<http://www.wpcsh.com.cn>

<http://www.wpcsh.com>

前言

通过阅读文学名著学语言，是掌握英语的绝佳方法。既可接触原汁原味的英语，又能享受文学之美，一举两得，何乐不为？

对于喜欢阅读名著的读者，这是一个最好的时代，因为有成千上万的书可以选择；这又是一个不好的时代，因为在浩繁的卷帙中，很难找到适合自己的好书。

然而，你手中的这套丛书，值得你来信赖。

这套精选的中英对照名著全译丛书，未改编改写、未删节削减，且配有权威注释、部分书中还添加了精美插图。

要学语言、读好书，当读名著原文。如习武者切磋交流，同高手过招方能渐明其间奥妙，若一味在低端徘徊，终难登堂入室。积年流传的名著，就是书中“高手”。然而这个“高手”，却有真假之分。初读书时，常遇到一些挂了名著名家之名改写改编的版本，虽有助于了解基本情节，然而所得只是皮毛，你何曾真的就读过了那名著呢？一边是窖藏了50年的女儿红，一边是贴了女儿红标签的薄酒，那滋味，怎能一样？“朝闻道，夕死可矣。”人生短如朝露，当努力追求真正的美。

本套丛书的英文版本，是根据外文原版书精心挑选而来；对应的中文译文以直译为主，以方便中英文对照学习，译文经反复推敲，对忠实理解原著极有助益；在涉及到重要文化习俗之处，添加了精当的注释，以解疑惑。

读过本套丛书的原文全译，相信你会得书之真意、语言之精髓。送君“开卷有益”之书，愿成文采斐然之人。



Foreword.....	1
前 言.....	1
Chapter 1 The Setting of the Stage.....	7
第一章 人类历史舞台的形成.....	7
Chapter 2 Our Earliest Ancestors.....	14
第二章 人类最早的祖先.....	14
Chapter 3 Prehistoric Man.....	18
第三章 史前人类.....	18
Chapter 4 The Egyptians Invent the Art of Writing and the Record of History Begins.....	22
第四章 埃及人发明了文字, 人类开始记录历史.....	22
Chapter 5 The Nile Valley.....	29
第五章 尼罗河河谷.....	29
Chapter 6 The Story of Egypt.....	34
第六章 埃及的故事.....	34
Chapter 7 Mesopotamia.....	37
第七章 美索不达米亚.....	37
Chapter 8 The Sumerians.....	39
第八章 苏美尔人.....	39
Chapter 9 Moses.....	44
第九章 摩西.....	44
Chapter 10 The Phoenicians.....	48
第十章 腓尼基人.....	48
Chapter 11 The Indo-Europeans.....	51
第十一章 印欧人.....	51
Chapter 12 The Aegean Sea.....	54

第十二章 爱琴海.....	54
Chapter 13 The Greeks.....	59
第十三章 希腊人.....	59
Chapter 14 The Greek Cities.....	62
第十四章 古希腊城邦.....	62
Chapter 15 Greek Self-Government.....	67
第十五章 古希腊的自治制度.....	67
Chapter 16 Greek Life.....	72
第十六章 古希腊人的生活.....	72
Chapter 17 The Greek Theatre.....	78
第十七章 古希腊的戏剧.....	78
Chapter 18 The Persian Wars.....	83
第十八章 抗击波斯人入侵的战争.....	83
Chapter 19 Athens vs. Sparta.....	90
第十九章 雅典与斯巴达之战.....	90
Chapter 20 Alexander the Great.....	93
第二十章 亚历山大大帝.....	93
A Summary: A Short Summary of Chapters 1 to 20.....	96
小 结: 1-20 章总结.....	96
Chapter 21 Rome and Carthage.....	100
第二十一章 罗马和迦太基.....	100
Chapter 22 The Rise of Rome.....	118
第二十二章 罗马帝国的兴起.....	118
Chapter 23 The Roman Empire.....	122
第二十三章 罗马帝国.....	122
Chapter 24 Joshua of Nazareth.....	136
第二十四章 拿撒勒人约书亚.....	136
Chapter 25 The Fall of Rome.....	143
第二十五章 罗马帝国的衰亡.....	143
Chapter 26 Rise of the Church.....	151
第二十六章 教会的兴起.....	151
Chapter 27 Mohammed.....	162

第二十七章 穆罕默德.....	162
Chapter 28 Charlemagne.....	170
第二十八章 查理曼大帝.....	170
Chapter 29 The Norsemen.....	177
第二十九章 北欧人.....	177
Chapter 30 Feudalism.....	180
第三十章 封建制度.....	180
Chapter 31 Chivalry.....	185
第三十一章 骑士精神.....	185
Chapter 32 Pope vs. Emperor.....	189
第三十二章 教皇与皇帝之争.....	189
Chapter 33 The Crusades.....	198
第三十三章 十字军东征.....	198
Chapter 34 The Mediaeval City.....	205
第三十四章 中世纪的城市.....	205
Chapter 35 Mediaeval Self-Government.....	220
第三十五章 中世纪的自治.....	220
Chapter 36 The Mediaeval World.....	227
第三十六章 中世纪的世界.....	227
Chapter 37 Mediaeval Trade.....	238
第三十七章 中世纪的贸易.....	238
Chapter 38 The Renaissance.....	247
第三十八章 文艺复兴.....	247
Chapter 39 The Age of Expression.....	266
第三十九章 表现主义的时代.....	266
Chapter 40 The Great Discoveries.....	273
第四十章 伟大的发现.....	273
Chapter 41 Buddha and Confucius.....	292
第四十一章 佛陀与孔子.....	292
Chapter 42 The Reformation.....	305
第四十二章 宗教改革.....	305
Chapter 43 Religious Warfare.....	321

第四十三章 宗教战争.....	321
Chapter 44 The English Revolution.....	343
第四十四章 英国革命.....	343
Chapter 45 The Balance of Power.....	366
第四十五章 权力均衡.....	366
Chapter 46 The Rise of Russia.....	373
第四十六章 俄国的兴起.....	373
Chapter 47 Russia vs. Sweden.....	383
第四十七章 俄国与瑞典之间的战争.....	383
Chapter 48 The Rise of Prussia.....	389
第四十八章 普鲁士的崛起.....	389
Chapter 49 The Mercantile System.....	395
第四十九章 重商主义.....	395
Chapter 50 The American Revolution.....	401
第五十章 美国革命.....	401
Chapter 51 The French Revolution.....	411
第五十一章 法国大革命.....	411
Chapter 52 Napoleon.....	432
第五十二章 拿破仑.....	432
Chapter 53 The Holy Alliance.....	449
第五十三章 神圣同盟.....	449
Chapter 54 The Great Reaction.....	466
第五十四章 强大的反动势力.....	466
Chapter 55 National Independence.....	478
第五十五章 民族独立.....	478
Chapter 56 The Age of the Engine.....	510
第五十六章 机器的时代.....	510
Chapter 57 The Social Revolution.....	524
第五十七章 社会革命.....	524
Chapter 58 Emancipation.....	532
第五十八章 奴隶解放.....	532
Chapter 59 The Age of Science.....	544

第五十九章 科学的时代.....	544
Chapter 60 Art.....	552
第六十章 艺术.....	552
Chapter 61 Colonial Expansion and War.....	572
第六十一章 殖民扩张与战争.....	572
Chapter 62 A New World.....	586
第六十二章 一个崭新的世界.....	586
Chapter 63 As It ever shall Be.....	600
第六十三章 从来如此.....	600

Foreword

前言

FOR Hansje and Willem:

When I was twelve or thirteen years old, an uncle of mine who gave me my love for books and pictures promised to take me upon a memorable expedition. I was to go with him to the top of the tower of Old Saint Lawrence in Rotterdam.

And so, one fine day, a sexton with a key as large as that of Saint Peter opened a mysterious door. "Ring the bell," he said, "when you come back and want to get out," and with a great grinding of rusty old hinges he separated us from the noise of the busy street and locked us into a world of new and strange experiences.

For the first time in my life I was confronted by the phenomenon of audible silence. When we had climbed the first flight of stairs, I added another discovery to my limited knowledge of natural phenomena – that of tangible darkness. A match showed us where the upward road continued. We went to the next floor and

写给汉斯和威廉:

在我十二三岁的时候,一位叔叔答应带我进行一次难忘的历险,而我喜欢上书画也是受了他的影响。叔叔要我和他一起上到位于鹿特丹的老圣劳伦斯教堂的塔楼顶上去。

在一个爽朗的日子里,一位教堂司事拿着一把能够和圣彼得的钥匙相媲美的大钥匙,为我俩打开了那扇神秘的大门。“等你们回来想出去时,”他说,“拉拉铃叫我就行了。”伴随着生锈的合叶发出的刺耳的吱吱声,司事关上了门,一下子将我们与繁忙街市的喧嚣彻底隔离,并将我们带入一个全新而陌生的奇妙世界。

我平生第一次感受到了那种“听得见的寂静”。当我们爬上第一层楼梯时,在我对自然现象的有限了解中又增加了一项新的发现——可触摸的黑暗。一根火柴照亮了前方的去路,我们上到第二层,



then to the next and the next until I had lost count and then there came still another floor, and suddenly we had plenty of light. This floor was on an even height with the roof of the church, and it was used as a storeroom. Covered with many inches of dust, there lay the abandoned symbols of a venerable faith which had been discarded by the good people of the city many years ago. That which had meant life and death to our ancestors was here reduced to junk and rubbish. The industrious rat had built his nest among the carved images and the ever watchful spider had opened up shop between the outspread arms of a kindly saint.

The next floor showed us from where we had derived our light. Enormous open windows with heavy iron bars made the high and barren room the roosting place of hundreds of pigeons. The wind blew through the iron bars and the air was filled with a weird and pleasing music. It was the noise of the town below us, but a noise which had been purified and cleansed by the distance. The rumbling of heavy carts and the clinking of horses' hoofs, the winding of cranes and pulleys, the hissing sound of the patient steam which had been set to do the work of man in a thousand different ways – they had all been blended into a softly rustling whisper which provided a beautiful background for the

第三层，第四层……楼层多到我数都数不过来。又上了一层台阶，突然眼前一片光明。塔楼的这一层和教堂的顶部一样高，被当作储藏室，地上摆放着很多积了厚厚灰尘的圣像。这些古老信仰的圣像在很多年前就被城里的善良的人们抛弃。那些被我们的祖先视为掌控生杀大权的圣像在这里不过是一些垃圾和废物。勤劳的老鼠在雕像的缝隙间搭了窝，永远机警的蜘蛛在一尊仁慈的圣像伸出的手臂间结了网。

再上一层楼梯，我们找到了光的来源。一扇巨大的敞开的窗户上嵌着沉重的铁栅栏，阳光从外面照射进来，将这间高高在上、了无生气的屋子变成了成百上千只鸽子的栖息地。风透过铁栅栏吹进来，伴随着阵阵神秘而动听的音乐声。仔细聆听，原来这声音来自我们脚下的城镇，只不过原本的嘈杂与喧嚣早已被遥远的距离过滤、净化了。马车的隆隆声，马蹄的叮铃声，鸟儿振翅的声音，滑轮的声音，以及以各种方式为人类效劳的任劳任怨的蒸汽所发出的嘶嘶声——所有的声音都汇合成一种轻柔的沙沙低语声，为战栗的鸽子的咕咕声配上了动听的旋律。

trembling cooing of the pigeons.

Here the stairs came to an end and the ladders began. And after the first ladder (a slippery old thing which made one feel his way with a cautious foot) there was a new and even greater wonder, the town-clock. I saw the heart of time. I could hear the heavy pulsebeats of the rapid seconds — one — two — three — up to sixty. Then a sudden quivering noise when all the wheels seemed to stop and another minute had been chopped off eternity. Without pause it began again — one — two — three — until at last after a warning rumble and the scraping of many wheels a thunderous voice, high above us, told the world that it was the hour of noon.

On the next floor were the bells. The nice little bells and their terrible sisters. In the centre the big bell, which made me turn stiff with fright when I heard it in the middle of the night telling a story of fire or flood. In solitary grandeur it seemed to reflect upon those six hundred years during which it had shared the joys and the sorrows of the good people of Rotterdam. Around it, neatly arranged like the blue jars in an old-fashioned apothecary shop, hung the little fellows, who twice each week played a merry tune for the benefit of the country-folk who had come to market to buy and sell and hear what the big world

楼梯到这一层就没有了，再往上走就必须得爬梯子。爬上第一架梯子，（这梯子又旧又滑，你必须注意走好每一步）出现在我们面前的是另一个伟大的奇迹——这个城市的时钟。我仿佛见到了时间的核心，仿佛能够感受到时间的飞速流逝，听到它那沉重的脉搏声，一秒、两秒、三秒，一直到六十秒。突然，一阵让人颤抖的声音，仿佛所有的齿轮都一下子停止了转动，下一分钟即被永恒的时间所斩断。齿轮继续转动，一秒，两秒，三秒——直到诸多齿轮发出警告般的轰鸣过后，远高于我们头顶上的一阵雷鸣般的隆隆声向全世界宣告，现在已经是正午时分。

再往上一层有许多钟，既有精致漂亮的小钟，又有令人望而生畏的大钟。在房间的中央是一口大钟。当我听说它在午夜敲响，警示着人们某个地方发生了火灾或洪水时，我被吓得全身僵直，一动不敢动。而现在，大钟依然是那么寂寞庄严，仿佛在见证着过去600多年里鹿特丹人民所经历的悲欢离合与喜怒哀乐。大钟的身边整齐地悬挂着一些小钟，它们就像是老式药店里摆放的蓝色瓶子。这些钟每周响两次，为那些来集市做买卖或是打听消息的人们奏响欢快的曲子。在房间的一角有一口黑色的大

had been doing. But in a corner – all alone and shunned by the others – a big black bell, silent and stern, the bell of death.

Then darkness once more and other ladders, steeper and even more dangerous than those we had climbed before, and suddenly the fresh air of the wide heavens. We had reached the highest gallery. Above us the sky. Below us the city – a little toy-town, where busy ants were hastily crawling hither and thither, each one intent upon his or her particular business, and beyond the jumble of stones, the wide greenness of the open country.

It was my first glimpse of the big world.

Since then, whenever I have had the opportunity, I have gone to the top of the tower and enjoyed myself. It was hard work, but it repaid in full the mere physical exertion of climbing a few stairs.

Besides, I knew what my reward would be. I would see the land and the sky, and I would listen to the stories of my kind friend the watchman, who lived in a small shack, built in a sheltered corner of the gallery. He looked after the clock and was a father to the bells, and he warned of fires, but he enjoyed many free hours and then he smoked a pipe and thought his own peaceful thoughts. He had gone to school almost fifty years before and he had rarely read a book, but he had lived on the top of

钟——它静静地待在那，仿佛与其他钟隔绝，肃穆庄严——那就是死亡之钟。

接着往上爬，我们又一次身处黑暗当中。这次，梯子也比先前的更陡峭，更危险。爬着爬着，我们突然间呼吸到从广阔天地吹来的清新空气。我们到达了塔楼的顶层。头顶上是蔚蓝的天空，脚下是这座城市——如同玩具般大小的城市。人们像忙碌的蚂蚁一样四处奔波，每个人都忙着自己的事情。不远处的石堆外，是一片广袤的绿色田野。

这是我第一次鸟瞰这座城市。

从那时开始，只要一有机会，我就会爬到塔楼顶上去欣赏这美丽的世界。爬上楼顶的确不是一件容易的事情，但我通过攀登楼梯这种体力上的付出换来了精神世界的满足。

并且，我那时十分清楚我将得到怎样的回报。我可以看到广阔的大地和天空，我可以从我善良的朋友——住在塔楼角落小房子里的守卫那里听到许多有趣的故事。守卫负责看管这个城市的时钟，同时也像一位慈祥的父亲，照顾着其他大大小小的钟。一旦哪里发生火灾，他会立刻敲响警钟。他能享受大把闲暇时光，那时他就会抽着烟斗，静静地思考。他几乎没怎么受过教育，书也读得很少。然而他住在塔

his tower for so many years that he had absorbed the wisdom of that wide world which surrounded him on all sides.

History he knew well, for it was a living thing with him. "There," he would say, pointing to a bend of the river, "there, my boy, do you see those trees? That is where the Prince of Orange cut the dikes to drown the land and save Leyden." Or he would tell me the tale of the old Meuse, until the broad river ceased to be a convenient harbour and became a wonderful highroad, carrying the ships of De Ruyter and Tromp upon that famous last voyage, when they gave their lives that the sea might be free to all.

Then there were the little villages, clustering around the protecting church which once, many years ago, had been the home of their Patron Saints. In the distance we could see the leaning tower of Delft. Within sight of its high arches, William the Silent had been murdered and there Grotius had learned to construe his first Latin sentences. And still further away, the long low body of the church of Gouda, the early home of the man whose wit had proved mightier than the armies of many an emperor, the charity-boy whom the world came to know as Erasmus.

Finally the silver line of the endless sea and as a contrast, immediately below us,

楼顶很多年，环绕着他的大千世界使他吸取到智慧。

他通晓历史，因为那对他来讲都是发生在眼前的事情。“看那儿，”他指着一处河弯对我说，“孩子，你看见那些树了么？就在那个地方，奥兰治亲王挖开堤坝，让洪水淹没了大片田地，从而拯救了莱顿城。”他还给我讲老梅兹河的传说，告诉我这条曾经宽广的河流怎样从一个便利的港湾变成一条宽阔的马路。它还曾承载德·鲁伊特与特隆普的船队进行那次著名的最后远航。那时的他们用自己的生命换回了今天人们在海上的自由航行。

再看过去是一些小村庄，它们聚集在一座教堂的周围。这座教堂一直保护着他们。很久以前，这里也曾是守护圣徒们的家园。远处我们可以看到德尔夫斜塔。它高高的塔拱曾亲眼见证了沉默者威廉被暗杀的全过程。而格罗秀斯也是在这里学会了第一句拉丁语。再远些是高达教堂，它的主体建筑长而低，从这里曾走出过一位伟大的英雄，他的智慧可以敌过诸多帝王的千军万马。这个孤儿就是被世人所知的伊拉斯姆斯。

最后，我们看向那无边无际的海洋镶着的银边。它和我们脚下的

the patchwork of roofs and chimneys and houses and gardens and hospitals and schools and railways, which we called our home. But the tower showed us the old home in a new light. The confused commotion of the streets and the market-place, of the factories and the workshop, became the well-ordered expression of human energy and purpose. Best of all, the wide view of the glorious past, which surrounded us on all sides, gave us new courage to face the problems of the future when we had gone back to our daily tasks.

History is the mighty Tower of Experience, which Time has built amidst the endless fields of bygone ages. It is no easy task to reach the top of this ancient structure and get the benefit of the full view. There is no elevator, but young feet are strong and it can be done.

Here I give you the key that will open the door. When you return, you too will understand the reason for my enthusiasm.

HENDRIK WILLEM VAN LOON

屋顶、烟囱、房屋、花园、医院、学校和铁路等等被我们称作家园的建筑群形成了强烈的对比。不过，塔楼向我们展示了这个旧家所代表的全新意义；那些杂乱的街道、市场、工厂与作坊，都变成了人类生存能力和生活目标的井然有序的展示。最好不过的是，回顾那些围绕在我们周围的人类辉煌历史，我们在履行日常职责时可以从中获得更多的勇气，来面对未来遇到的各种问题。

历史是一座高大的经验之塔，它由时间在逝去岁月的无限原野中矗立。要登上这座古老建筑的顶端去鸟瞰世界并不是一件容易的事。这里没有电梯，但年轻人拥有强健的双脚，相信他们最终能够登顶。

现在，我送给你们一把打开世界大门的钥匙。当你们回来的时候，你们就会明白我为何对这个世界如此充满热情了。

亨德里克·威廉·房龙



Chapter 1

第一章

THE SETTING OF THE STAGE

WE live under the shadow of a gigantic question mark.

Who are we?

Where do we come from?

Whither are we bound?

Slowly, but with persistent courage, we have been pushing this question mark further and further towards that distant line, beyond the horizon, where we hope to find our answer.

We have not gone very far.

We still know very little but we have reached the point where (with a fair degree of accuracy) we can guess at many things.

In this chapter I shall tell you how (according to our best belief) the stage was set for the first appearance of man.

If we represent the time during which it has been possible for animal life to exist upon our planet by a line of this length, then the tiny line just below indicates the age during which man (or a creature more

人类历史舞台的形成

一直以来,人类都生活在一个巨大问号的阴影下。

我们是谁?

我们来自哪里?

我们又将走向何方?

渐渐地,凭着坚持不懈的勇气,我们将这个巨大的问号推向远方,越过我们的视野,希望能够找到最终的答案。

然而,我们走过的路并不算长。

对这个世界,我们依然知之甚少。但现在我们可以凭借已有的知识相当准确地猜测出许多事情来。

在这一章,我将要告诉你们,(根据我们最有把握的猜想)人类如何出现在历史的舞台。

如果我们用一定长度的直线来表示动物生命在这个地球上可能存在的时间,那么在它下面那条最短的直线则表示人类(或与人类相似的生命)在这个地球上生活的

or less resembling man) has lived upon this earth.

Man was the last to come but the first to use his brain for the purpose of conquering the forces of nature. That is the reason why we are going to study him, rather than cats or dogs or horses or any of the other animals, who, all in their own way, have a very interesting historical development behind them.

In the beginning, the planet upon which we live was (as far as we now know) a large ball of flaming matter, a tiny cloud of smoke in the endless ocean of space. Gradually, in the course of millions of years, the surface burned itself out, and was covered with a thin layer of rocks. Upon these lifeless rocks the rain descended in endless torrents, wearing out the hard granite and carrying the dust to the valleys that lay hidden between the high cliffs of the steaming earth.

Finally the hour came when the sun broke through the clouds and saw how this little planet was covered with a few small puddles which were to develop into the mighty oceans of the eastern and western hemispheres.

Then one day the great wonder happened. What had been dead, gave birth to life.

The first living cell floated upon the waters of the sea.

时间。

人类在地球上最后出现,但却首先是使用脑力来征服自然力量的。这就是我们为什么要研究人类,而不去研究猫、狗、马或其他动物的原因。尽管这些动物以它们各自的方式同样有着一段非常有趣的发展历史。

起初,我们所居住的这颗行星(就目前所知)是一个巨大的燃烧着的球体。在浩瀚的宇宙海洋当中,这个大球不过是一片微小的烟云。渐渐地,几百万年过去了,星球的表面已经燃烧殆尽,并覆盖上了一层薄薄的岩石层。在这些毫无生命的岩石之上,暴雨不停地下着,冲刷着坚硬的花岗岩,并将冲刷下来的尘土带到了散发着蒸汽的峭壁间的峡谷之中。

终于雨过天晴,太阳透过云层照射进来。这颗星球被许多小水塘覆盖,经历漫长的时间,这些水塘逐渐发展成为东西半球的广阔海洋。

之后某一天,伟大的奇迹出现了:这个曾经死气沉沉的星球开始有了生命。

第一个有生命的细胞在大海中漂流。

For millions of years it drifted aimlessly with the currents. But during all that time it was developing certain habits that it might survive more easily upon the inhospitable earth. Some of these cells were happiest in the dark depths of the lakes and the pools. They took root in the slimy sediments which had been carried down from the tops of the hills and they became plants. Others preferred to move about and they grew strange jointed legs, like scorpions and began to crawl along the bottom of the sea amidst the plants and the pale green things that looked like jelly-fishes. Still others (covered with scales) depended upon a swimming motion to go from place to place in their search for food, and gradually they populated the ocean with myriads of fishes.

Meanwhile the plants had increased in number and they had to search for new dwelling places. There was no more room for them at the bottom of the sea. Reluctantly they left the water and made a new home in the marshes and on the mudbanks that lay at the foot of the mountains. Twice a day the tides of the ocean covered them with their brine. For the rest of the time, the plants made the best of their uncomfortable situation and tried to survive in the thin air which surrounded the surface of the planet. After centuries of training, they learned how to

在几百万年的时间里，它都毫无目的地随波逐流。但就是在这个过程中，它逐渐发展形成了自己特有的某些习性，这些习性使它能够 在恶劣的环境中更好地生存下去。在这些细胞中，有一些喜欢待在湖泊和池塘深黑的底部，于是它们便在从山顶上冲刷下来的淤泥中扎根，并最终变成了植物。而另一些则更喜欢到处游荡，于是它们长出了各种奇怪的有关节的四肢。它们像蝎子一样，在海底的植物和像水母一样的浅绿色物体间缓慢爬行。还有一些细胞身上长满鳞片，并依靠着游泳的动作来移动，到处寻找食物，渐渐地它们衍变成成为海洋里多如繁星的鱼类。

与此同时，植物的数量也以惊人的速度增长着，它们不得不去寻找新的栖息地。海底再也没有多余的空间供它们繁衍。它们很不情愿地上了岸，并在沼泽和山脚的泥滩上安了新家。每天早晚，潮水将它们淹没，为它们带来海中的盐分。其他的时间里，它们努力地适应着周围不舒适的环境，并尝试着在覆盖地球表面的稀薄空气里生存下来。经过几个世纪的训练，它们学会了如何在空气中舒适地生存，犹如先前在水中生存一样。它们的体形越来越大，变成了灌木和乔木。

